



Camphill California's Monthly Community VOICE

Celebrating Michaelmas and Kaspar Hauser

by Penny Baring

Camphill Communities California celebrated Michaelmas by not only honoring our land in this harvest season and turning to the Archangel of Courage and Strength, Michael, but also as the birthday of Kaspar Hauser, followed by a three-day conference in his name. The subtitle of this conference was A Touchstone for Humanity.



Kaspar Hauser

Kaspar Hauser is well known as the youth who appeared out of nowhere at the age of 16 in a town square of Nuremburg in Germany on May 26, 1828; a youth who could barely walk or speak but who radiated pure goodness. For five years he was educated and eventually was able to describe the conditions of a twelve-year incarceration in a dark underground cell, deprived of any human contact. Since his death in 1833, when he was murdered, thousands of articles and books, even films, songs and poems, have been written about him and his 'unknown birth and mysterious death'. He is truly an inspiration to the Camphill and Anthroposophical movement.

Our guest speaker, Eckart Boehmer from Germany, gave three lectures on Kaspar Hauser, his historical importance and his contemporary significance as a teacher of humanity. He conveyed a message of love, of childlike wonder, of empathy and forgiveness.

To support these talks we had two dramatic performances. Glen Williamson performed his one-man play, *The Foundling Prince*, and Coleman Lyles produced a reading of Carlo Pietzner's *...and from the night, Kaspar* read aloud by Camphill Communities California coworkers and friends.

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Frederica von Stade is music to our ears!

On Sunday, October 30th, Frederica von Stade filled Paloma Hall with sounds of grace and harmony as she performed a benefit for Camphill California. The Mezzo-Soprano opera singer left everyone's ears chiming in awe as she and her co-singers, Christobel Nunou and Vivienne Stover, who performed solo songs as well, sang the guests through the afternoon. Pianist James Meredith supported the singers, creating a melodic union of sound in Paloma Hall.

The sun came out just in time on this autumn day and guests were able to enjoy a reception on the back patio of Marimi House where they were able to meet the artists. It was a relaxing afternoon of music, talent, good company, and warm spirits. We look forward to more concerts expressing the unique talents of individual artists at Camphill California.



Sasha standing with musical guest Frederica von Stade and his signed autograph

"The concert was fabulous and it was really nice to see Frederica again," Said Bryan.

"It was special," said Minh Vinh, "Especially having guests there who not only appreciate classical music but also support Camphill."

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

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



Edit from last Community Voice:

Regarding the article "Anthroposophy and the Lyre", it is actually the *Celtic* Lyre that the Anthroposophical movement is credited for playing a role in helping create. The Lyre, in general, is a musical instrument dating back to ancient Greece.

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