

EARTHSTEWARDS

NEWS

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Members' Newsletter

Winter 2002/03

New Member of the Network Tours the PeaceTrees Friendship Village

By Jed "Duffy" Selter

In the winter of 2001, I was fortunate to clown in Vietnam for the first time. Having written verse for a while, I told myself (quietly- so as not to commit myself too far) that if anything struck me in Vietnam, I might write a verse or two.

The upshot was that this trip was a revelation of personal reflection and emotion for me: pain, grief, joy, passion, and resolve. I wrote thirty-eight verses about my feeling and experiences on that trip, and with the help of Kids First Vietnam, with whom I and three other clowns traveled, I published a book of verses entitled: *Behind The Grease Paint – A Clown's Chronicle in Vietnam*.

One of my most memorable experiences on that trip, and about which I wrote, was being present at the groundbreaking ceremony of the PeaceTrees Vietnam Friendship Village. Knowing that PeaceTrees Vietnam was going to write an article about the

dedication ceremony of the village in this Newsletter (see "Former Battle-ground Dedicated as PeaceTrees Vietnam Friendship Village" on pg. 4), I thought it appropriate to also submit the verse I wrote while standing at the ground-breaking for the village that day in late February 2001. This marvelous village, and the love and dedication of so many people under PeaceTrees Vietnam leadership, is the essence of the Earthstewards Network.

With my warmest congratulations to PeaceTrees Vietnam for their success with this village, I am humbled and again overwhelmed with joy to see people helping people.

Jed "Duffy" Selter is Executive Director of Caring Clowns International, an Earthstewards Network Project. His book "Behind The Grease Paint – A Clown's Chronicle in Vietnam" is available by contacting him through the Caring Clowns International web site www.caringclownsinternational.org

Earthstewards Gather in Vukovar, Croatia

Earthstewards participate in a circle dance at the Gathering in Vukovar, Croatia.

More about the 2002 Gathering can be found on page 3.

For more on the 2003 Gathering, which will take place in the UK, see page 2.



photo by
Eric Von Nagel

Oh, To Fly!

(February 22, 2001 – The Ground Breaking Ceremony of Friendship Village, Dong Ha sponsored by PeaceTrees Vietnam)

I am on the sidelines, just a spectator. Watching this ceremony.

This village will be home for people who can't afford much on their own. Those who are disadvantaged and coping with lasting challenges yet from "The Conflict."

Approximately one hundred homes for several hundred people.

Assembled under a large blue canopy shielding from the hot sun, Provincial officials, PeaceTrees members, workers, villagers, US embassy people, others of us on lookers.

Listening to the speeches. Impassioned words. Visions of things better – to be in this village.

Vietnamese and Americans together pickup large decorated shovels. With ceremony, in unison they shovel the first clumps of earth toward rebuilding a community of lives through this village to be.

This is a moment in time, a nano-second in the continuum.

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Essential Peacemaking Coordinator Sought, New Workshops Offered

As of January 2003, Betty Greene will be giving up the post of Essential Peacemaking Women and Men United States coordinator.

We are currently seeking someone interested in taking on the role. Betty is in possession of many boxes, files and recordings of all the varied aspects of the program. There is an enormous amount of information and ideas to share.

Betty writes, "My life and experience within the EP community has been rich and transformational. I am grateful for the two founders, Danaan and Jerilyn, and all the facilitators and participants over the years who have

enlightened my path towards a better understanding of the magical possibilities within relationships of all kinds."

Eva-Maria Forst and her husband Paul will be offering an ONE DAY ESSENTIAL PEACEMAKING BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN in the Seattle area in January 2003.

For details, please call 425-482-9061.

Information on other workshops will be posted on the website as they are offered: www.earthstewards.org.

Earthsteward Maartje Muskens Exhibits Her Monoprints This Winter

Dear Earthstewards,

What began in Findhorn a little more than a year ago and was further inspired by Julia Cameron's *Artist's Way*, given to me by Julia Rizzi, and by Sabine, my daughter and Tineke, my friend, you can now see in an exhibit of my Monoprints!

I know that most of you will not at all be able to come and see it, but I want you to know about it nevertheless and enjoy it with me.

Love and many greetings, Maartje

Maartje Muskens has been involved for many years with the European Earthstewards and is one of the organizers of the 2003 Gathering.

