Dear Friend,

As we mentioned in our last issue (Jan - Feb, no. 36), we’re not producing our usual 64 pages for March-April; you’re receiving this bulletin instead. We’re devoting our energies to a 160-page Guide to Cooperative Alternatives In America (see ad, this bulletin), which will come to you around early June as part of your subscription. Thereafter, we’ll resume a normal schedule of publication, starting with issue no. 39 for August-September. This letter/bulletin is to let you know about the Guide, and to continue our Reach column, so you’ll be informed about conferences and other opportunities for connection.

As the ad explains, the Guide will survey most areas of what is variously known as “cooperative alternatives”, “The Movement”, or “The New Age”; quite an ambitious project. For each of 13 categories of collective life (ranging from decentralized politics to alternative technology to “Self and Spirit”), there’ll be an overview of the topic, a listing of key resources, and one or more articles exemplifying an activity within the area. And, there’ll be our usual Directory of Intentional Communities. Our editorial staff is reaching beyond our own experience to involve people from around the country who have expertise in these fields to help out in the writing, editing, and selection of resources.

We hope to sell out our initial printing of 12,000 copies this project. We must increase our circulation well beyond its present 5,000 in order to support ourselves when funding runs dry (the National Institute for Mental Health, the Karass Project, and others’ generous support are making the initial printing of the Guide financially possible). As have no other major promotion schemes (or promotion money) up our sleeves, we’re counting on the success of the Guide to increase the visibility of our magazine and broaden our readership.

Yours and others’ subscriptions to Communities are a major part of what sustains us. If you’d like to help out further, order the Guide or a year’s subscription to Communities (see special offer in ad) to a friend.

In any case, we hope you’ll enjoy our book, as well as future issues of Communities. Let us know what you think.

Yours,
The Staff,
Paul, Mikki, Chris, Gary and Chip

February 27, 1979

Conferences

☆ 8th New England Communities Conference March 22 - 26

This gathering will be a celebration of our lives together in community. On Thursday night and Friday the emphasis will be on sharing experiences and energy with and for people already living in intentional community. Saturday - Monday will be a time for all people exploring community in their lives as well as those already in community to come together for workshops, sharing and celebration. Child care, cooking and cleaning will be shared by all during these days. Please bring a blanket, pillow and towel. The fee is $40 - $80 on a sliding scale. Children $20. Deposit $20. To register or for more information write to Another Place, Rt. 123, Greenville, NH 03048

☆ International Communes Festival!!!

September 1979, Scotland. Groups from all over the world will be pooling experiences and stimulating and learning off each other. How do you deal with conflict? How do you organize work? childcare? How do you deal with coupling? finances? turnover?

There will be several newsletters leading to the event. The festival is the inspiration of Crabapple Community which earns a large part of their cash income from holding events in their 60 room house. They also raise food for themselves and their visitors. Cost will be $3/day for adults, half for kids. Registration by July. For more information:

Communes Festival, Laurieston Hall, Castle Douglas, Kirkeudbrightshire, Scotland.
Communal Living at Twin Oaks

Twin Oaks Community is offering a series of communal living weeks on its land in rural Virginia. For those interested in communal life, this is a chance to "test the water before jumping in". Participants will explore most aspects of intentional community forming their own government, work system and social organization. With help from Twin Oaks members, ten to twenty people will function as they thought they were to live together on a long term basis. Setting up the kitchen, preparing budgets, assigning work and establishing good communication are some of the first essentials. But social interactions, swimming and enjoying the countryside are just as important.

The total cost will depend on how your group manages its money. Registration is $30 and must be in advance. Another $35 will be deposited in the group's treasury for living expenses from which there may be some refund.

This summer there will be 3 communal living weeks. June 29 - July 6. August 10 - 17. August 31 - September 7. Please no pets. To register, or to obtain further information, contact:
Communal Living Week, Twin Oaks Community, R.R. 4 Louisa, Va. 23093

Appropriate Community Technology Fair and Conference April 28 - May 2, Washington, D.C.

