



Camphill California Completes its First Moon Node Cycle as a Community

By Coleman Lyles

Did you know that as the moon orbits around the earth it crosses the solar ecliptic twice every month, once going up and once going down? And, because the moon does not do so at the same points every month, these crossing points complete one revolution around the solar ecliptic in the course of roughly 18 years seven months. These crossing points are known as lunar nodes and the time they take to complete one revolution is called a lunar period. Imaginatively you can think of this as a cosmic circle dance in which moon and sun rhythmically meet and part over a 18+ year period at which point they return from where they start.

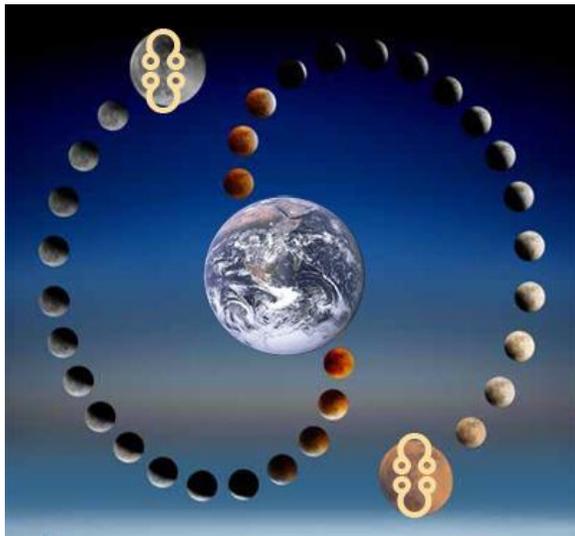


Photo from soulsign.com

Although we do not realize it, this cosmic dance has biographic significance for individual human beings as well as communities of individuals. The position of the lunar nodes at birth express what a being brings from out of the past as gifts to meet the developmental challenges of the future. Think of it as a destiny summary. And with every lunar period one is back at that point where sun and moon, as it were, drafted their summary. Hence every lunar period is an opportunity to re-experience what was there at the beginning as a kind of grace from the past that allows one to meet the adversity and

challenges of the future.

Now Camphill Communities California is completing its first lunar period. All that miraculously unfolded 18-19 years ago as the community found its way to Santa Cruz and in nine short months acquired, licensed, vendored and opened its first home, the house of Ishi, is vividly present. It was a miracle involving the dedication of countless selfless individuals. The quality of this miracle has quietly accompanied the community over 18 years. The magic of Camphill Communities California that one meets today is rooted in that miracle. And with the completion of our first lunar period, that miracle can be experienced by each and everyone, whether they were here 18-19 years ago or only arrived yesterday.

It is on the wave of this common experience that we can move into our second lunar period, and what better way to start than to feel that one is involved with the miraculous!

Workshop Spotlight: Herb Crew



Rose, Scotia, Carmen, and Sara in Herb Workshop

The intricacies that go into creating something often times escape those not involved in the process, but when you sip on a Camphill tea or cook with the culinary mix the dedication and pride that goes into making them can be inhaled and tasted.

The herb crew is led by Camphill's co-Director Ala Jacob, who inherited the crew from David Schwartz. "The workshop is quiet, calm and a repetitive activity. It smells good and is a nice environment to be in. You see the whole process from growing, tending, weeding, harvesting, drying, processing, packaging, selling and tasting. Friends love that part," says Ala. The herb crew makes tea, herb salt, culinary mixes, essential oils, and individual herbs that they sell and use themselves. All of the herbs are grown at Camphill, in either the Marimi or Ishi garden.

As a biodynamic garden, the herb crew works in moon-time. The moon ascends and descends over twenty-seven and a half days; ascending for about 14 days and descending for about 14 days. When ascending, the moon exerts a pull on water, as shown by ocean tides. Similarly, the sap of plants and trees rise more strongly into its branches, making it an ideal time to harvest the herb as all the herbal benefits and goodness will be present. When the moon is descending the sap movement is slower, and so this is a good time to harvest roots for medicine, root vegetable to eat or store, to plant out seedlings/mature plants, and to prune.

The herb crew is also in charge of maintaining the layout of the herb garden. Carmen, a first year coworker, takes pride in this step. "Weeding is my favorite part because I like being on the land. I like to keep the paths looking nice in-between the herbs."

"I like sitting inside and smelling the herbs when we are separating them," said Rose. Sara, a new friend to the community, said during her first herb workshop that "it's very great and I am happy to be here." Rose and Sara are the newest crew stars, and are "efficient, skilled, and learn quickly," says Ala. Scotia, who has worked in a healing garden in [Copake](#), is quick and excellent in harvesting flowers for both teas and oils.

Creative Individuality at Camphill California



William climbs a tree on his birthday!

William Bucher is well known in the community for his creative expression and thirst for knowledge. He avidly manifests his artful visions through paper making, felting, drawing, and weaving. While friends and families always enjoy William's art, perhaps even more fascinating is the process he undergoes in bringing his art to life.

"I draw because I'm good at it," says William, "I like it because I know how to copy from pictures and then turn that into something else like a felt doll." William explained as he was

sharing his drawing of Michele Pfeiffer from the movie Stardust. "I wanted to make a Stardust character out of felt, so I drew her first. I will make it next year in 2017."

William is always striving to understand life, especially politics, and how things relate to one another in the world. One of his favorite drawings is an imaginary character he came up with called Joshua. "I drew a North Vietnamese star and then Joshua," William says as he explained how this character came to life. "I put the crescent moon on his ear because I would like to refer Islam to communism." This is his process for trying to understand what he calls "different levels" of things in the world, by drawing and thinking. "I want to know the truth, and there are different levels in everything: easy, medium, and hard," William says. "There's good and bad in all things and I want to understand it."



Original character called Joshua

Through this unique and special process of creative expression, William pushes his mind to further understanding of life and all that it has to offer. We are delighted to be able to share in the experience with him here at Camphill California.

Camphill California is thriving especially due to the continuous interest and support from you all. Thank you so much, we couldn't do it without you!

We have added new items to our Wishlist! Check it out below



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