



To Reconstitute the World

by Phillip Moore

Buckminster Fuller said that spaceship earth was so ingeniously designed that no one has a clue that we are on one, flying through the universe at a million miles per hour, with no need for seatbelts, lots of room in coach, and really good food—but all that is changing. In fact, everything is changing. So the question arises ‘what does one do when business as usual no longer works?’

First it might be appropriate to define the word ‘change’. Not too long ago, I ran into 7 distinct definitions of that word separated onto two levels: the first level included the first four definitions of change and the second the final three. On level one, change had to do with things like ‘reshuffle the deck’ or ‘hunkering down’ while level two changes were described by words like ‘revolutionary’ and ‘epic’. And it’s the level two changes that we, on board spaceship earth, are encountering on a moment-to-moment, day-by-day basis.

| Contents | |
|----------|----|
| haiku | 2 |
| calendar | 3 |
| growing | 4 |
| bioneers | 6 |
| auction | 12 |
| theatre | 14 |

So how does a school that was founded on a ‘more with less’ philosophy and inspired by visionaries like Buckminster Fuller navigate this new territory? In July, while on summer vacation in Montana with our five grandchildren, I was acutely aware that we were under-enrolled. One of my colleagues in the Independent School Association is fond of saying, “We live and die by our

continued on page 10

Editor’s note: *This edition of Connections is devoted to the issue of Sustainability: for the earth, for the school, for one another. Moving forward in new ways using existing materials. Taking existing methods to chart new paths. The connections between people and earth provide a foundation we can build on.*



Autumn to Ashes

Metallic sun shines
Over vermilion leaves
Burning with beauty

Flaring, jumping bright colors
Flooding the forest faster than
Rushing water

Wispy gray clouds
Cutting the air
The forest goes black

The searing golden spheres
Of flames
From Autumn to Ashes

*A Japanese Renga is a type of Haiku poem, written in group form.
Autumn to Ashes was written by Alex VanFleteren, Alissa Hudson, Serena Scholz & Jack Totzke
as a part of Jan's Group poetry class with Karen Moore.*

UHS Community Calendar

February

Tues., Feb. 9 Arts Festival 12:30-2:30 pm
 Mon.-Tues., Feb. 15-16 2nd Evaluations - NO SCHOOL
 Wed.-Fri., Feb 17-19 Winter Break - NO SCHOOL
 Mon. Feb. 22 School Resumes
 Sat. Feb. 27 **UHS Sustainability Awards**
 at karen Joy theatre

March

Fri.-Sun., Mar.19-21 **Treat of a Retreat:** Women's
 Journal Making and Yoga at
 Windrise

April

Thurs.-Fri., Apr. 1-9 Spring Recess - NO SCHOOL
 Fri., Apr. 9 karen Joy theatre presents
 Jesse Elder Jazz Trio, 7:30 pm
 Mon. Apr. 12 School Resumes
 Sat., Apr. 17 **Hand in Hand Auction 2010**
 Fri., Apr. 30 karen Joy theatre presents
 "Oliver" 1 and 7:30 pm

May

Mon. May 31 Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL

June

Tues.- Fri., June 1-4 Ted's Group Senior Trip
 Mon.-Tues., June 7-8 Final Evaluations -NO SCHOOL
 Wed. June 9 Renaissance Festival
 Thurs. June 10 All-School Overnight
 Fri. June 11 Last Day of School

UHS Board of Trustees

Sandy Rollin - President
 Paula Patterson - Treasurer
 Rick Joseph - Secretary
 Kathy Long - Staff Representative
 Douglas Campbell
 Dan Leske
 Phil Moore
 Tim Thomas
 Ken Webster

UHS Staff

Jan Butcher
 Terry Gardner
 Anissa Howard
 Jane Kline
 Kathy Long
 Ron Miron-Alimpich
 Karen Moore
 Phil Moore
 Holly MacMahon
 Jean Ruff
 Lori Schultz
 Ted Strunck
 Ken Webster

Global Teachers

Jorge Arenivar
 Eugene Friesen
 Medard Gabel
 Karen Taylor-Good
 Billy Jonas
 Rafe Martin

Newsletter Editor

Karen Troshynski-Thomas

Growing Toward the Light

by **Ted Strunck**

It must be 10 years now since I first heard about the Bioneers. My brother-in-law sent me a cassette. "Revolution from the Heart of Nature" is their motto. It struck me between the eyes. I listened to speeches by John Todd talking about his 'Living Machine' and I modeled my 'Biodome' after it. I listened to speeches about biomimicry and how solutions to our ecological problems could be found in nature. I heard about Bill McDonough and his redesign of the Ford Rouge Plant here in Detroit. It has a 'natural' roof that actually cleans the water the plant uses in its manufacturing processes. The Bioneers -- a group of people getting together every year in San Rafael, CA to discuss and inspire one another with what they are doing to preserve this planet and its life -- are my inspiration.

