

# Messenger

## Summerfield

## WALDORF SCHOOL AND FARM

June 6, 2013

Volume 25, Issue 10



## Congratulations to the Class of 2013!

Senior Class, with teachers Jason Gross & Ronni Sands.  
Names below show B/M/F for Back, Middle & Front Rows, numbered  
from left (Louis Daligault & Rachael Patrascu not pictured)

Realizing that we are at a point in time when college acceptance has become increasingly difficult, we'd like to congratulate our wonderful seniors who are now bound for college and life beyond. We warmly wish you all a fruitful journey. May each and every one of you be destined for a wealth of experiences which can now only be imagined. The Class of 2013's vibrant zest and grace will be missed here on campus, but all parents, faculty and staff wish to warmly send you on your way. Please keep in touch, and do come back and visit! (And, dear community, please join us on Sunday, June 9, 11am, in the Circus Tent for the Twelfth Grade Graduation.)

Best Wishes, Seniors! ~ The Summerfield Waldorf School and Farm Community

## Class of 2013 Graduates and their plans after Summerfield:

RaeAnna Allen	M:8	<i>Santa Rosa Junior College</i>	Sawyer Lloyd	B:7	<i>UC Davis</i>
Ethan Bannister	B:4	<i>Santa Rosa Junior College</i>	Lin Zao Mangis	M:5	<i>Dominican University</i>
Blair Bayless	M:4	<i>Sonoma State University</i>	Rachael Patrascu	not pictured	<i>Humboldt State University</i>
Marielle Bossio	M:2	<i>Lewis and Clark College</i>	Daniel Ramos	B:9	<i>Long Beach State University</i>
Rosa Brandt	M:1	<i>University of Puget Sound</i>	Nanette Salomon	B:3	<i>UC Santa Cruz</i>
Lili Chambers	M:6	<i>Lewis and Clark College</i>	Rose Triest	B:5	<i>Whittier College</i>
Anya Cherniss	F:1	<i>Royal Welsh College of Drama &amp; Music</i>	Lucia Tropeano	M:2	<i>Sonoma State University</i>
Louis Daligault	not pictured	<i>Oberlin College</i>	Shara Vilagi	M:7	<i>Sonoma State University</i>
Cielo Garat	F:3	<i>Loyola Marymount University</i>	Hayley Westcott	B:2	<i>UCLA</i>
Sydney Hollinger	F:2	<i>Sonoma State University</i>	Ilan Zur	B:6	<i>UC Santa Cruz</i>



## We Proudly Announce the Commencement of the 2013 Eighth Grade Class on Sat., June 8, at 2pm, in Sophia Hall

Frederick Frimodt Andersen • Ivy Madison Baker • Allison Rosalie Boshell •  
Dahnna Edith Campos • Kaya Lynn Thi Guthman • Lainey Patricia Hauschildt •  
Byron C. Howard • Samuel David Hunt • Nicholas C. Lemon •  
Amelia Lorraine Levin-Sheffield • Catherine Louise Moll • Bodhi Celestino Morgan •  
Lily Page Najmabadi • Sariah Michelle Neff • Sophia Rose Nielsen •  
Olivia Lynn O'Hare • Shanti Mana Om • Isaias Antonio Puentes • Javier Ignacio Ramos •  
Stav McAllister Redlich • Clara Avalon Richmond • Casia Frances Rose • Jonah Roth-Verity •  
Isabella Rose Sansone • Bronwyn Joy Simmons • Cara A. Thomas • Benjamin Forest Vargas •  
Samuel Frank Walker • Rosemary Paige Whitson

## Letter from the Board

*By Craig Stainbrook, on Behalf of the Board of Directors of SWSF*

On behalf of the Board of Directors here at Summerfield, it is my privilege and my pleasure to wish you and your family a restful and fun-filled summer vacation. Looking back over the school year, I'm sure you share with me a kind of amazement that our children can have grown and changed as much as they have in the past nine months. Yet, they have. And now we get them to ourselves for a few months and, interestingly, come September, everyone will marvel at how much they've grown and changed over only a summer. A child's life is just so much change.

