A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our Executive Director Lorraine Kahneratokwas Gray is working to increase infrastructure at the Four Bridges Educational Farm in Santa Cruz, New Mexico

Dear Four Bridges Members & Supporters,

2016 has been a year of growth and change. Our sustainable building program is in full swing. Our goal is to have a fully functional teen room, a dedicated well equipped office, and an additional dormitory area by the end of the year. After a short winter break, we will continue construction through a series of workshops, to build a multi-purpose bunkhouse that will have areas for seed storage and classroom space.

We are expanding our Agri-Kidz Program to include more youth, and help those youth build leadership skills. We are on our way to sustainability with this program by developing both catering and landscaping “businesses” where our young members learn about food service, landscaping, customer service, agri-business and other important job and management skills.

In January we conducted a Service Learning Trip to South America. We worked with the Kusey Kawsay Montessori School and community garden in Pisac, Peru, in the Sacred Valley of the Incas. We met with community leader, Alejandro Trevisan to discuss building a partnership to help support this school which offers traditional learning to indigenous youth in the area.

We were honored to have 5 of our members participate in the Indigenous Terra Madre conference in Shillong, India last November. We also visited Vandana Shiva’s farm, Navdanya in Dehra Dun while we were there. We were happy to share our knowledge and build new alliances with indigenous people all over the world at this important event.

Lorraine Kahneratokwas Gray
Executive Director
Four Bridges Traveling Permaculture Institute

Four Bridges staff and youth traveled to Indigenous Terra Madre in Shillong, India and visited Vandana Shiva’s farm, Navdanya in Dehra Dun

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NEWS FROM THE FARM
Our growing season this year was met with varying degrees of success due to an overabundance of grasshoppers. We had an amazing harvest of fruit this year, which helped bring much needed income to the farm. We will soon be harvesting a modest yield of Hopi Pink Corn, Hopi Rattle Gourds, and Hopi Red Dye Amaranth. We also have an abundance of yellow cherry tomatoes, that we have been selling at several farmers’ markets to help sustain our seed sanctuary. Our Sacred Gardens continue to thrive and we are saving many varieties of heirloom seeds, including deer tongue lettuce.

This year our Agri-Kidz Program is fully involved in our community projects. They were responsible for a raised bed garden at the site of the proposed Hunter Ford Food Hub. Our youth also participated in maintaining a community composting center at that site. Next year we plan to add a mulching area to accept small branches to be mulched with a small wood chipper that we are currently fundraising to purchase.

We still continue to provide outreach to student groups, and offer Service Learning at our educational farm, and off site. We hosted visits from UC Santa Cruz, Wellesley Village Church, and others.

OUR AGRI-KIDZ PROGRAM IS EXPANDING
Our Agri-Kidz Program is now becoming a major focus of our work. We have several interns, some with special needs doing valuable work on our educational farm. Our Agri-Kidz partnered with Tewa Women United to share their knowledge with visiting youth at the new “Healing Foods Oasis” behind Espanola City Hall. Several gatherings were held throughout the summer where our youth offered their hands and knowledge in helping to build this special outdoor classroom.

Many Thanks to our funders & supporters;
Coonridge Organic Goat Cheese
Earth Care
McCune Foundation
Kalliopeia Foundation
Lannan Foundation
Pond Foundation
Santa Fe Community Foundation
TNAFA…and many anonymous donors!

50/50 RAFFLE!
Support our fundraiser to send our youth to work with Oscar Olivera in Bolivia in January 2017. Tickets are $1.00 each, 6 for $5.00, or an arm’s length for $20. The winner will receive 50% of the funds raised. The other 50% will send two young interns to participate in a service learning project in Cochabamba, Bolivia.
Food & Seed Sovereignty Program within the 20th Annual Gathering for Mother Earth

At our 10th Annual Traditional Agriculture & Sustainable Living Conference held on October 23rd and 24th 2015, we announced that it would be our last conference. We received such an outpouring of requests to continue the work that we agreed to organize a smaller program within the framework of Tewa Women United’s annual Gathering for Mother Earth. We are now collaborators of this event, along with New Mexico Acequia Association, TNAFA, Honor Our Pueblo Existence, and the Red Willow Center.

Our keynote speaker will be Rowen White, Mohawk seed saver from Sierra Seeds. We will also have a presentation on the dangers of GMOs by Galen Knight, PhD, a goat management workshop by Nancy Coonridge of Coonridge Dairy, a beekeeping workshop by Melanie Kirby, of Zia Queen Bee, a talk on healthy GMO free foods and medicines by Curanderia Tonita Gonzalez, and a talk from Yaxon Pascual Saloj, a Mayan Spiritual Leader from Guatemala.

The event will also include panel discussions on seeds, women in agriculture, building sustainable communities, a presentation by the New Mexico Health Equity Project, and a youth panel run by Red Willow Center, New Mexico Acequia Association, Four Bridges Agri-Kidz, and Northern Youth Project.

Clayton Brascoupe of the Traditional Native American Farmers’ Association will demonstrate seed cleaning techniques, and students from Four Bridges Agri-Kidz will demonstrate Seed Ball Making, and other youth activities. We will also hold a forum led by the Northern New Mexico Coalition Against GMOs with a speakers including Lorraine Kahneratokwas Gray, and Emigdio Ballon.

For more information visit; www.tewawomenunited.org, or www.4bridges.org.

Building Alliances
We are working hard to add likeminded organizations to our network of supporters and collaborators. We are the fiscal sponsor for the Ieweras Gray Foundation, providing assistance to families fighting cancer, and warning of environmental damage causing cancer www.iewerasgrayfoundation.org, The International Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers, www.grandmotherscouncil.org, and Nurturing Seeds Daycare, providing quality education to pre-schoolers in the Espanola Valley. We are also working closely with Tewa Women United on the Gathering for Mother Earth and the Healing Foods Oasis, a community garden that is being built behind the Espanola City Hall.
TOUR THE BOLIVIAN ANDES &
PARTICIPATE IN SERVICE
LEARNING ACTIVITIES WITH
ACTIVIST, OSCAR OLIVERA
Sponsored by Four Bridges Traveling
Permaculture Institute

The Tour begins January 10th – 17th 2017 in La Paz with a tour of the city and overnight stay in the Altiplano. Experience the history of the Andes Mountains. Meet with local indigenous youth. Participants will take part in permaculture projects, and visit the ancient site of Tiwanacu. Day 3 will begin with a bus tour to Cochabamba where we will meet with Oscar Olivera, leader of the Cochabamba “water wars.” We will do service work in local indigenous villages and urban areas of Cochabamba. Cost of the trip is $1,500 and includes ground travel, accommodations, guide, course materials and training certificate. Cost of travel to and from Bolivia not included (passport and visa required.)

Join us for 7 days of Service Learning and Cultural Exchange!

Experience the breathtaking beauty of the Andes Mountains, the ancient ruins of Tiwanacu, and much more. Tour Bolivia with experts in the culture and life of the traditional inhabitants of this beautiful land. Daily eco-yoga, massage therapy, and traditional healing methods. Hands on permaculture experiences.

Four Bridges Traveling Permaculture Institute

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DONATE!
Funding for international programs is difficult to find. We are doing some grassroots campaigning to raise funds for our international programs in South America, and Africa. To donate please visit our website at www.4bridges.org and select the program you wish to support.