The figures and images she has created with mono-printing techniques are not only wonderfully colorful and surprising, they also open doors to unknown realms of possibilities and dreams.

Maartje Muskens, Exposition Monoprints, October 15, 2002 - January 6, 2003, Oldeslo, Maurits de Brauwweg 18, Scheveningen (The Hague), Netherlands. Walk in at any time, even in the evening, just let them know at the desk or call ++ 31 703521041.

For information about prices of the prints: email me.muskens@minvws.nl or call ++ 31 70 3107907

European Gathering 2003

The Gathering in Europe 2003 will take place the first week of August 2003 in Hazelwood-House, South England.

The organizing team will be Maartje Muskens, Chris Gardner, Sabine Wils, and Eric von Nagel.

To contact the organizers, email Maartje at me.muskens@minvws.nl or Eric, eric.von.nagel@t-online.de.

Post Office Changes Lynn Ellis's Address, But She Hasn't Moved!

Lynn Ellis, outreach coordinator, reports: "Yikes. The post office (Emergency 911) changed our mailing address. We didn't really move..."

Please note this change for sending outreach information: 189 Old Winthrop Rd, Apt 1, Augusta, ME 04330.

Lynn may also be reached via email at: outreach@earthstewards.org.

U.S. Gathering 2003 Organizers Needed

To date, no one has stepped forward to organize a gathering in the U.S. next year; either on the West Coast or East Coast.

It is possible to return to one gathering per year, as was done prior to 1998. The European Gathering

has been scheduled for August 2003. (See separate article). If you are interested please contact Lynn Ellis at outreach@earthstewards.org

Dues Are Due For 2003: Renew Your Membership

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Mail to: ESN, PO Box 10697, BI WA 98110

(Renewal for USA Memberships Only)

1 YR US MEMBERSHIP (\$40) _____

DONATION _____

ESSENE BOOK OF DAYS 2003* (\$16) _____

WARRIORS OF THE HEART* (\$10) _____

*book sale prices include shipping

TOTAL _____

CHECK VISA MASTERCARD (FILL OUT # BELOW)

EXP. DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

European Gathering: Letting Go and Moving Forward In Vukovar

How can I integrate and develop what Danaan Parry and the Earthstewards have given us?

This question formed the basis for the Organizational Constellation in Vukovar 2003. Sabine asked this question in representation of the entire group and volunteered as Focus. The Focus chooses people to represent Rolls that have been agreed upon beforehand with the trainer. Subsequently, the Focus intuitively sets up the Representatives somewhere in the room in relation to one-another. A process then follows in which, on the basis of the feelings, reactions and observations of the Representatives, clarity arises on what is really going on concerning the question and what lies under the surface.

In this constellation, Sabine chose the following Rolls: Focus (Douglas), ESN-Group (Anne), Danaan (Hugo), Undercurrent (Ursel), Future (Marije), Jerilyn (Chris).

The Focus, the ESN-Group and the Future were set up first. Something blocked the Focus and the ESN-Group from approaching the Future. The ESN-Group observed feeling a strong impulse to move backwards, i.e. into the past. By moving Danaan into the position of the direction of ESN's impulse, the tension in ESN reduced, after which a deep sadness overcame her, ESN turned and slowly moved towards Danaan. ESN needed the support from two further participants for this (Rita, Jock), who supported her from the back.

Update on Nicaragua Los Ositos Project

The Earthstewards Network continues to support the "Los Ositos" Child Development Center that we helped build in Leon, Nicaragua. Following an ESN's delegation visit in February, activity has been underway to get the school established with its own legal identity and standing.

Just as the Nicaraguan population is beginning to try on democratic actions so, too, are C.D.I. Fundeci's (the school's formal name) parents and community.

Rather than just being passive recipients of our charity, those involved in and served by the school are beginning to take an active role in its management.

At this point a dialogue started between Danaan and ESN.

ESN-Group: "Danaan, it was so sudden. We couldn't even say good-bye. I'm so sad, it hurts so much."

Danaan: "I feel something pulling my right arm. I want to go. I don't belong in this room anymore, but in the next one. Please let me go." He put his hand on ESN's head. "In my thoughts, I'm with you, I look upon you with kindness. You can move on now on your own. You are ready."

ESN-Group: "Yes, I accept that and will turn it into something."

ESN-Group now turns and moves lightly in the direction of the Future together with the Focus. The Future also feels relieved after this dialogue. Besides this, the participants feel good when Danaan symbolically leaves the room and closes the door.