In mild contrast, Summerfield itself held steady this year. Yes, growth is good, certainly for students; but, for a maturing institution, ongoing successful operation is at least commendable. Enrollment was rock solid, and excess demand for open seats continues. The developing athletic program met with great success, which naturally makes one wonder whether the non-competitive Waldorf approach might ironically have competitive advantages. Mike Carroll, Ignacio Garat, Alex Boshell, Wendy Whitson and Jefferson Buller all proved themselves to be top-notch coaches. (Now if we can just keep Division I at bay.) Under the guidance of Jeffrey Westman and the tireless work and deft hand of Cyndi Yoxall, the development program met its goals by the Annual Giving Campaign and Farm to Feast being carried with unprecedented professionalism and good will. Farm to Feast is turning into a true all-school event, with 350 attendees this year. It hasn't gone unnoticed in the community.

On the Board and at Board meetings, our work was generally focused on keeping to the budget and looking to the future. The dramatic site projects of the recent past were nowhere to be seen and no longer calling for Board resources, so the Board was able to turn its attention to long-term matters—notably the Strategic Plan, and much of the work was accomplished through various Board committees. In connection with long-term planning, Lisa Yoshida worked with EYD Consulting, which provided tools for surveying the school community through focus groups. They gathered raw data about the present state of affairs and visions of the future, and it will

*(Continued on Page Five)*

## Farewell to Departing Staff

From the Lower School, our instrumental music (winds) teacher, **Jonathan Marmelzat**, is leaving. He has taught winds classes and orchestra here for over a span of 13 years. We thank him for the many hours he has dedicated to enriching our children's musical efforts, and for all those faculty talent shows in which he and Rick Concoff presented such a lively duo. Jonathan is both a talented musician and a great teacher and human being. We wish him a harmonious future!

We will also miss the presence of two teachers who have left the school due to health reasons—**Jacqui McAuliffe** and **Ron Atchison**. Jacqui lovingly and competently taught handwork in the lower grades for many years, and Ron, with his unique sense of style and humor, taught international music and guitar lessons in the high school. Although they will not be returning in the coming next school year, we hope they may re-join us in the future. Blessings on their journey and recovery.

With love and gratitude,

*~ Leslie Young, for the entire Summerfield Community*



# A Fond Farewell to Leslie Young

By Tim Allen, Class One Teacher

Summerfield is a place that can take years to understand. The complexities of educating nearly 400 students, and the ins and outs of the community that surrounds this process are great and ever-changing. It takes a very special kind of person to embrace all levels of Summerfield, from an overarching consideration of the whole and the future to the minute details of stocking pens and recording meeting notes. *Leslie Young is such a person.* As she retires this year, we can only look back at her participation in Summerfield with awe and gratitude!

Leslie has worn nearly all the hats that one can find at Summerfield. She has been a parent, teacher, administrator, historian, editor and much more. For Summerfield's community—its staff, parents and students—Leslie has served as an excellent starting point for every kind of question. If it can be answered, Leslie is usually a great place to start!

Leslie's great love of our community festivals is an inspiration. Even in her retirement she plans to continue carrying an active role in planning, organizing and producing the festivals. These "extra curricular" events that ask us all to volunteer our efforts can sometimes feel like a burden. But Leslie meets them every year with enthusiasm and energy that lifts everyone's spirits. Through the festivals we all become closer, our hearts warmer, and the true fabric of our community is woven. The fact that Leslie is committed to this work, even in retirement, shows a little about her character.

She is committed to the vibrancy of our community. She recognizes and is dedicated to the value of our human connections with each other. She knows how to unite and inspire many people. Although these things are at the heart of Leslie's contribution to Summerfield, our work together and for the students also rests on Leslie's *mountain* of accurately recorded and distributed notes, timely and gentle reminders, custom-cut drawing paper, meticulously ordered supplies, dependable memory, and her dauntless, jolly laugh!

Leslie, thank you for so many years of service and for such an enormous part in forming and operating this School that we all love! Happy Retirement!



