



BRIDGING THE GAP

The Quaker Intentional Village Project Newsletter

Summer 2014, Issue #35

LATEST NEWS

"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under the trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time."

~ John Lubbock

Summer days are meant for walking in lush grasses and woods, listening to the buzz of the honey bees and the songs of our resident birds. Summer is a time of refreshment, the begin sprouts of ever giving gardens and fruit trees are begin to renew our senses after a very long, cold, icy winter. It feels good to be here at QIVC in the summer time.

Our community is bustling with newness; new babies, new visitors, new additions on homes. We have new members, new Intentional Residents, and a refreshed view on the intertwining of our friendship/family relationships. We have come to a place of acceptance within our group; opening ourselves up to be in and settle conflict, grieve and hold each other in the process, and release it as the Spirit guides us to do so. After all the busyness of "Phase 2" we are now settling into a phase of being; being in all the changes, being with all the policies written (and rewritten), and now sitting with each other through new work that seems to be more spiritual in nature.



QIVC is now home to a new member family. The Coalter family has been lovingly and warmly welcomed into the fold as of May 2014. Yet where we have gained members, our community will also be saying good-bye to a member family. The Hanley-Scheible family will be making their way to the Pacific Northwest where more vital work pursuits are sought after as well as deepening a connection to family that lives there. It will be a somber time as their departure time nears but we are all holding them in constant Light and are eagerly wishing them joy and happiness.

As we get ready to be in the throes of summer, we will chop wood and carry water. We will continue to plant seeds and harvest our bounty. We will open our doors to sojourners who wish to pass on through and set up space to welcome those who wish to come and stay a little longer.

We hope to see you soon. ~ Marcy & Dee

BOOK REVIEW: TOO LITTLE TIME TO READ THIS?

Are you cramming to get things done at the last minute before a deadline? Does it seem you never have enough time to catch up on email and other things that really do need your attention?

If you can't relate to a scenario where you have **scarcity of time**, what about **scarcity of money**? **Scarcity of companionship**? **Scarcity of certain food items** you crave? (Also, if you don't face scarcity of time, consider joining an intentional community – we can help you engage in a myriad of activities.)

QIVC members spent time at our April retreat considering the main concepts laid out in the book *Scarcity: Why Having Too Little Means So Much*, written by Sendhil Mullainathan and Eldar Shafir, and published by Times Books in 2013. Since you probably want a quick overview because you're short on time, here's a short one:

- Scarcity forces you to **tunnel**, where your brain is super-focused.
- This results in a **focus dividend**, leading to last-minute cramming, which can have decent results.
- However, the focus also **taxes your mental bandwidth**, reducing your ability to plan ahead, to make good decisions, to exert self-control, and to solve problems.

Scarcity makes everyone react this way. It's not your personal failings – it's involuntary human responses at work. So, what can you do to stop living with lower mental performance and stop the cycle of agonizing trade-offs, drama, and crises?

- You can try to bring important items into the **tunnel**. For example, you arrange to get an automatic reminder to pay your phone bill on time. Even better, you set up automatic transfers from your bank account – taking time to complete one action that eliminates the need for many future actions.
- You can try to build in **slack** wherever and however you can. For example, you put aside \$5 per week as buffer. Or, you never schedule back-to-back meetings, but always allow at least 5 minutes in between.

In closing, here's a plug: One of the best ways to build in slack is to live in **intentional community**.

- ♥ Is your child or elderly parent sick and you really do need to go to work? No problem finding care for that sick child.

BOOK REVIEW, CONTINUED...

- ♥ Did your car break down and you have to get to your medical appointment? No problem finding a vehicle to borrow at the last minute.
- ♥ Do you need to take precious time to make a last-minute run to the store for something you (or your partner or child) forgot and really need right away? Take three minutes to ask around your community and you'll probably get what you need. You may also get a word of encouragement, a hug, and/or a bite of some delicious food item.

~ Spee & Jens Braun

Two poems arising from a dream...

1.

I cannot call a god divine
Whose nature only words define.
But should my heart with thee
combine
Then, low, a god begins to shine.

2.