At the end of this Constellation, Sabine wants to release the Representatives from their Rolls but suddenly the Undercurrent calls for attention. The Undercurrent hadn't become directly involved and complained about this vehemently: "I've had to let all this happen without being a part of it! I want to be seen and this is making me so angry!" The Undercurrent is given a hug by the ESN-Group, the Future and Sabine and feels better afterwards.

Conclusion:

Danaan's death still held so much energy within the system, that the path into the future was encumbered and undercurrent conflicts couldn't get the necessary attention and space. By (once

again) or finally really saying good-bye, letting go and letting him go, space was created for the integration of conflict and movement towards the future.

From Eric von Nagel, Germany, email: eric.von.nagel@t-online.de

To Fly

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But it is life changing for the people developing this village,
For those who will call this place home, and
For others of us on the fringes watching.

On the broad scale, projects like this are insignificant –
And yet they are *the most significant.*

They are a testament to people's true nature,
I believe, to want to care for others.
Everything I see here are efforts to rebuild lives.

If you were not here, you missed this one.

I pray these things are happening as little bursts of Love and energy worldwide,
But I am not sure there are enough of them.

I wish I could fly at light speed,
Visiting these instances of human connections around the world as they happen.

I would harvest the intent, the dedication,
the passion of people for people.
I would seed them to grow forests of Love among us to blanket the earth.

Oh, I wish I could fly.
-Copyright © 2001 Jed Selter

PeaceTrees Vietnam On The Web:

www.peacetreesvietnam.org

Jerilyn Brusseau, Co-Founder

jerilynbru@aol.com

Chuck Meadows, Executive Director

chuckm@peacetreesvietnam.org

This is a very healthy step — psychologically and emotionally — for these families for whom Los Ositos is a ray of hope in a sea of extreme poverty. It is so important that we continue to fund this center serving education and lunches to 46 children who will one day be members of the decision-making citizens of this new democracy.

Our donations pay the teachers' salaries, provide lunches and scholarships that allow many single moms to work outside of the home.

Please help! Send your tax-deductible contributions (made payable to ESN Nicaragua) to: ESN Nicaragua, c/o Juanita Ruth One, 611 W. 33rd St., Baltimore, MD 21211. THANKS!

Former Battleground Dedicated As PeaceTrees Vietnam Friendship

Despite squall like rain and sticky red mud there was standing room only at the dedication of the PeaceTrees Vietnam Friendship Village.

On September 19th, in cooperation and friendship with the Dong Ha Town People's Committee, the PeaceTrees Friendship Village was officially dedicated, on the site of the former US Marine Combat Base, in the town of Dong Ha. This land, once a fiery battleground, has been safely cleared of 289 pieces of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and landmines and will provide homes and a fresh start, including micro-credit loans, for 100 families.

Several Seattle and Los Angeles area supporters, including two Vietnam War veterans, involved in sponsoring the PeaceTrees Friendship Village traveled to Quang Tri Province for the ceremonies. Karl Ege, General Counsel of the Frank Russell Company, Tacoma Washington, who served on the Dong Ha Combat Base as a USMC Captain, helped dedicate the Village Kindergarten in honor of two members of his 1965 Princeton Graduating Class, who gave their lives in combat in Quang Tri Province. The PeaceTrees Village Kindergarten was named in their honor and was funded by their Princeton classmates.

"This time I'll leave Vietnam with a much more positive feeling than the last time I left," said Karl Ege. "It's an opportunity to do something positive



Karl Ege, General Counsel of the Frank Russell Company, Tacoma Washington, with some members of the new Village Kindergarten at the Friendship Village.

for a society that I did not contribute positively to before."

Seventy-six homes have been completed in the village, along with a kindergarten, community hall, roads and electrical and water supplies. Twenty-four more houses are to be finished before the end of the year. Some families will have their own home for the first time since the war. The total project cost is \$385,000, of which PeaceTrees Vietnam is still

working to raise \$150,000.

A representative from Nike attended the event and donated 26 soccer balls and dozens of shirts to the Village. "When we first came here, this land was barren, dangerous and useless," Jerilyn Brusseau, co-founder of PeaceTrees, said after the village was dedicated Thursday. "It shows that ordinary people can work together to reverse the consequences of war." See also www.peacetreesvietnam.org

EARTHSTEWARDS NETWORK

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