## A trip to Ashland...

By Jefferson Buller, Class Seven parent

Mr. Smout, 26 students, and 7 parent chaperones embarked for Ashland for the 7th Grade trip to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival last Tuesday hoping to have a smooth and enjoyable trip. As it would turn out, the trip was nothing short of spectacular.

Started in 1935, the Oregon Shakespeare festival has become a tradition for the SWSF 7th Grades. The festival typically presents 11 plays each year, with roughly half of them being works of the Bard, and the other half various other classic or contemporary works.

The class was privileged to see three plays: a fantastic rockabilly interpretation of *The Taming of the Shrew*, a beautifully produced *My Fair Lady*, and an intense and passionate *King Lear*. The themes in all the plays were very relevant to the emotional growth these young teenagers are experiencing, and they were able to synthesize and relate in a very healthy way. The weather was cooperative, the workshops and discussions were informative and inspirational, and the class as a whole bonded and grew immeasurably.



## DO YOU HAVE A TODDLER UNDER FOOT OR CLIMBING THE WALLS?

Or perhaps you have a friend who is waiting to bring their young child to school here someday? Please tell them we have an opportunity for parents and young children to be a part of this lovely community now. There are openings in our Roots and Shoots program for fall 2013. This program offers the perfect way to meet other parents and gain some inspiration in your life. Please call Sallie Miller at ext. 102 or Donna Stusser at ext. 129.



# Farmyard Transitions

By Farmer Dan

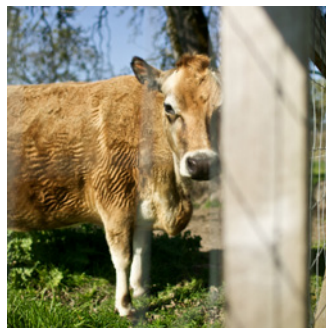
God how I, for one, LOVE summer! As this is the final edition of this school-year's *Messenger*, I have been asked to keep this short, so I will try. Then my whole being floods with my past memories of summers sleeping on our pontoon boat—we lived on a huge lake—and listening to the peeper frogs and the waves lapping the shore as the boat creaked and rocked me to sleep. I would wake at the first blush of dawn to put a fishing line in the water while I read from a huge pile of books I had stockpiled in an old cooler, having saved them over the school year that had not allowed much free time for reading books of choice. From 5am until 7am the summer-world was entirely mine, shared with the gulls and herons and the occasional large-mouth bass on the line while my family slept soundly in the two-story cottage back from the shore. Ah, summer!



Here at Summerfield Farm, everything is in tip-top shape as Farm to Feast approaches (thanks to the hard work of the students and farm staff). The corn, pumpkins, winter squash, and onions all share the greenhouse field

with a newly installed drip irrigation system, and are bordered with a garland of flower beds. The dedicated third grade farmers played a huge role in this field's seeding and planting, as did our gracious Farm Guild and Apprentices, who were instrumental in planting so many tiny onion sets. Farther out in the Rose field, fresh carrots, over a hundred heads of lettuce, and various greens have been harvested and placed in to the farm coolers to feed the some 350 expected guests at Saturday's celebration and fundraiser. In addition, the first and second graders will help level ten yards of mulch over the dining space under the majestic walnut tree in the center of the farmyard for smooth footing for the revelers while third graders shake jars of organic cream into fresh butter for the tables.

A couple of Sundays ago, shortly after noon, while watering some newly planted garden beds, I could see Josie's bloated udder glistening in the midday sun way out in the far pasture and realized that her



water had broken. It was a beautiful, windswept, deserted afternoon and as I crept close to her and she hastily made a "nest" in the tall pasture grass, yet another miracle unfolded. She gently laid down and pushed with

all her might, eyes rolled back in her head, and then slowly two tiny hooves emerged, followed by a slick, dark-brown, seal-like calf who laid totally still for the briefest moment before blinking his large, fawn-like eyes and lifting his tiny head to look about for the first time at the world. With little fuss, mama was almost immediately on her feet again licking the calf dry and, within fifteen minutes, had him on his wobbly legs searching for a fresh drink of warm milk. Now a week old, the little fella is busy entertaining the students while patiently waiting for just the right name.