The Universe conspires with me
Through acts of synchronicity
To make a place in time and space
Most pleasing to Infinity.

~ Paul Nowak



What we're reading...

STARGIRL

BY JERRY SPINELLI

recommended by Ellen Harris-Braun

A young adult book about a free spirit who turns a rural high school upside down with her unself-conscious way of being. What happens when we live out our values?



Because this is a good young-adult novel, not a saccharine one, what happens is some realistically not-so-good stuff, but also some magic and some raising of important questions.

THE STORIES WE TELL AND FAIL TO TELL

Wren was singing on the clothesline, watching her partner at the gird house on the eaves of the Farmhouse that Paul built years ago. It was a beautiful spring day and Wren was not the only bird singing his heart out. Just as he was about to fly to the newly restacked woodpile, he noticed Rabbit chewing on the oh-so-many-times, already-chewed bark of the little pear tree that always seemed to grow back...

Communities, and nations, are defined by their stories—their stories of beginnings, heroes, wise leaders, tragedies, great moments. We just passed this year's Memorial Day, a time of story shaped by parades and admiration for those who fought in the wars of this country. It has been said that many, if not most, of the American stories are of "redemptive violence" - struggle and the use of force for good reasons and to achieve necessary outcomes—such as the overthrow of despots and tyrants (or just the poor, oppressed, good person finally putting down their oppressor or aggressor). Telling stories helps us see, and understand, and interpret. Stories shape us and serve as a background reference to how we can act, what our options are, what we are about, where we might want to go, and how and why we do things.

We at QIVC have some stories, and this article is an invitation for us to be more aware of the need to tell and retell these stories. We need to remind ourselves, inform our friends, teach our children about what we have learned, and retell what this community experiment intends. And, of course stories can amuse, teach lessons, and be a form of social glue. I marvel at cultures where story is deeply infused, like the Aborigine song lines or place names around us. Yes, we live on Bradley's Crossing Road, but who tells the story of the Bradley family who lived at the railroad crossing? I was thinking the other day of Where Casen's Arrow First Met Rabbit, of Elon's Wonder Spot, of Sheep's Favorite Pasture, of Where Biggest Oak Fell. Here is a list of some of the themes and stories that could emerge out of our community:

- ~ The Intentions, of course, and how they mean different things to different people
- ~ Embedded energy for future use, and chagrin when we see that what we have embedded is plastic
- ~ The Land not as property, and how it functions as a pivotal force in the community, shaping us as we shape it
- ~ Listening to all and carrying the agreement not to look for our own desired outcomes, but rather find the Spirit's way together
- ~ Playing games with the objective to keep playing and co-create, rather than to win or make others lose
- ~ Differences between covenant relationships, community, and being good neighbors

STORIES WE TELL, CONTINUED...

- ~ Safety 4th on the one hand, and the risks we don't take on the other hand
- ~ The karma of non-violent communication
- ~ The cycles of spiritual gathering and letting go

Some folks use Br'er Rabbit, or Anasi the Spider, or Coyote, or Fox. It would be fun to Identify our own "trickster" around which to build some stories. The danger is that we notice and learn, and the reward is that we build a shared conception and a mutual enjoyment.

...Rabbit stopped nibbling, tilted her head to look over at Wren, gave a sweet smile and said, "If we rabbits could sing, I'd be doing that today too."

~ Jens Braun

Charlie's Chickens

- Free-range
- Hand-raised with love
- Vegetarian, GMO-free diet



Charlotte gathers the eggs from her chickens, washes them carefully, puts them in an egg carton, and will deliver them to your door!

Bet you wish you had a Charlie's Chickens near you!

Play of Dominion

Our grand experiment was to hatch out an assortment of eggs from neighbors' chickens. By autumn we had a burgeoning panoply of thirty birds; we've such a variety it makes for a rare treat for visitors not too familiar with varieties. Our three year old took keen interest in hand-rearing them, and our five year old is still (remarkably) interested in looking after them as a chore every morning [see *Charlie's Chickens*, p. 5]. And so it was with some consternation that I began wondering how I was going to break it to them that we would be harvesting several roosters. I had clearly identified three 'thugs' in the yard: big, sleek meat birds that were engaged in a campaign of terror among the docile population. They were Chippies, so named because of their chipmunk-like coloring as chicks, and were also therefore easily identifiable by the girls. Three weeks before the cull I began holding each Chippie at some point during the day and letting them know that they were wonderful, robust, and spirited, and that they would soon be eaten: seemed only fair.