I had previously attended a Bioneers satellite session in Traverse City. I was also able to take my class to a session at Wayne State for several years. So last summer, when Phil asked if I'd be interested in attending the Bioneers Conference in San Rafael, I was shocked and excited and overwhelmed. My response? "Ah, yes, I would!"

So, on Wednesday, October 14th, Anissa and I headed for San Rafael. The day before the conference was to begin, Anissa and I attended a special pre-conference on teaching sustainability in schools. We heard about what other schools from around the country were doing to instill this ethic in their students. We learned that Upland Hills was right up there with the best of them and that teaching sustainability was embedded in our curriculum from the very beginning. We also realized that we were sitting on a gold mine. We already had a school garden going. We already had a wind generator. We already had a school compost pile. We already had a recycling program for paper and cardboard. We already had a garbage-free lunch. We already had a ropes course and a great theater and a bridge built from recycled materials and a solar greenhouse with rainwater harvesting. We came back grateful to be a part of this amazing place.

We came back on fire. Our heads were swimming with ideas of new things to do and a determination to pick up on the things that were already in place and make them better. We came back with a simple idea: start right where you stand to save the earth. What's at arms length that you can do? What small incremental step can you take to change your lifestyle in a way that would lessen your carbon footprint? We came back with a simple formula: Awareness, Relationship, Love, and Protection. It's a progression everyone must go through to become a steward for the earth.

One area I'd been working on for 5 years or so, was getting photovoltaics for our school. My class had done an energy audit of the school one year and we determined a 10kW array would meet our energy needs. We began applying for grants. I remember the first grant we applied for was a real rush job. I had handed it out to my class and assigned each student a part to work on. I remember we were riding on the train to Chicago and I just happened to ask Craig Willett, who was in charge of the timeline, when the proposal was due. He said March 15th. It was March 11th! On board with me were Henry Willett and Jack

Elder, both engineers of superior ability. They said, "We can do this. Let's get going. We have 10 hours of train ride ahead of us. Plenty of time." So, we got that one off in time but no grant. I was deeply disappointed.

The next year we had a Green Team up and running and the big order of business was writing another grant for photovoltaics. This time we brought in professionals from Oakland University who helped us craft an impressive proposal. No dice, no grant. Over the next 2 years ,we wrote grants with the dedication and wonderful expertise of Laura Farwell, a member of our Green Team, at the helm. Still, no grant. Finally, this year, another prospect appears and I decide not to ask for Laura's help again. I feel she's already done plenty. I begin working on the grant proposal in September and let it languish for a month or so. I get back from Bioneers all charged up and finish the proposal. Upon rereading the guidelines, I realize one of the qualifications is that the building has to have been built after 1999. Our school was built in 1990. I call them up and ask if an exception might be made for our school. They say to send construction details and energy bills from the last year. We gather them together and send them off. Yes, they will make an exception.

Within a week, a team from Energy Works Michigan, wants to come and visit our school. This is really promising! I walk them around our campus pointing out things we've done over the years. By the end of that morning, they're offering us the grant. The money (\$85,000.00!) comes from the MPSC -- Michigan Public Service Commission. Funds from the small surplus tax added to everyone's utility bill are used mostly (80%) to cover emergency shutoff situations. The other 20% is now used to help jump start Michigan's green economy. Our grant is not only good for our school, but good for the state. For the most part, the products used are Michigan-made and the installers are Michigan people. The system itself is designed to operate for 20 years. We'll have an elaborate monitoring system in place so students can actually watch the energy being produced and consumed. Four of our teachers will have to go to Ann Arbor and receive training on integrating all this into their curriculums. It's very exciting!

Phil and I, back in his office, reread the grant and realize what a great gift it is. Finally, our dream is coming true: solar energy for Upland Hills will happen. It's a fulfilling legacy for all of us and a great leap forward for our community as we keep growing toward the light.

You can check out notice of the award at <http://www.energyworksmichigan.org/blog.aspx>.