Speakers, exhibits, workshops, and training programs will expose participants to the range of alternative technologies in energy, food and agriculture, community development, land use and conservation, community health care, recreation, transportation and cultural arts areas. This fair hopes to spread familiarity with appropriate technology concepts among citizens, and hopes to further communication among groups involved in A.T. programs. For more information, write:
A.C.T. Fair and Conference, P.O. Box 57078 Washington, D.C. 20037

The Fellowship of Intentional Communities will hold its annual conference March 17 & 18 at Fellowship Farm in Pottstown, PA. Forum discussions will include "Training for Life in Community" & "How Organizations Can Cooperate in Educating for Alternative Lifestyles" on Saturday. The membership meeting of the Community Education Service Council, an organization dedicated to maintaining communication among organizations concerned with promoting communities, will be on Sunday. Registration before March 14 are $16, after $20. This includes 4 meals; non-meal rates are also available. For more information, contact:
John Ewbank, CESCI, 1150 Woods Road, Bryn Gweled, Southampton, PA 18966

Aldea Community will sponsor an Easter weekend, April 13-15, conference focusing on opportunities for women in the communities movement. This will be a time of growing and celebrating in a safe, sane, and satisfying environment with women. It will be an opportunity to experience community first-hand and to meet with women who live in various communities. Camping space (bring a tent or camper if possible) and mostly vegetarian meals will be provided. Advance registration requested. Cost: $30. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope. We'll send along a map. Contact:
Piper, Aloe Community, Rt. 1, Box 100, Cedar Grove, N.C. 27231 [919] 732-4323

Omega Institute for Holistic Studies, Summer 1979 July 16 - August 17

5 day Intensives and Weekend Seminars

5-Day Intensives: opportunity for student to seriously pursue one subject with noted teacher in morning while participating in total program in the afternoon.

Teachers will include David Spangler, Karl Pribam, Dr. Christopher, Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach, Dr. Ann Wigmore, and Pir Vilayat Khan.

The school will again be in the hills of upstate New York.

Contact: Omega Institute, Box 396, New Lebanon, N.Y. 12125

The School of Living at Deep Run Farm will have a school of home-studying in June, 1979. It is an intensive one-year program in the skills necessary for self-sufficiency and cooperative living. The school offers an excellent opportunity for high school students who want an alternative to college as well as to people of all ages who wish to make the transition from the consumer oriented society to a way of life in which they live from what they produce. During the year at Deep Run, students will study Organic Agriculture, aquaculture, how to build passive solar shelters, building and maintenance skills, woodlot management, folk crafts, wilderness and survival training and conservation skills under the guidance of experienced and knowledgeable teachers.

Students will be living on 1/4 acre homesteads and will build passive solar shelters, be responsible for much of their own food production as well as work in community gardens and with community livestock. The school is located on a beautiful 36 acre farm outside of York, Pa. For further information write:
Deep Run School of Homesteading, RD 7, York Pa. 17402

People Groups

We are 3 people living on 400 acres of rolling farmland in the Blue Ridge foothills of northwest Virginia. We plan to place the land in trust, both to remove it from the speculative market and to provide a stable atmosphere in which to establish a community and a commercial-sized, worker-controlled farm business. This will make it possible for the people who live on land to make their living from it. At the present time we live in 2 houses on the farm, are building another, and getting started in our first farm enterprises. We value self-sufficiency and producing most of our own fruit, vegetables, eggs, dairy products, and meat.

We are looking for folks interested in settling down, who wish to share in the responsibilities as well as the joys of caring for a piece of land and each other. If your are, please write:
Jordan River Farm, Huntly, VA 22640
☆ We are looking for lesbians, gay men and bisexual people to move to the country with us.
What we want:
- honest relating
- a communal environment where people relate politically, therapeutically, intellectually, spiritually, physically, sexually
- to support each other in our activism to re-make our culture
- to try living our visions of a changed society
- loving support and challenge
- to live with a bunch of (feminist) people who work on each other in the country
- radical social change in all parts of our lives - in a slow, caring way

We are 3 people (2 women, 1 man, ages 33, 31, 27) of different ethnic and class backgrounds (we've managed to stay friends), who are moving to the country around April 1. We have 150 acres in Northern California. Contact:
Beane/Poly, 2436 Russell ST., Berkeley, CA 94705 [415] 548-8001

☆ We are presently seeking 2 honest, affectionate, hard working communitarians to come to the woods of North Olympia and live with us. Much work is being done to rebuild an old complex of shacks and cabins to a warm, livable, and "magical" home called Brandywine. We are buying 3.8 acres of forested land located near Southern Puget Sound, and the Evergreen State College. We hope to establish the place as a community land trust. Interested folks should send or express expressions of some form to
Jeffree Stewart, Brandywine Land Trust, 4045 36th NW, Olympia, WA 98502

☆ We are a discussion group (begun May '78) of Seattle-area people interested in committed group living: communes, intentional communities, and fictional utopias. We have started a Network Project, a resource library and list of contact people. Some of us plan in the fall of 1979 to live in a committed-group-living house which will hopefully become an integral urban house and neighborhood in Seattle. For more information:
Intentional Community - Seattle, P.O. Box 16211, Seattle, WA 98116 [206] 762-9241

☆ We envision a community of 30 adults, plus children, on our 43 acres in semi-rural Bath, Maine. We want to live with people who share our life goals: cooperation rather than competition and conflict; full healthy development of the creative, rational, emotional, and spiritual aspects of ourselves; and life in harmony with plants and animals, natural resources and forces, and not dependent on national or regional economic or political structures.

