

Sieben Linden Ecovillage Newsletter No 5 – Spring 2009

Dear friends,

As usual, a lot has been going on in Sieben Linden. Spring has come early this year, after a very cold winter, and we are all enjoying the sunshine. Life is happening outside again.

The season already seems in full swing, there are lots of guests, more than usual at this time of year and the courses are going very well.

This year there are more courses in English than we have ever had and so I thought it is actually worthwhile adding a Calendar of Events to this newsletter.

Ulrike

Building Projects

A new house is being planned: “Libelle” (dragonfly), named after the shape of the first draft. Well, it has undergone quite a metamorphoses, the second draft had some straight walls (that are less costly than the rounded shapes of the original idea) and a bat-like shape. The current version has a simple rectangular shape. The name has remained. The building site has been recently decided and hopefully the construction will begin later this year.

The Villa Communia is nearing completion, and the first person has moved into the Windrose house, although it really still is a construction site and only a few rooms are ready. When people start moving in, this will free several rooms in other houses, and we expect that no less than 35 people will be moving this year!

Counteracting Climate Change

The Sieben Linden ‘Counteracting Climate Change Initiative’ has involved three local schools in a two-year project promoting reduction of energy consumption. The project includes a training for teachers and a clowns performance.

It was funded by the regional foundation for the protection of the environment, nature and climate, SUNK (Stiftung Umwelt-, Natur- und Klimaschutz Sachsen-Anhalt) and is now funded by Atmosfair.

Youth Meeting

Already for the 4th time this year the young people in Sieben Linden are organizing a one-week Youth Meeting. Who would have thought it will become such a success! It is a tricky thing, because the new volunteers who will actually do it arrive only after we have started the planning process and decided on a project. Amazingly, it has always been a

good match anyway: Making the entrance to Sieben Linden more beautiful in 2006; planting on orchard and building a sauna in 2007; implementing a Permaculture design at our living quarters in 2008. This year's project was building a summer kitchen and a solar shower in the Globolo area – we thought this was a suitable present for Globolo's 5th anniversary.

When in March we set to work we were about 30, 15 young people who live here and 15 guests.

It's not only about work and acquiring practical skills, though, it's important to us that the participants get to know Sieben Linden and we take time to exchange ideas and just have fun.

Another wonderful thing is that the EU Youth in Action Program is giving us a grant for this year's meeting. Plus one for the international youth meeting Students of Sustainability in July (see Calendar of Events).

Sandra

Transition Town Beetzendorf

A group of ecovillagers and a few people who live nearby have invited the local community to form a transition town initiative for the region Beetzendorf, the nearest town to Sieben Linden. This is a response to climate change and peak oil. Oil becoming scarce will deeply affect our daily lives. How can we prepare ourselves? What does this mean in terms of food, work, transport? Is there a life independent of oil? Apparently many people here are asking themselves these questions, too, and about 25 local people have joined this initiative. There are many other worthwhile reasons: to get to know each other better; to benefit from the experience of the elders; to create a future for the children and young people worth staying for. We also envision the creation of jobs nearby that reduce the need for daily commuting.

How all this will be put into practice is not yet clear and will depend on the people who join. The next steps are to reach out to the local community and make the initiative more widely known. Small groups will implement certain projects. At the community council elections to candidates from the "TransitionTown-list" have been elected.

There is a lot of enthusiasm to get going.

Julia

ESD-Conference

Five years into the UN Decade for Education for Sustainability the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development has taken place 31 March – 2 April 2000 in Bonn, Germany with 900 participants from 140 countries. Sieben Linden member and GEN-Europe president Kosha Anja Joubert was met with a wave of interest in the ecovillage model.

More than ever it has become clear how important it is to combine 'Top-Down' and 'Bottom-Up' strategies. The NGOs (Gaia Education being one of the 12 main

presenters!) that presented their work showed the strong transformational power of grassroots initiatives: people who care and are ready to take on responsibility for the whole. Many government officials – especially from the global South – are aware that they cannot solve the problems their countries are facing through policy decisions alone. Far more interesting is the question how the population can be involved in actively and autonomously transforming their regions towards more sustainability, supported by the government and networking internationally permitting an exchange of experiences about what really works.

Sieben Linden has been chosen to be a project of the UN Decade for Education for Sustainability for the second time already.

Encounters with Death

Her most important wish has been fulfilled: Anna, our much loved oldest community member has died peacefully in the night of December 22. During her last few days she has been aware that the end is near and joyfully looking forward to the event. Mixed with the sadness about no longer being with this wonderful woman we feel happy she has gone where she wanted to go.

