

March 18, 1986

Dear School of Living Members:

The following letter is to let you know of the Annual Meeting set for Saturday April 5, 1986 at Heathcote Center, Freeland, Maryland and to bring you up to date on various events. Also enclosed is a letter from School of Living President, Jubal Stucki which details some of what has been happening and some thoughts about the future of School of Living.

This will be an important meeting for many reasons and we urge you to attend. The time has come to re-focus our visions, perhaps seek new ones, and find new ways to do the work we believe in. We are excited by the possibilities and new energy and we hope you will make your ideas known to help in determining our direction.

In addition to determining SOL's direction for the future, other agenda items will include: Election of new board members, a proposal for an SOL reunion, various committee reports. Nominations for board members will be taken from the floor at the meeting since the nominating committee has been unable to fill the ballot this year.

Bring food for pot-luck lunch and dinner. Some kind of evening program will take place but as yet is undecided. Let us know if you have any ideas. Everyone is invited to stay overnight to participate in a Spring Equinox celebration and outdoor workday at Heathcote Center. Call 301-343-0280 to let us know if you will be staying.

While this is a time of new beginnings for School of Living, this is a time of endings as well. We mourn the loss of Tim Lefever, who died suddenly and unexpectedly Saturday, March 8 from complications of the flu. At a memorial service on March 15 we gathered with hundreds of others and the Lefever family to share our grief and to speak of the important effect Tim and the whole family has had on our lives. It was a renewing and moving experience. In a very real sense, SOL and Heathcote Center exist today because of his visions and his unceasing work over 35 years. He lived his beliefs, did what he could and more, and never gave up. The legacy he leaves us with is clear and inspiring: Everything we do makes a difference no matter how unimportant it seems or how alone we feel. We celebrate Tim's life. He will continue to be an inspiration to us all.

We will be planting a tree in his honor and memory as a part of the Annual Meeting on April 5 and sharing more memories of his life.

As a result of Tim's untimely death, the idea of a School of Living Reunion is being proposed to celebrate and appreciate each other for all that we have done and do. It is also the 20th anniversary of Heathcote and feels like an appropriate time to focus on the re-birth of the School of Living. It's going to be alot of fun and we hope you will get involved in the planning, spread the word, and attend yourself. We will let you know when a date is set.

Other upcoming SOL events to mark on your calendars:

June 6-8. Community Land Trust Conference at Heathcote Center. Workshops, resources, networking, speaker on land reform in Nicaragua. \$75-\$95 scale.

June 20-22. People's Conference on the Fate of Our Forests at Slippery Rock State U., Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania. SOL co-sponsored.

Sept. 6-21. Permaculture Design Course Intensive for Women at Heathcote Center. Led by two teachers from the Australian Permaculture Movement and numerous resource women. Call Heahcote for details. 301-343-0280.

So as you can see things are happening! We look forward to reaffirming the connections we all need to survive and do the work we need to do. Directions to Heathcote Center:

From Baltimore - 695 Baltimore Beltway to I-83 North. Exit 36 MD Line. Right at top of ramp, right on 45 North to blinking light (1 mile). Left at light,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile take first left at Heathcote Road, follow to end.

From the North - I-83 South to exit 37 (first exit in Maryland, easy to miss) go through blinking light,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to Heathcote Road, go left to the end.

See you soon

Cynthia Edwards for the School of Living Board

*Cynthia Edwards* 

## AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL OF LIVING:

A new and exciting time has arrived for the School of Living.

Over the past several years we have experienced many frustrations and lots of problems. It often seemed like, as an organization, we were taking one step forward and three steps backward. The problems were primarily centered around people and money. Our financial resources were tied up in non-liquid assets and sometimes we had the wrong people doing the wrong thing in the wrong place. And we were very divided on what course of action we should take.

During the last several months there have been many positive developments and the School of Living now seems poised to be more effective in it's role as a catalyst for change. We have to a great extent put our own house in order. Let me explain some recent changes.

We have liquidated our holdings at Deep Run Farm. This has provided us with liquid assets, not only for the Land Trust, but also for use in doing many of the things we have wanted to do, such as publishing, that have been postponed for want of funds.

The serious illness of Mildred Loomis (she is still suffering from the effects of her stroke but making slow progress) has also forced us to take stock of our purpose, direction and human resources. Many people have filled in to take up some of the void left by Mildred. Most notable has been True Marks who not only takes care of Mildred, almost single handedly, but also takes care of the day to day affairs of the School. We owe her much. But she cannot continue alone, even though others have pitched in.

Today there is a better feeling and a more unified spirit around the School of Living than I have seen for several years. We are in a position to move in new directions, or to intensify our efforts in old directions. **We very much need your input and suggestions.** At our upcoming Annual Meeting (announced elsewhere in this issue) we will be making some crucial decisions regarding our future. While I do not know what these decisions will be, I am extremely up-beat about the immediate future.

Some of the things which have been discussed and which will be decided in the next few months are: 1. Moving the headquarters to the new location. It will be moved. Where? It could be urban or rural, near York, Pa., or far away. 2. Focus and directons for the future. Should we narrow our focus

or try and broaden it (is that possible?). Do we and should we duplicate the work of other more narrowly focused organizations. 3. How shall we use our newly acquired liquid assets in order to get the most mileage out of them? 4. Who will provide the leadership, inspiration and just plain hard work to make things happen? 5. Could we become even more decentralized. 6. Is the School of Living needed and relevant?

In short, the questions who, what, when, where, how and why, all apply very much to us, right now. We have lot of good people and of course we need many more. Even though we have purposely not answered the above questions as yet, the Board of Trustees is functioning in a unified & most responsible manner and has within it the capacity for making very important crucial decisions that will effect not only the School of Living but possibly many in current & future generations, if we act with maximum wisdom.

We actively solicit your suggestions. We invite you to deliberate with us. We sense a unique opportunity to make the School of Living more effective and more relevant to the 21st Century. We are tremendously optimistic about the future. Come share it with us!

Jubal R. Stucki, President, School of Living