We also want to integrate a therapeutic residential treatment center for adults, children, and families in need. The emphasis would be on helping people return to improved lives in their own homes. We'd also like to organize a school for children, and some form of communal child care.

We'd like to have a group of 8-12 committed adults by September. Temporary jobs and housing are available in the area. Interested people with common values please write and tell about yourselves. Individuals or couples, children or no, okay.

Garden by the Sea, Phippsburg, ME 04562

☆ For the past 6 years we have been homesteading our farm in southern Ohio. There have been as many as 6 adults here, but we are currently 3 adults and 3 children. We have been subsistence oriented: built our buildings with wood we cut and had milled, raised our animals and most of our food. We've supported ourselves financially by doing carpentry work.

For many reasons, this spring we'll be putting our farm up for sale. Our direction is community. We need more folks to share our lives with.

If you are an individual or an already established community with room for some new folks with energy, please write. Or if you need some help with a carpentry or construction project, write us. We'll be traveling this summer. Maybe we can help.

The Hill Farm, Box 223A, Rt. #1, Beaver, Oh 45613

☆ Urban commune wishes to convert and grow rurally. We are 3 adults and 3 kids who have been together for 6 years. Consensus rule. Diet - omnivorous, converting to veg & dairy. Religion - individual choice, presently Christian. Relationships - presently group marriage.

Our skills include medical training, teaching, woodworking, gardening, homemaking, forestry, crafts, ham radio.

We need to contact similar groups for ideas and individuals or families to build our community further.
Larry & Phyllis Adams, Craig Bledsoe, 120 Mountain Ave., Auburn, CA 95603

☆ Stillwater Intentional Family will be organizing over the next couple of years for 6-8 seniors (aged 55plus) to experiment living together as a family. My philosophy is that we can share accumulating wisdom for our mutual benefit, and for propagating non-violent social change. Each member uses unique experience, skills, and tastes for these purposes. We can live in a new building on a northwest N.J. farm with 1 room private apartments upstairs and common areas downstairs. It's 70 miles (express bus) to NYC. We can raise our own food by biodynamic methods, and/or involve ourselves with an experimental school on the farm, and/or continue personal activity for private income. The direction, ownership of furnishings, equipment, vehicles, etc., as well as the type of decision making will be determined by members. I prefer democratic government without officers. No tobacco or pets. Write or call Ann Morris for information, to arrange a visit, or for trial membership.
Ann Morris, Box 114, Stillwater, N.J. 07875 [201] 383-2161

☆ I'm an English woman, 28 years old, qualified in the Montessori method for teaching 6 - 12 year olds and am looking for a community-style school in which to work. I am not interested in a high salary but rather a degree of parental involvement, a rural situation, some commitment towards food and energy self-sufficiency and an emphasis on spiritual values. Please write to me if you are interested or have any leads. I am very cut-off here.
Anna StClair, 36 Telford Ave., London, SW2 England
I am looking for where I can relate to people and get back to the land. I have a little money and maybe could buy land. I’m in my mid-40’s and am interested in other women that may have something to contribute. I’m very spiritual and study yoga. I’m interested in Oregon Grants Pass, or someplace warm. I am not interested in male companionship, just a little farm and living a spiritual, simple life in the country. I would like to contact people of like mind. Write: Nina Biglow, 32414 Pembroke St., Livonia, Mi 48152

Couple looking to join with others in sharing situation. Appropriate Technology. Looking around KY, WV, TN, VA, and New Zealand, Australia. Let’s get together if you’re also looking or if you have space for more. Jeff’s a 36 year old carpenter, Margaret’s 32. Contact: Jeff Sherman, 200 Evergreen Rd., Severna Park, MD 21146 [301] 647-3744

I am searching for brothers and sisters who want to serve a useful purpose and who depend on scientific (common sense, sun, earth, garden) truth. I am searching for people to form a republic-type (elections, free speech) organization with checks and balances. I am searching for people who want to do wild or natural agriculture.

I have done some preliminary calculations on a solar powered freeze drying plant made from junk and have done 3 years of experiments with wild agriculture. I have a background in chemical research and love the hot Southern sun. Please contact:
Harry Morel, Box 919, Idyllwild, CA 92349

Help Wanted

Black Duck Motors, Seattle's Worker Controlled Community Service Auto Shop is looking for an experienced auto mechanic. Should be responsible, anti-sexist, and have own tools. Write us:
Black Duck Motors, 710 S. Jackson St., Seattle, WA 98104 or call [206] 682-1432