One afternoon, when the girls were out in the yard with me, I mentioned that we'd be harvesting and eating these roosters soon, and asked how they felt about that. Charlotte, our intrepid five year old, thought for a moment before earnestly shrugging and replied, "Well....we eat chicken..." Kiki, holding a bird, looked from me to the chicken and back again, saying, "We're gonna kill them?" I nodded. "And then we're gonna eat them?" Again I nodded. With her free hand she rubbed her belly and responded with a smile, "Mmm.....chicken...."

For the cull, I am ineffably grateful for the opportunity to hold each individual, to give thanks and acknowledgement of all that they have been, and for all that they offer. Promising consumption as a high-holy act, I can tangibly feel the connection we all share and our obligations to each other. I weep when all are harvested, but am genuinely grateful to be a part of the Great Circle. Harvesting the pigs, however, poses something entirely different for me. I remember sitting back, half way through scraping our first, telling me wife that I was having a really hard time separating the sentient being from the body before me. She responded that she saw only bounty, that I should concentrate on the gratitude.

Not that I wasn't entirely grateful, but what came up for me was dominion. I spent weeks afterward gleaning any notion anybody had with regard to our dubious 'right' to take these lives. Most joyously circled the discussion back around to conventional industrial-farming versus the on-farm model, but I felt that was evasive. I had the conversation about 'have you ever seen a chicken eat a mouse? Pretty ugly...' as well as the 'they would eat you, given the chance, but it probably wouldn't be as quick nor as painless' talks. All perfectly admissible, but still somehow outside of what I was searching for. Then came the lesson of the cougar.

Dominion, *continued*

I'm a stone mason, so most of my work is done outdoors. By pluck and by Grace, I live and work in a bucolic rural setting; I travelled as a lifestyle for long enough to know I cannot happily (dare I say fully?) live any other way. As such, it's not terrifically rare to spend my working days in remote locales. In the late autumn I was asked to build a wall, not remarkably high or long, three feet by about forty feet, with an enticing caveat: the entirety of the stone was to be gleaned from the forest at the farthest point of the land where it abutted deeper, denser forest...and a lot of it. I was thrilled. My helper, Victor, and I loaded the truck, dropped it into four-wheel, and headed out in the brisk first light. Having reach an amenable spot, we parked the trick and began the hunt.

As Victor headed slowly over the far ridge to the east, I headed down a short escarpment to a creek bed, crunching leaves and enjoying the aroma of Fall in the Northeast. We were loudly talking for a few moments, and then were out of earshot of each other as he made his way down the other side of the ridge, I down toward the moraine and tumbled river stone. In the eerie quiet I stood to take in my heavenly surroundings. My thoughts took me to the property, the wall, the folks we were working for. And then something they mentioned stuck me: days ago they were awakened by the horses in the paddocks whinnying and carrying on in the wee hours. Stumbling to the window they made out the fleeting figure of a cougar as it made it'd way around the run-in shed. They and their children made plaster casts of some impressive paw prints that morning. My mind wandered to eh matter of the six other sightings of the big car in the area, within tow weeks of each other, from separate acquaintances. I tensed as the deafening silence of the deep woods became mysterious, macabre. Maybe dangerous, I though. I became hyper-alert for any movement, any sound, recalling all the while that the big cars are as silent as terrestrial sharks. Case in a different role in the Great Made-Up Play of Dominion, I made hasty piles of beautiful stone, and then made sure that Victor and I were within sight of each other for the remainder of the endeavor.

The experience, uneventful though it may have been, left me humbled. And maybe a bit wiser. I think now that maybe dominion is a question that is unanswerable in any fully satisfying way in this lifetime. To question dominion is to leap into the deeper pool of God. And to question dominion is a luxury, not always granted. The Circle? We're certainly interchangeable spokes, our spot dictated solely by circumstance, and that's probably a good thing to remember.

