



April 11, 2009

Dear School of Living Friends and Community Members,

We are writing to invite you to the School of Living Strategic Planning Retreat – *Reaching In, Reaching Out* - to take place on July 10 – 12, 2009 at Julian Woods and Ahimsa Village, near Julian, PA.

The weekend will be a combination of celebration, reflection, and visioning as we look at the School of Living from the past, present and future.

The three areas we will be exploring are:

- 1) Clarifying to ourselves and to the outer world our mission, goals, and visions.
- 2) Facilitating the use of our resources (energy, people, financial) to support our existing communities and expanding into the larger community.
- 3) Expanding and transforming consciousness.

As someone who shares our love of the Earth and vision of sustainable living, or, as a resident of School of Living community land trust land, we would welcome your presence and input at this event. You would play an important part in the process as we gather a circle of people to look at where our organization came from, where we are now, and where we are going in the future. All members of SOL as well as supporters of our communities are being invited and we would love to hear everyone's voices.

The weekend will contain a variety of spirit-filled, thoughtful, and heart warming activities. There is a tentative schedule and registration form on the back of this page – please register by June 1, 2009. For more information or to register, contact Ann Wilken at the School of Living office (814) 353-0130 or office@schoolofliving.org

There is no charge for the event. Lodging and tent space are available with reservation. Delicious vegetarian meals, locally grown and lovingly prepared, will be served for each meal.

We have planned an *awesome retreat!* We are asking you to bring personal contributions for several events we are planning for the weekend:

- 1) We are creating a living timeline of SoL. **Bring your photos, memorabilia, and stories about SoL** (write them down) and you can add them. Also bring **pictures of your community** to add to the community boards.
- 2) We will be having a tree planting ceremony to symbolize the new growth of our organization, which will take place at our closing ceremony on Sunday. **Bring soil and water from your land** to nourish our new beginnings!
- 3) Bring your **drums, musical instruments and dancing shoes** for our Saturday night celebration!
- 4) We will have a tea house and are inviting you to **bring your art and craft creations** to display in our School of Living Art Gallery!
- 5) We are having a **silent auction** as a fundraiser. This will run throughout the weekend. **Bring 1 – 3 donations** (items of value you no longer use, baked goods, services, etc.)

We hope to see you there!

In Love & Community,

John Mangan, Ginny Green, John Fox, Kelle Kersten, Kim Wayman, June Yeatman, Brenda Carr, Frank Higdon, David Harper, Karen Stupski (School of Living Strategic Planning Retreat Committee Members)

This event is being sponsored by the School of Living.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY - 7/10/09

1-5 pm: Arrivals, Tours
Registration, create timeline
5:00 Pot Luck Dinner
Orientation
7:00 Elder Circle
Celebrating our past
Processing the timeline

SATURDAY - 7/11/09

7:30 am Smudge
8:00 Breakfast
9:00 Where are we now?
11:00 Prouds & Sorrys
12:00 Lunch
1:30 Envisioning our ideal future
3:00 Finding common ground
5:00 Dinner
7:00 Celebration

SUNDAY - 7/12/09

7:30 am Smudge
8:00 Breakfast
9:00 Mission, Visions & Goals
10:30 Action Planning Groups
12:00 Lunch
1:00 Closing circle
1:30 Implementation committee(s)
optional

REGISTRATION/RSVP:

Name: _____ Community/Org: _____

Address: _____ e-address: _____

_____ ph# (opt) _____

Other family members attending: _____ age if <18 _____

_____ age if <18 _____

_____ age if <18 _____

Special Needs: _____ (child care, accessibility, etc)

Diet Restrictions: _____ Preferences: _____

LODGING NEEDS: Check all that apply- CAMPING SPACE: [] # of persons _____

COUPLES BEDS: []

SINGLE BEDS: [] # in your group _____

CHILDREN'S BED: [] Male: _____ Female: _____

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS:

For more information contact the School of Living office at 814-353-0130

Send to SoL Strategic Planning Committee 215 Julian Woods Lane, Julian, PA 16844 or e-mail to: office@schoolofliving.org