The funeral with the community, her family and a few of her friends took place on New Year's Eve at the graveyard in Poppau, where she is now buried next to her friend Milan. On her request, the funeral was followed by a celebration meal that a team of cooks had been preparing for a whole day and more.

Since August 2008 Nicole, Han and their two children Gandhi and Rama have been living with us as long term guests.

On Monday, February 23, Rama died. He was nine months old.

A wave of deep grief went through the community.

A big circle of community members as well his friends and family came together to say our last good-byes a few days later in Globolo.

Globolo

A lot of transformation has been happening here. In 2003, the community has given the South West corner of Sieben Linden to the twin brothers Milan and Didi to create the Globolo. Milan's wish was: no interference from the community for five years, five years of freedom to do as they please as custodians of the place. They created one of the most beautiful places in the whole village: the circular walk with its abundance of flowers and plants, the yurts, the willow dome, the labyrinth.

Milan's death in November 2007 created a void for Globolo and for the remaining twin. Emptiness, Silence. Grief. Feelings of joy, gratitude and humbleness. A pearl string of little signs of the living spirit.

In the months that followed, Gobolo has changed a lot. Lukas and Elisabeth – following a calling – moved to Sieben Linden, to take care of this special place, Globolo. Michi and Sophie moved their caravans over soon after. Globolo has become a neighborhood,

has grown, and become younger. The five of us are feeling very connected, and this strengthens us.

We will continue to celebrate with rituals, song and dance, fire, silence, music and pizza. May Globolo be a powerful place of healing for its custodians and others.

Wolf (formerly called Didi)

Calendar of Events 2009

International Experience Week 11.-16.10.09

This week is especially designed for english speaking guests. We will work together on the settlement and its design - from planting edible landscapes and taking care of flower beds to building benches and seats and setting up signage. There will be a lot of space for information about Sieben Linden and to answer your questions and, if you are interested, we can talk about permaculture, too. We will also have time to get to know each other and to get a little impression of what living in community feels like.

Costs: 105 Eur

More information and registration: Sandra Campe, Tel. 0049-39000- 907840, Email: s.campe@siebenlinden.de

a holiday in Sieben Linden

without much program but still an introduction to the village. Enjoy the beautiful place and its opportunities.

24.5.-1.6., 19.-24.7.

costs (sleeping in your tent): 24.5.-1.6. 280 Euro, 19.-24.7. 175 Euro

For bookings and information mail to the office at info@siebenlinden.de

Summer Camp: July 25-August 02

To face the challenges of our times what we need most is ourselves, all of us – our inspiration, power, creativity, knowledge and mutual support. We do have an impact on what is happening in the world, let us use it!

Summercamp in Sieben Linden means diving into community living or one week:

Communicating, sharing, letting go, finding inspiration, taking it home with you.

Creating together what we experience and how we experience it. Find out what we can do for a life enhancing future and how we can support each other along the way. Enjoying and celebrating summer.

We will get together into groups that will stay together for the whole week in the mornings and do a workshop together. For non-German speakers those about music, arts and crafts will probably be the ones that are suitable.

During the afternoons and evenings we will all create the program together: Your talents,

ideas, inputs and knowledge are wanted and needed. Moreover, all participants will help with the necessary work for one day, e.g. in the kitchen.

For kids ages 3-13 there will be age appropriate offers in the mornings and sometimes in the afternoons as well. For teens 14 years old and up we offer a youth camp, though it might not be overly attractive if you do not speak the language.

Costs: adults 225 Euro, kids (3-13) 75 Euro, teens (14-18) 110-125 Euro. For bookings and information mail to the office at info@siebenlinden.de

Autumn Leaves – A Cultural Festival: September 18-20 **Silence – Music – Politics – Nature – Community – Dance – Theatre**

We invite you to our first time cultural Autumn Festival: Like Frederick, the famous artist mouse we collect our dreams before winter comes. This Festival will be designed by local artists as well as many artists we have long time connections with. All guests will have the opportunity to participate in various mini-workshops and become a part of this piece of Art. To us, art is not only “beautiful consuming“ but a creative as well as political process. Get a taste of a different world. Collect the rays of summer. Celebrate the colourful dying. Gather a supply of poetry and joy.

“The budding under the leaves – that is what they call Autumn“ Hilde Domin

Though the main language will be German, international guests are welcome and most of it is rather non-verbal anyway.