~ R. Lee Coalter

* this article first appeared in *Harvest Letters*, a series of essays collected and printed by farmer, Jonathan Corcoran, of Skookum Farmstead, Mason County, Washington.



INSPIRATION

Where I'm From

I am from potlucks,
community dinners.

Milo coming over and staying a while.

A gaggle of friends, hanging around.

A close-knit community is where I'm from.

I am from Indian food,
and macaroni and cheese,
fresh from the oven,
me saying "Yes please!".

Add lots of hot sauce,
skip the stir fry,
a delectable place is where I'm from.

I am from fingers on keyboards
and bare feet on gravel.

Frisbees and trampolines,
and computers between.

A two sided world is where I'm from.

I am from friendly support,
and name confusions,
short-lived arguments and TONS of hugs.

Trampoline wrestling, and ninja kick
accidents,

A rough, friendly world is where I'm from.

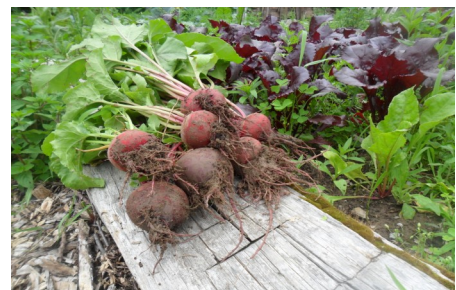
~ Jesse Harris-Braun, Sept 2013

Spring Beet and Quinoa Salad

- 1 pkg. of Quinoa (cooked as directed)
- 4 Beets, roasted, then cut into 1/2" pieces
- Beet greens (used from beets), cut up, can use other green like kale or arugula.
 - Red Onion, diced
 - Feta cheese or other soft cheese
- Olive oil, Salt, pepper, fresh lemon juice, to taste

Cook your quinoa according to package instructions. Roast your beets, whole and wrapped in foil, in a 400* oven for about an hour. When cooled, peel and dice them up.

Toss the quinoa, beets, greens, onion, and cheese together and season to taste with the olive oil, salt, pepper, and a squeeze of lemon.



*We cannot stop the winter or the summer from coming.
We cannot stop the spring or the fall or make them other than they are.
They are gifts from the universe that we cannot refuse.
But we can choose what we will contribute to life when each arrives.*

~ Gary Zukav

Minutes June 2013 to May 2014

2013-06-01: We approve the allocation of the current QIVC capital account balance as proposed by the Finance & Legal Committee. About half the \$26,000 balance will go toward fixing up East House (mostly painting the exterior), \$9,000 will repay part of the Harris-Braun loan for the lower unit on Lot 4, and \$2,000 will be reserved for forest-management expenses, primarily the cost of hiring a forester for our upcoming tree harvest.

2013-06-02: We approve the plans for the Brauns' approximately 575 square-foot house addition as presented.

2013-06-03: We approve Elana Davidson's request for an intentional residency at QIVC for June through August of this year. We welcome her offers of childcare, etc. and we specifically ask for her thinking, observations, and feedback on the community's relationship to children and how to encourage them to be, and know that they are, full participants in the community. The Buildings Committee will have a conversation by August 15 with Elana about her plans for after August.

2013-06-04: We approve QIVC serving as the host for Elana if she participates in ELL for 8 weeks this summer, should the community be asked.

2013-08-01: We approve this as our Procedure for Coming up with Annual Operating Budget Commitments (attached to these minutes & added to Web site for members).

2013-08-02: We agree to convert our existing member buy-in amounts into official loans made to QIVC. These loans will have terms consistent with current understandings of buy-ins. They will be included in the Promissory Notes and tracked like other loans that individuals have made.

2013-08-03: We approve the Statement on Intertwined Financial Lives as presented, and will use it to inform prospective members.

2013-09-01: We approve the Membership Agreement draft of 8/16/2013 (attached).