Being a phlegmatic personality who likes rhythm and routine, the transition from an older, staid midwestern veteran farmer (Perry) to a younger, more vibrant, initiate Farmer (Dana) has taken me a while to process, but I must say, as one looks around the Farm many new, necessary and important changes and upgrades have taken place over the past year—they will serve the students, the Farm, and the Summerfield Community long into the future. Most notably, our watering system was upgraded from wasteful overhead to a much more responsible and ecologically sustainable drip system that took a tremendous amount of thought, initiative, and plain hard work and drive to install. Farmer Dana's youthfulness and willingness to learn and tackle large tasks that look towards the future are truly a gift. Farmers spend their entire lives learning how not to merely look at the land and animals, but to actually see into the complex web of interrelatedness that comprises a Biodynamic Farm, and today when Dana excitedly told me how the beautiful rows of newly planted sunflowers in the student gardens all turned their heads west to the setting sun at twilight, his powers of observation were in fine form. We are



PHOTOS BY MIGUEL SALMERÓN





very fortunate to have his energy and good will as our Farmer, and the blessing of his supportive wife, Alyssum, not to mention the gift of his absolutely adorable daughter Aspen Ann, who now at one-year-old, gets pulled around the Farm standing in her little wagon chattering and smiling and delighting us all while we work.

Finally, another transition, the Senior Tea, in which the Senior Class shares their memories and future plans with staff and faculty—an annual tradition held on the Farm under the walnut tree.

Some input from sages for the graduates: Mary Oliver introspectively asks in one of her poems, “So what do you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?” Mark Twain once famously stated, “I have never let my schooling interfere with my education.” William Morris: “Everyone dies. Not everyone lives.” Mitch Albom: “Have you ever really had a teacher? One who saw you as a raw but precious thing, a jewel that with wisdom, could be polished to a proud shine?” A bumper sticker reads: “Would those who say it can’t be done please get out of the way of those who are doing it?” “Preach the gospel at all times. If necessary, use words,” suggested Francis of Assisi, and also added, “Be careful how you live—you may be the only bible some people will ever read.” Will Rogers suggested that “Most of the time, things go better when you’ve got a plan.” Kate Wolf added that, “It’s important to have a sense of humor about life. Otherwise it’s not funny,” and the sculptor Rodin advised, “Never think in surfaces. Think in depths.” And since this was supposed to be short, Anne Frank sends this final message to all the graduates: “How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”

*Summer’s richest and safest blessings to all from Summerfield Farm, warmly, Farmer Dan.*

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*(Continued from Page Two)*

be used for planning purposes and setting priorities. Land Stewardship, with Meg McNees, Tom Lanphar, Tracy Saucier and Jonathan Mann, presented and got approval for school environmental goals. With Karl Forsyth spearheading the effort, the Finance Committee thoroughly researched and interviewed vendors for a comprehensive business intelligence software for use in school strategic planning, budget forecasting, HR management, reporting, and performance data visualization. A tool was selected and Board approved and will be implemented beginning this summer. The Board also approved a model budget for 2013-2014. Farm performance reporting was made more robust, and Farmer Dana has provided data that helps immensely in assessing farm performance and setting goals.

We welcome parent-elected Board newcomer Jon Mutz and faculty members as yet to be determined, while we also bid a sad but appreciative adieu to Jeffrey Westman and Marshall Behling, who are both terming out after six straight years of service, and Patrick Sullivan, who must turn his attention to a demanding new business venture. Current board members include Karl Forsyth, Kathinka Kiep, Julia McIlroy, John Mutz, Eric Rossin, Alain Serkissian, Paul Sloan, Craig Stainbrook, Erika Stuart, Patricia Walker, Dan Westphal, and Sarah Whitmore. Please feel free to speak with any of us about Board matters, including Board service. We will all encourage you to attend board meetings this coming school year if you are so interested. Community input is invaluable to us in serving the needs of our school.

Have a great summer break. See you in the fall.