There is no such thing as a neutral educational process. Education either functions as an instrument that is used to facilitate the integration of the younger generation into the logic of the present system and bring about conformity to it, or it becomes "the practice of freedom," the means by which men and women deal critically and creatively with reality and discover how to participate in the transformation of their world. The development of an educational methodology that facilitates this process will inevitably lead to tension...but could also...mark the beginning of a new era."

from Pedagogy of the Oppressed by Paulo Freire



The Bioneers

by Anissa Howard

San Francisco was joked about on NPR's *Car Talk* as being one of the bravest (or stupidest) places to own and drive a car. Each morning and evening, Ted and I braced ourselves against the steel handrails of the public Muni Bus as it leaned heavily down Lombard Street, whining against its electric cables. I paid tribute to Click and Clack as we commented on how impossibly steep the San Francisco streets could be: we were crooked, the streets were crooked, and for moments the horizon was crooked. We were headed for Marin County, an hour and a half bus ride from San Francisco where we stayed. This is the home site of the 20th annual, four-day Bioneers Conference held this past October, that we had traveled to participate in. Revolution from the heart of nature.

This year, the focus was on education. Once off the bus each morning, in the midst of listening to the plenary speakers, we braced ourselves again (this time against the theater seats) to listen to the stories of people doing amazing work to bring about change. The Buddhist scholar and earth activist Joanna Macy spoke, swinging her arms wildly on the stage so that you couldn't miss her. With the brilliance, intelligence,

and force of the wisest of crones, she invited us all to wake up to our fullest humanity and appreciate the mystery of being alive in this extraordinary time. She warned us that we're dumping too fast, too much for the earth to reabsorb; we're taking too much, too quickly for the earth to regenerate. She asked us to come together to create the change we need to continue to live.

Michael Pollan, environmental writer and food activist, discussed his work on food consciousness with schoolchildren in the US. They are empowered to initiate their own food reform, bringing dignity to school lunches. Michael made real the obstacles we are confronted with. Lily Weh, founder of Barefoot Artists, showed us her work in healing the traumatized victims of genocide in Rwanda, focusing on the children. Her stunning mosaics honoring the dead brought one town of people out of their numbness to finally grieve for their many lost. Jensine Larsen, founder of World Pulse, brought forward voices of women in remote areas of Yemen, Mali and Bolivia by providing Internet access, ensuring a place to tell their stories to the rest of the listening world.

Brock Dolman, a natural historian and director of the WATER Institute of the Occidental Arts and Ecology Center, reminded us of the importance of water. Like an echo down a deep well, the reminder hit and bounced around in the air of all 3,000 of us in the room -- *Helloooooo...water... We need it.* He continued, telling us that when you throw something *away*, to be sure and attach the question: "Where is *Away*?" We later learned "Away" is indeed a place floating on the ocean waves with the albatross. It is an island -- twice the size of Texas now -- in the Pacific, made up entirely of plastic. Our ship captains know to stay clear of it, but the albatross don't because it is their primary nesting ground. They attempt to rear their young on some of the brightly colored plastic pieces, mistaking them for food and ultimately presenting us with the decline of their species.

We learned from representatives of indigenous tribes -- the Eyaks of Alaska and the Anishiaabe people of the Great Lakes Bioregion whose people depend upon salmon -- that the caribou are in danger and salmon this year had changed in number and health. Sobonfu Some' of the Dagara people in West Africa offered us a new understanding of individual, collective, and cultural pain. It can be used as a wisdom-barometer and an indicator of when we're on the right path as a people. The chief of a Brazilian Amazon rainforest tribe spoke in Portuguese of and for his dwindling people. Everyone rose to acknowledge him because he seemed to have come from The Land of *Away*. Each evening as Ted and I leaned our way back across that huge red bridge on a bus back to the city, we commented on how alike the steep-of-the-streets and the steep-of-the-stakes, are.

Who are the Bioneers? They are people on the cutting edge of rediscovering and redesigning our world. They are lawyers and architects and scientists and authors, directors and artists and musicians and rabblers, farmers and educators, investigators and engineers. They are asking deep questions and leading the charge in their own fields of possibility, then coming together with the intention of making our world better. The concept of time is important: slowing down in some situations while speeding up in others. Also, the concept of The Great Unraveling, where we shred the web of life beyond our capability to repair it again. Joanna Macy and rest of the Bioneers give life and energy to a polar opposite philosophy - The Great Turning, in which we suddenly act on the need to learn how to live in balance with all beings.

There were people there representing the trees -- our trees -- the very ones that are outside our windows providing air, beauty, and shade; the ones the children climb at school. New legislation is being written to protect those trees, giving the *environment* rights. Inventors were present with radical new ideas to halt *all new construction everywhere*, redesign what we have, and this time make it alive – living roofs, breathable structures heated and cooled by the sun and the wind. There were stories of schools finding ways to create gardens and green spaces for the children to eat from and play in. One school celebrated the attention given by staff and students to one small section of a path in the woods across the road where the children could be in a small forest for a short time each day and look under the logs for animals living there.