2013-09-02: We approve the following as our practice for adult offspring of members residing in the community:

- ✎ If our children still live at QIVC or want to move in after their 22nd birthday for more than 6 months, members of MOP will meet with the child to ask for an intention on the part of the adult child about his/her relationship to the community and clarify the community's evolving relationship to the adult child. We acknowledge that these processes may be brief and easy, but it is important to build in the opportunity to address any difficulties or challenges as well as to educate the adult child about our processes and expectations. The adult child will be asked to review and agree to our Expectations and Agreements for Residents and Members.

MINUTES, continued...

- ✚ If member parents should die suddenly, leaving a child of any age living in the community, the community will work as a group via the clearness process to discern what would be best for the child and community, short-term and long-term.

2013-09-03: The community is comfortable adding to the Membership Agreement the amendment of wills to address limiting inheritance of house values to monetary, not use value.

2013-09-04: MOP is asked to draft an agreements document for short-term residents that states our clear request that psychoactive substances not be used in the community during their stay here.

2013-09-05: We approve the Harris-Brauns' proposal for having a home-schooling collective three days a week centered in their house.

2013-10-01: We approve the reworded intention #1 as presented; we also approve the preamble with small changes as discussed, and intentions 3, 4, and 5 (which were slightly reworded since last approval).

2013-12-01: We approve the Expectation for Temporary Residents with suggested revisions, and the new Point Person's Temporary-Residency Checklist that goes with it.

2013-12-02: We agree that our fall cider-making Rhythm Day is open to invitees who have expressed interest in getting to know the community, rather than just a members-only event.

2014-02-01: Friends approve the 2014 Annual Operating Budget as presented.

2014-03-01: We approve revising section #10 and adding section #11 (as below) to the Quaker Intentional Village-Canaan Member Agreement.

10. In the event of the death of a homeowner member, the heirs to the member's QIVC house inherit the value of the house (as determined per our community process for setting house value). Heirs may have long-term use of the house itself only if they are, or if they become, members of QIVC in the usual fashion.

11. Upon entering the community, homeowner members agree to reflect #10 above in the legal documents that contain their estate plans. This may be done, for example, via revision or creation of a will, creating a codicil to a will, or revising a trust document, using sample legal language provided by QIVC.

2014-03-02: We approve revisions to items 1 through 4 of the Process for Exiting QIVC Residential Membership, with the new 1-4 reading as follows:

1. Initial notification: As soon as a QIVC member is giving serious

MINUTES, continued...

consideration to departing, the member is asked to inform the Membership, Outreach, and Promotion (MOP) Committee in writing.

2. Care Committee: MOP will create a Care Committee to meet with the QIVC member to undertake a clearness process to help the member finalize the decision. The Care Committee will be composed of three or four members and advisors of QIVC, as appointed by the MOP Committee.

3. Notification of decision to exit membership: If and when the member decides to leave, the member is asked to provide written notification of this decision to the QIVC Clerk. In the case of a departing homeowner member, this notification counts as notification of the lot co-owner, as specified in the deed.

4. Care Committee again: At that point, the purpose of the Care Committee becomes to help the member and community manage the departure. In addition, the Care Committee is charged with reaching out to other committees, especially Finance and Legal and Community Life, to have them address questions and make recommendations about issues related to the member's departure. These issues may be logistical, financial, emotional, or interpersonal. The Care Committee will report to MOP and/or Meeting for Business as needed.

2014-03-03: We approve the new role of the Finance & Legal Committee as follows:

The role of the Finance & Legal Committee is to:

- ✧ Support the Financial Clerk and oversee the day-to-day financial work
- ✧ Develop annual budgets, including the homeowner-member deliberations, and monitor expenditures against budgets
- ✧ Recommend to the community house sale prices, rental amounts, and other charges
- ✧ Research and recommend changes to the legal structure
- ✧ Consider and manage investments, including loans and promissory notes
- ✧ Explore ways the community can reduce the economic requirements members face in joining and staying in the community
- ✧ Manage QIVP grant accountability

2014-03-04: We approve the QIVC bylaws as amended.

2014-03-05: We approve the new promissory note for additional loans to the community as amended.

2014-03-06: We approve buying a load of logs for \$700 to provide firewood for the

MINUTES, continued...