## The Farm Keeps on going through the Summer...

*By Farmer Dana*

While school is out of session, make sure to visit the Farm Stand over the summer for biodynamic produce. We will be harvesting Wednesdays, but there will be produce for sale every day. Please check the Farm Stand sign in the parking lot for what is available. Also, for anyone interested in volunteering on the Farm, the Farm Guild always welcomes new volunteers. We work Tuesdays, 8am until 1pm and stop mid-morning for a pot-luck snack and tea made by the Farmer. Benefits include first pick of produce, veggie starts and a farmer’s tan.





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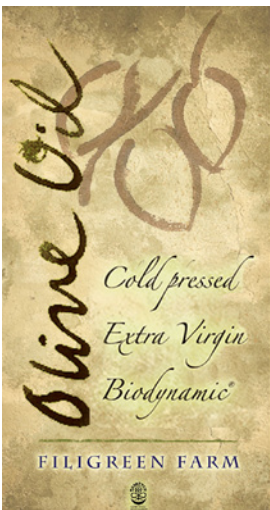
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June 20<sup>th</sup>

Rumi's Caravan, Poetry w/improv Music  
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# The Messenger Marketplace

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## Community Enrichment

### *The Christian Community*

Fri., June 14: 4pm study group at Anne Cook's house (595-3103), 7:45pm discussion for adults in the Eurythmy Barn led by Rev. Sanford Miller on the gospel reading for the week. Sat., June 15: 9:15am children's religious instruction (1st - 6th grades), 10am children's service, 10:30am adults' service, The Act of Consecration of Man (childcare available) followed by a potluck lunch afterwards. All events are in the Eurythmy Barn except the Fri. 4pm meeting. Our summer dates will be July 12-13 and Aug. 2-3. For confirmation classes for children 7th grade and up or for baptisms, call Rev. Miller at (916) 965-9112. For further information or to be put on our mailing list, contact Elinor Biller at 542-5744 or [biller@sonic.net](mailto:biller@sonic.net). All are welcome.

### *Caring for Those who have Passed*

A Sonoma County group is forming around the discussion of caring for the dead (care of the body after death, 3-day vigil, preparation for the funeral, etc.) from the understanding of Anthroposophy and The Christian Community. Many of us are members of the Anthroposophical Society and The Christian Community, however this group will be open to all who are interested. We will be meeting in June after school is out for the summer to talk about our goals for the group. If you want to come and/or to be put on the email list, contact Elinor Biller at [biller@sonic.net](mailto:biller@sonic.net) or call 542-5744.

## Classes/Training/Camps

### *Divine Dosas: Ayurvedic Indian Cooking Workshop with 2 Summerfield Moms*

Come join us for our 2nd class! Learn to cook tasty South Indian dosas, sambar and coconut chutney. Saturday, June 15th, 10am-2pm at GrowKitchen, Sebastopol. Call Anna: (415) 400-9960, [www.towardswholeness.com/en/events](http://www.towardswholeness.com/en/events)

### *The Rosebud Summer Preschool*

Now accepting applications. Sessions run from 6/10 - 8/15. Come and join Ms. Catherine and her assistant Amelie in the Rosebud preschool play yard and classroom for relaxed mornings of verses and song, imaginative play, simple crafting, an organic snack, gardening and puppet shows. 4 mornings per week; \$165 per session. Registration forms are in the Main Office or in the Rosebud preschool foyer. Questions? Call Ms. Catherine at 575-7194 x322.

### *Waldorf Summer Camp at Marigold Playgarden*

Summer fun for children aged 3.5- to 7-years-old. Each week we offer a nature craft, such as, wool felting, dyeing, herbal creations, beeswax candle making, or cooking up jam or sorbet from summer fruits. The children enjoy time for imaginative play, storytelling, berry picking, outdoor play and games, and organic snacks. Monday - Thursday, 9am-1pm, 6 sessions to choose from: June 24-27, July 1-4, July 22-25, July 29- Aug 1, Aug 5-8, Aug 12-15 - \$160 per session. Please contact Jennifer Bowen (former Summerfield kindergarten teacher) 824-9127, or [jennybee@sonic.net](mailto:jennybee@sonic.net).