Being in the San Francisco Bay Area at the main Bioneers conference was enlivening and liberating, alarming and hopeful. Ted and I have both attended the local Bioneers conferences that beam into Detroit and Traverse City for years now, but being at the site of origin of this conference was an entirely different experience and one that is difficult to capture in writing. I recommend people go if they have the chance. We took away so many excellent ideas so rapidly that we couldn't integrate them all and, months later, we are still comparing notes!

We were able to jointly conclude that Upland Hills School has either done, or is currently living with most of the sustainability principles hitting the mainstream as viable 'green' ways of living. The sustainable ways of living and interacting with the planet are the foundation of our Upland Hills School world. It enables us go a step beyond -- into the domain of the social curriculum. Empathy, cooperative conflict resolution beginning at very young ages, development of intrapersonal and interpersonal skills, and good communication skills are emphasized and supported. These life skills are being taught within the context of a love of the natural world and ourselves in it; they are central to creating a whole person. It seems to me that in order to self-actualize, you must first feel as if the world you know has great worth. The children of Upland have a love of the natural world as part of who they are -- placing an inherent intention within, to take care of and protect the earth. I see the teachers as people who want to educate through love and respect. They want to live close to the natural world while engaging in the wonders of technology as it supports the learning environment we are creating for our children.

The Bioneers' message for schools was: create school environments where children grow food and play outside -- a lot. Let them interact with one another over gardens and under trees and in rivers and swamps. Teach them by creating curriculum around the challenges. Most schools are at base camp, in the process of extending outside time by a few minutes each day or in conversation about adding a garden to their school budget. Upland Hills School is holding the keys in so many ways. Our educational model is capable of creating access for other schools to learn from, by showing ways of interacting with the environment both inside and outside the school doors, as a world classroom.

On our way home, a Russian traveler was sitting next to us on the plane. When he heard about the philosophy of not creating and consuming so much junk, he replied simply, "Yes, but it's comfortable to have all the stuff. I like it. In Russia, no one has anything that makes them feel that way and they all want it." I thought how tricky it can be to raise and educate our children in the midst of the curbing of a cultural mindset. Having a Bioneer-mindset doesn't mean you have to not-be-comfortable in life; it means you

must become conscious. You must become aware that you are part of a whole system. You must have knowledge and facts and know how to get along with people in order to get your ideas realized; having strong social skills is extremely important. You must develop a deep appreciation of the natural world and have the good care of it modeled for you. A sense of empathy, the ability to be kind, the ability to tolerate and protect and retain a core of authenticity must be able to flourish within you. You must be challenged to think, to act, to integrate concepts and opposing ideas. You must be given time to play – to decide how and what to play, and where and with whom. It takes undirected time to become joyful. You must learn to listen deeply; for this, you must experience being listened to, not just heard. You must learn how to love, and to be loved.

I came back from San Francisco so proud of our small school in the woods – doing such big things. Our paths are many, not just one. Our swamps and trees and lakes and meadows are many. We have maple trees, things growing, and a farm and CSA connected. There are photovoltaics (PV) going up on the roof very soon. With a little converting, we're ready again for the wind, too. Our garden is waiting for spring hands and feet (human, not groundhog.) A new greenhouse is on the way, thanks to Ted, and with it the possibility of school-grown kale hidden in our Friday pizza sauce. Math and phonics, spelling and writing, reading and playing. Songs in our heads and in our hearts and much work to do.

Even our country's funniest car mechanics are aware on some level of the gravity of what lies ahead: "Well, it's happened again. You've wasted a perfectly good hour listening to us." "Yeah, and if you hadn't been, by now you could've saved the world from complete cataclysmic destruction – but ya didn't!" "Now how do you feel, ya lousy schmucks?"

So without telling us *what* to do, and with all the charm of sibling rivalry in adult form, Click and Clack offer us a little helpful advice in support of a third way, in which we can change our course of direction... "Don't drive like my brother." "Yeah, and don't drive like *my* brother."

I agree with Joanna Macy: these are extraordinary times to be a human on planet Earth.

Information on the Bioneers can be found at www.bioneers.org.

**Alumni! We'd love to hear what you're up to.
Check in via email to Terry@uplandhills.org.
Are you interested in a UHS fan page on Facebook? Drop us a line.**

To Reconstitute...continued from page 1

enrollments.” Part of me was thinking of salary cuts, fewer teachers, and cutting costs on a line-by-line basis, which is a good example of ‘hunkering down.’ The larger part of me was thinking about co-creating a reality I wanted to live into. So I set a goal, 83 students by September 5th, and I began a discipline of doing something every day to help realize that number.