Costs: Fee 75 Euro, accomodation 20 Euro in your own tent, a few guest rooms are available

More information at www.autumn-leaves.org, bookings through the office at info@siebenlinden.de

Ecovillage Design Education – Sustainability Training 16.8.-15.9.08 **International Course – English-speaking**

The news about climate change, peak oil and the demografic development worldwide invite us to rethink society and to create new models of urban and rural landscapes. For many years ecovillages all over the world have been researching alternatives. Now they offer their experience about the social, ecological, economical and worldview dimensions of human existence, combined with the latest scientific insights in this course.

This course addresses (young) people who are in search of a meaningful perspective on life, experts who want to deepend their understanding in this field and people from the Third World who are actively involved in sustainable projects. Together we will deepen our experience of an interconnected world and gain new clarity.

For those involved in adult education there will be the possibility to obtain an EU Grundtvig Mobility grant that pays for travel, food and accommodation as well as the course fee.

The EDE Course is

- certified by Gaia Education (www.gaiamedia.org)
- an acknowledged way to start studying with Gaia University (www.gaiainiversity.org)
- supported by the Global Ecovillage Network www.gen-europe.org

· an official contribution to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014

Costs:

Course fee: 750-850 Eur

Food and accommodation: 1560 € (Price reduction for young people and those from third world countries)

Price reduction for early bookings before May 15: Course fee 650 – 750€

For more information and bookings contact Kosha: kosha@siebenlinden.de, Phone ++49 39000-90860

students of sustainability (sos) 2.-9.7.

young people from all over the world connect and experience their visions

You are invited to join us, the young people living in Sieben Linden Ecovillage, for seven joyful, inspiring and passionate days!

This week will create space for exchange among young people aged 16 – 30 years (felt age of course!).

For exchange of knowledge, of our visions, of our experiences and more. Sieben Linden is the setting where we will share (what do we want the world to be like?...), hands-on-experience (we want to build a treehouse,...), learn (how does this ecovillage work?...)- and celebrate what we create together.

Come and experience community with us! We welcome you.

Costs: 70 Eur

More information and registration: Sandra Campe, Tel. ++49-39000- 907840, Email: : s.campe@siebenlinden.de

<"Dragon dreaming" seminars with John Croft and Co-Facilitator Kosha Anja Joubert, in cooperation with GEN-Europe

Dragon Dreaming Introduction 23. -25. October 09

Dragon Dreaming supports individuals, organisations and communities in creating successful projects for sustainability from their collective dreams and visions in highly effective ways. It makes sure that every individual finds his or her place in the whole naturally and quickly. DD honours the fact that once we follow our hearts intent, the separation between work and play dissolves. The actual plan for the project (including timelines, assignment of responsibilities and budgeting) takes on the form of a game board, which is then played out in real life. DD is inspired by modern Organisational Learning and Development theories, by New Physics, by Systems Theory and the wisdom of ancient traditions (Aborigines). It aims at empowering individuals, building community and bringing forth projects that are truly and effectively serving the whole. Course: 195 €, GEN-Members 155 € (10% goes as donation to DD-projects), Food + accommodation: 64 €

Dragon Dreaming Intensive 25. - 30. October 09

In this workshop Dragon Dreaming is directly applied to exemplary projects. Participants are invited to bring their own dreams and ideas concerning projects that can be realised within a 6-month period. More in depth knowledge about the different phases of project planning and realisation is transferred. Participants will leave with a wealth of inspiration and materials that enable them to start working with DD in their own projects and organisations.

Course: 360 €, GEN-Members 260 € (10% goes as donation to DD-projects), Food + accommodation: 160 € J

Dragon Dreaming Train the Trainer 25. - 30. November 2009

This workshop is aimed at those who have done a DD-Intensive (or an equivalent), have worked with DD in practice and have come to appreciate its merits thoroughly. Questions that have come up in practice will be addressed and knowledge further deepened.

Participants are enabled to pass on to others what they have learned.

Course: 360 €, GEN-Members 260 € (10% goes as donation to DD-projects), Food + accommodation: 160 € J

Please note: If more than one workshop is booked, we offer a reduction. Also, we have applied for EU-funding for the October workshops. If this is successful, attendance will be vastly less costly. Please ask for information.

Time: Arrival 17:00, Dinner 18:00, Start of workshop 20.30

Departure on the last day after lunch 14.00 (for each of the workshops) Facilitation: John Croft : Organisational Consultant und Project manager, Gaia Foundation Australia and

Anja Kosha Joubert : Co-Facilitator, MSc in Organisational Development, Sieben Linden

Information: kosha@siebenlinden.de Enrollment: Freundeskreis Ökodorf e.V., Tel.

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