## For Sale/Rent/Needed

### *Seeking Housing*

Mama and Papa with a Little One starting Summerfield preschool, seeking housing in the Sebastopol area. Preferably 2+ bedroom / 1+ bath, 1000+ square feet. Pluses: bathtub, woodstove, gas range, garden space, garage or storage, trees, privacy, wood floors. Good credit, good references, able to pay for the right place. Thank you, The Whealdons. (707) 937-6211.

### *Fabulous Rental in Sebastopol starting August 1*

2-bedroom, split level modern unit with additional large, airy 750 sq. ft. attached studio/workspace/playroom/bedroom. In sustainably designed Lyding Commons, a sweet, shady, environmentally-built, beautifully landscaped complex—a short walk to downtown, bike path, restaurants, shopping and theaters. Other Waldorf family tenants; chickens & garden space on site. Circle of Hands shop is currently downstairs, with a doll-maker/tenant upstairs, but will be moving to the Barlow Center in August. Rent is \$3,500 p/month (negotiable) and minimum sub-let runs thru Jan. 31st (w/ longer stay possible). Call Leslie Young, 824-1669, for details. To view the Lyding Commons project, go to [www.ibisbuilds.com/ibislyding.html](http://www.ibisbuilds.com/ibislyding.html)

### *Summertime Childcare Available*

Hello! My name is Linden Kerns and I am currently employed at Summerfield as an aftercare teacher. I work regularly with Viviana and have spent time in the kindergarten rooms. I also have a BA degree in Art, and am currently working towards my certificate in Early Childhood Development. This summer I am available for in-home childcare and I have very flexible availability. If you are interested please inquire by either email, [lindenkerns@live.com](mailto:lindenkerns@live.com) or by phone, 707-479-9506. Thank you very much!

### *Seeking Live-in Nanny*

Summerfield Waldorf family seeks a live-in part-time nanny. We are looking for an energetic, creative, loving person to assist parents in caring for three children ages 7, 3, & 2. Requirements: Experience with younger children, extremely reliable, honest and trustworthy, patient, warm and fun. Able to cook. Approx. 24 hours a week in trade for room and board and stipend. Responsibilities: Prepare breakfast, help ready children for school, make lunches and clean up. Prepare dinner Mon/Tues and every other Sat/Sun evenings; assist with clean-up and preparing children for bed, some laundry. We live in Santa Rosa, close to SRJC. This would be a perfect job for a student. Start date Aug/Sept, 2013 Call Annalyce @ 707-235-9179 or email [lasource@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lasource@sbcglobal.net).

### *Seeking Rental*

Local, responsible Waldorf family seeks lovely 2-3 bedroom house in Sebastopol to rent~ starting this Summer! Essentials: Hardwood floors, back yard, clean, bright, full bath, W/D~Professional, reliable, with excellent local references~Please contact: Jesua 707-327-8122; [jesualove@gmail.com](mailto:jesualove@gmail.com).

### *Beloved Kitty Needs a Family*

This is a female, spayed, 2 year-old beauty. She's had 2 litters and was a wonderful mama. She is the most tolerant kitty with children I've ever seen! She's affectionate and playful. She loves to be outside and come inside for petting and meals. Litter box trained when indoors. She's a GEM. We're moving, and can't take her. Please help us find her a sweet family to love her! Rabies vaccinated. 707-779-9817.



## Personal Services

### *Farmer Dan Available for your Summer Project*

Do you need a chicken coop, fencing, deck repair, shelving, painting, sheet rock, book cases, a wall put up or removed, etc.? Many favorable SWSF family references—child friendly, reasonable rates. Call Farmer Dan at 526-3917 to schedule a summer date.



Visit us online at  
[www.summerfieldwaldorf.org](http://www.summerfieldwaldorf.org)

## Farm to Feast was a huge success. Thank you all!

With a very special thank you to all the volunteers, staff, faculty, students and guests who made it happen!



PHOTOS BY MIGUEL SALMERÓN