

Liberation Park Newsletter December 2017

Thank You and.... *Thank You!*



2017 at Liberation Park saw dozens of guests enjoying the shelter of the hermitage spaces and the new Guest House – the culmination of a three year funding and construction process supported and brought to fruition by all of YOU! We continue to extend our deepest gratitude for your support in this creation of an island of peace and refuge. The buildings are providing welcome shelter and comfort for contemplative retreat, renewal, study and

bhāvanā (development) for old and new friends. [Please schedule a time to come for retreat!](#)

Jo's Mom, Carol Jean Thompson, arrived at the end of construction in February and has made two subsequent visits. With her assistance, the

Guest House and Garden Hermitage were furnished and decorated with



pleasing results. The Orso family – Anne, Joe, Adrienne, Sippy (& baby Wendall) – unpacked, reinstalled and organized the library in the Guest House. We were blessed with the presence of a short-term resident/long-term guest: Bill Spear arrived from Oak Park, IL in April and resided here off and on through October. His studious and caring presence was appreciated by all.



We're still IN! ... for the Paris Accord.

We have saved \$9600 towards the \$31,000 solar installation project that would allow us to generate ***nearly all our energy needs on site. JUST TODAY*** – ***we received a grant for \$6200 from ReNew Wisconsin.*** We are more than half way there. Please consider helping us achieve the goal of a clean energy Liberation Park in 2018 [by donating here.](#)

[Visit RENEW Wisconsin](#) to learn more about renewable energy options in Wisconsin and to support one of our valuable state resources for opting in to the Paris Accord.



Valley Care, Inside & Out

Bill, Jo, Santi and various retreatants accomplished much in the valley this year. We planted prairie plants, dug in walkways, stained decks & posts, finished floors and built compost bins. We relocated the shed and completely cleaned out and reorganized both the shed & the root cellar. Neighbor Molly Gough did a wonderful job staining the barn. Carlo Giombi built a roof over the back porch of the caretaker cabin. Eric Lindo installed utility room shelves. The highly inaccessible south and west boundary fences were replaced with the assistance of a local Amish crew, who did an expert job of building as we hauled materials in and hauled the old fence away, up & down the steep forest slope. After flooding in the valley during this year of record rainfall, a portion of the west fence was replaced again! We performed frantic erosion control and driveway repairs when the deluges hit just after final post-construction grading was complete. Bill removed the old pasture fence that ran most of the length of the valley. Now the south slope of towering Maple forest is an accessible part of the valley. The tent hermitages were cleaned, stabilized and repaired with hopes for one or two more years of service. We did intensive (plant by plant) control of Canada Thistle and Prickly Ash. Next year – Multiflora, Barberry & Honey Suckle! We chipped piles of brush, cleared fence lines with sickles, and mowed areas that had become overgrown. We made significant progress in clearing downed trees from the 2016 wind storms. Jo became expert at repairing the tractor & mower. Bill created two garden beds, giving us a good head start in re-building the garden post-construction. Whew! We feel satisfied moving into winter this year.



Under the Bodhi Tree & Santikaro's Wanderings



Santikaro's long awaited translation of Ajahn Buddhādāsa's work on dependent co-arising, *Under the Bodhi Tree*, is now [available through Wisdom Publications](#) and has been well received. Santi has been in Thailand twice this year and is enjoying his ongoing work with the Buddhadasa Indapañño Archives, preserving and translating the teachings of Ajahn Buddhādāsa. His teaching schedule has also taken him to Germany, England, and of course here in the U.S. regionally and farther afield. His long distance work with Princeton students continues. His teachings have lately focused on

inquiry with the guidance of Pāli suttas, bearing with the turbulent storms of life in modern America, and cultivation of the ennobling eight fold path with depth and breadth.



Jung Group

A Jung Discussion Group was inaugurated in October with a very satisfying discussion among 10 people from the surrounding area. Helen Luke's essay "Suffering" was read and discussed. We will continue through the 2018 year, meeting every other month. Every other discussion will focus on a chapter of Helen Luke's work "Old Age." The remaining sessions will cover various others of her essays, for all age groups. You are welcome to join us by emailing info@liberationpark.org to be placed on the list to receive updates and assigned reading. The next group is on Sunday January 14th at 1:00 PM.

Community Rights

We have joined neighbors in Ridgeville township and friends in Vernon County for workshops and actions in defense of community rights, in opposition to frac sand mining & CAFOS, and in support of Medicare for All. Liberation Park hosted national community rights activist Paul Cienfeugos for an evening of education for local community rights activists. Though our own primary work is in building and maintaining a contemplative refuge in support of wisdom and peace, we feel called in these times to support community efforts towards educating & organizing. We wish all a peaceful stance from their wisest and highest capacity as each do the pieces of work they are called to do.

Name change coming...

Liberation Park is undergoing some transformations. As the valley and the refuge reach a stage of growing maturity we find it is time to honor the time and the place with a new name - one that meant a great deal to Ajahn Buddhādāsa toward the end of his life. Stay tuned in the coming months....! 😊



With Much Metta,

Santikaro, Jo Marie & all the creatures of Liberation Park Valley.

We rely on you to continue the work of creating and maintaining this place of refuge. Please consider a gift as 2017 comes to a close: [how to donate](#).