



Contact Corrections, New Events, 2009 Practicum Updates & News from Camp Caravan

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The Village School

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Dear Mr. EC,

Happy Jewish New Year from Camp Caravan in Royalston, Massachusetts, where the autumnal equinox was observed with a Sweat Lodge led by Jim Farnum last week. Jim shared a remarkable story about the beginning of the "Eighth Fire" of the "Seven Fire Prophecy" heralding a new epoch, marked by the elders gathered from many nations.

This Saturday, October 4, join us for a Work Day at Camp Caravan in Royalston, Massachusetts, beginning at 7:30 a.m. with Morning Exercise and continuing through 2 p.m. with Movements (at 11:30 a.m.) Practical Work, Lunch, Readings, and Theme. If you would like to stay overnight on Friday, please let us know and we can make arrangements for you.

There is an ongoing group studying the teachings of G.I. Gurdjieff and J.G. Bennett at M.I.T. in Cambridge that meets 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, facilitated by Elan Sicroff and George Bennett. Inner exercises, readings, themes and discussion, and Movements are the main elements of the curriculum. Every month there is a Work Day at Camp Caravan, providing a different kind of inner action and intensity. We welcome your inquiries and participation.



November 1 and 2 we are pleased to host a weekend to be attended by the M.I.T. group and also Maine group, associated with Dr. Keith Buzzell, and you are very welcome. The exact times for beginning will be announced, with the event ending 2-2:30 p.m. on the Sunday. Please get in touch if you are making plans to attend, or with questions.

Come explore the changes at Camp Caravan, including the preparations for a new Village School building, made possible with your help, and that of Work communities around the world. Read more details below. Please note that these links are now corrected (I apologize for sending the wrong ones last time) so please review them. To find out more about the Village School and its relation to [Mr. Bennett's vision](#) view www.villageschool.to

We continue with preparations for the Practicum scheduled to begin late August 2009 to be held at Camp Caravan, and we look forward to sharing updates with you soon. A group for "new" people is forming in the Central Massachusetts region at this time. If you want more information on the Practicum, are interested in attending the Wednesday group, or know someone who may wish

to join the Central Mass group, please Contact Elan Sicroff at elansicroff@campcaravan.org .

Ongoing group meeting at Camp Caravan: First Saturday of the Month and the second, third, and fourth Sundays of the month
Work meetings begin 7:30 a.m.

All are welcome!

Sat., Oct 4 WORK DAY with MIT Group
Sun., Oct 12 Weekly work meeting
Sun., Oct 19 Weekly work meeting
Sun., Oct 26 Weekly work meeting (check first, we may be meeting off-site)
Sat+ Sun Nov 1,2 WORK WEEKEND with MIT and Maine Groups

Upcoming at the Village School

Friday November 7 Lantern Walk Children bring homemade lanterns and gather around the bonfire at the school at 5:00. We all join in singing, storytelling, then we walk to the Town Hall with the lanterns lighting the way. Potluck at the Town Hall at 6:00, followed by Contradance for Families with the No Name Band and a caller. This is a great family event. Donations are accepted to benefit the band.

Saturday November 15 Open House 10 am to noon. Visit the classrooms, meet the teachers, talk to current parents, and meet alumni. Parents and children are welcome. There are activities for children in all the classrooms. If you want to get a taste of the school, you don't want to miss this.

The Village School Building

A lot was accomplished this summer at Camp Caravan. Beginning with a very wet site, we cleared trees, pulled and ground stumps for a wetland barrier, and excavated much of the site. We brought in construction cloth, gravel, and sand to promote drainage. We have a huge pile of topsoil waiting for the day when it can be spread across the playground for the future landscaping. Our boulders from the excavation (a great New England feature) will be reintegrated into the landscape where the Sugar maples still stand giving shade and beauty.

We've created rough driveways and parking areas and the well, approved as a public water supply with good water, is now in. We've prepared the foundation area and it's now ready for pouring. Come by and see the site. The construction sand delineates each area for a crystal clear, inspiring view.

The Village School received a \$9,000 grant from the North Central Development Corp. for some of the logging and milling. Group member Stefan Maier organized a very special practical work project for our Summer Seminar week using the trees cleared from the site. We all helped with milling the pine and oak from the property into lumber. It felt wonderful to take it to this next stage, harvesting 6,200 board feet under cover and drying for future use.

We are in the permitting project for all the systems for the new building. We have raised around \$600,000 and are working hard at raising more, in order to get the next phase done, pouring the foundation and building a weatherproof shell.

The following is from a talk by Mr. Bennett, *The Future: What is our Responsibility?* dated June 10, 1974 and an inspiration for the founding of The Village School twenty years ago:

As I said before, the external form and particularly the kind of material environment depends upon the needs of the people. If a temple were to be built it would not be for the sake of having a temple, but because the time had come when the society would be able to worship in its own way. If a school was made it would be because the children of that society would require to have the possibility of being taught on psychokinetic principles. One of the things that for many years I've inwardly grieved about is that we've never been able to undertake this because we've never had the resources and we've never had sufficient stability and continuity. Children's schools based on psychokinetic principles are in existence, for example, Rudolf Steiner schools, but they are not in general associated with the rest of society.

Mr. Bennett's vision is coming into reality. By providing a permanent home for the Village School, we provide the stability for the school to thrive, hopefully for generations. The task is huge, and we will only see a short piece of the result. But even now, seeing Village School graduates move on to college with confidence, and compassion, has been very rewarding. What could be more valuable than to provide a common sense meaningful education for children in today's crazy world?

We welcome any help with this project. For more information, contact Rise at rise@villageschool.to

During this time of the New Year it is traditional to purify ourselves from our "againstments" by taking a clear look at our inner and outer lives both individually and as a community, and asking for forgiveness for any wrongs, done knowingly or unknowingly, and we ask this of you, with gratitude. The time of the "Eighth Fire" represents a great coming together where the "We" is invoked - the same one as in "We are the Ones we've been waiting for."

With Love & Best Wishes for the New Year and New Beginnings,

Debra Strick

And the folks at Millers River Educational Cooperative

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