Farmhouse.

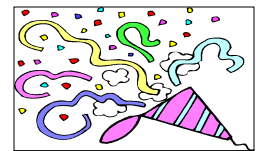
The Nominating Committee proposes a new Prayer/Worship Committee.

2014-03-07: We approve the creation of a new Prayer/Worship Committee with a charge and members as follows:

- ☞ To support the community in its intention to live in worship and gratitude, and to increase our mindfulness, spiritual focus, and God-centeredness.
- ☞ To pray.
- ☞ To develop and implement ways for the community to worship together.

There would be 3-4 members, with staggered 2-year terms.

2014-04-01: We welcome into membership the Coalter family: Lee Coalter, Marcy Dyslin Coalter, Casen Waldorf, Bella Waldorf, Charlotte Coalter, Caitrianna Coalter, Seraphina Coalter, and Daphne Coalter.



2014-05-01: We approve Eric Bear, Eric Harris-Braun, and Emilie Michaud as members of the Worship/Prayer Committee. Emilie will convene the first meeting.

2014-05-02: We approve the release of Dee Duckworth from Land Committee and her nomination to Membership, Outreach, and Promotion.

2014-05-03: We approve the building of a small, non-residential structure on the land, with Land Committee overseeing the project.

QIVP, Inc. Minutes:

QIVP-2014-01-Inc: We approve the new members of the Board of Directors as follows: Ellen Harris-Braun, Eric Harris-Braun, and Anne Undeland for three-year terms (2014-2016).

QIVP-2014-02-Inc: We approve the 2014 officers as follows: Eric Harris-Braun, Clerk; Emilie -Anne Michaud, Financial Clerk; Ellen Harris-Braun, Secretary.

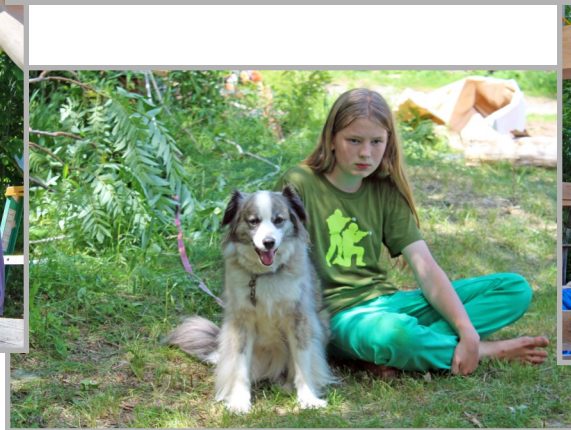
THE NEXT BUDDHA WILL NOT TAKE THE FORM OF AN INDIVIDUAL.

THE NEXT BUDDHA WILL TAKE THE FORM OF A COMMUNITY; A COMMUNITY PRACTICING UNDERSTANDING AND LOVING KINDNESS, A COMMUNITY PRACTICING MINDFUL LIVING. THIS MAY BE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WE CAN DO FOR THE SURVIVAL OF THE EARTH.

~ Thich Nhat Hanh

The addition to Spee and Jens' house has begun! The Community celebrated a day at the beginning of June to hoist up the perimeter oak beams of the timber frame.

There will be more days to share in this landmark endeavor! Many hands make light work.





QIVC
235 Bradley's Crossing Road
East Chatham, NY 12060

We believe conscious culture creation in community can be a means to advance our intentions:

1. To live in worship, increasing our mindfulness, spiritual focus, and God-centeredness by intertwining our daily lives with others who share these intentions
2. To create a village setting that values and engages participation by people of all ages, expands our experience of family, and supports our expression in the world.
3. To create wealth that embodies integrity and Truth by carefully examining our engagement in the current economic order and stepping away from its destructive elements
4. To live in unity & harmony with the earth by considering the near and far environmental impact of our actions while striving for thriving.
5. To include a good measure of joy, fun, creativity, and service in our lives

We believe that our communities' success in achieving these five intentions will be aided by membership diverse in race, age, ethnicity, gender, sexual preference, and economic situations, and therefore it is our aim to gather a community whose members are diverse in these ways as well as others.