Inspiration is not garnered from the litanies of what may befall us; it resides in humanity's willingness to restore, redress, reform, rebuild, recover, reimagine, and reconsider.

There is a beautiful thing that happens when you combine a spiritual discipline with practical creative actions. A synergy unfolds that connects with the deeper currents that are always in circulation aboard spaceship earth. Being nimble helps as well. A parent emailed me with news of a Montessori school closing in Romeo. That email resulted in an early departure from Big Sky Country.

Our board president met with a former Board president and the two hatched an idea of how to give money away and inspire people to ‘reimagine’ and ‘reconsider.’ That effort has generated 28 ideas of ways to sustain Upland Hills School. The teachers of Upland Hills School sent two of our staff members to San Francisco to participate in the Bioneers Conference on Sustainable Schools: Revolutionary Design from the Heart of Nature. That trip resulted in a renewed excitement about children and gardens, free play, and intelligent design. One of those teachers wrote and received a grant for a 10kw solar array and the other marshaled a campaign to collect over 400 bicycles and send them in a shipping container to Ghana where they will help to transform over 400 lives.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once asked what we would do if the stars only came out once every thousand years. No one would sleep that night, of course. The world would create new religions overnight. We would be ecstatic, delirious, made rapturous by the glory of God. Instead, the stars come out every night and we watch television.

It's winter now. I'm back in Montana with my two daughters, my son in law and my 5 grandchildren. We have 85 students enrolled at Upland Hills School. The last day of school before the holiday break, we invited our parent group to consider not giving any staff presents but instead to donate underwear, mittens, tooth paste and deodorant to a homeless shelter in Pontiac. Just before Santa arrives, we help Ryan load his car full to overflowing with the generosity of some of the most gracious parents in the world. He tells us that they just ran out of everything because the shelter opened two weeks early. Now he'll be able to tell them about a school not too far away that donated these items, stranger to stranger. Santa arrives and I recall a former Santa who arrived on a sled head first as the children flew into fits of laughter. That Santa passed away last year but his memory lives on. This Santa is full of large laughter and warm hugs, a former student we watched grow into a devoted father, and inspired leader. The last school day of 2009 ends with a sense of deep gratitude. I feel grateful for the children, their trust, their love, their openness, and their resilience. I feel grateful for their parents who somehow found us and entrusted us with their children for yet another year. I feel grateful and inspired by the dedication and determination of our staff

who endured H1N1, lice, dangerous roads, long hours, and numerous staff meetings. I feel gratitude for our board that responded with the nimbleness needed to keep the vision alive and home fires burning.

In early December, three teachers from Pathfinder School in Traverse City observed our school. We talked and shared ideas and practices. Just before I left for vacation, one of them sent me a link to a commencement speech given by Paul Hawken in Portland, Oregon. I have used quotes throughout this article from that speech and I'd like to close with one last quote.

You are graduating to the most amazing, stupefying challenge ever bequested to any generation. The generations before you failed. They didn't stay up all night. They got distracted and lost sight of the fact that life is a miracle every moment of your existence. Nature beckons you to be on her side. You couldn't ask for a better boss. The most unrealistic person in the world is the cynic, not the dreamer. Hope only makes sense when it doesn't make sense to be hopeful. This is your century. Take it and run as if your life depends on it.



Celebrate all that is Upland Hills School...

“Hand in Hand” Auction 2010

Saturday, April 17 at 5:30 pm

MSU Management Education Center



*Our wonderful community event is growing and changing.
Please join us to experience all the excitement and warmth of supporting UHS.*

NEW and IMPROVED...

RETURNING favorites...

Venue:

MSU Management Education Center on Square Lake Rd. just East of Crooks in Troy

Program:

A sit down dinner starting at 6 pm SHARP. Be sure to RSVP with your dinner choice.

Table Size:

Eight at a table for easier conversation.

Our need for YOU:

Tickets are still only \$50.

We need great people to make this night a fun success.

Buy a Day for “Nancy’s Fund”:

Help build our tuition assistance fund to insure that UHS remains affordable for so many families.

52 Card Raffle:

Buy a card for \$100. The winner gets his or her CHOICE of one LIVE auction item.

Email Staci Brodeur, Auction Coordinator at auction@uplandhills.org, check the “auction” tab on the UHS website at www.uplandhills.org, or call the school at 248-693-2878 for more information.

We are looking for great people and fabulous items!

“Hand in Hand” Auction, April 17, 2010

Do you have the ability to or know someone who would help sponsor the auction?

Sponsorships underwrite the auction and make the evening an even greater success. All sponsorships come with eight tickets to the auction.

Donation items come in all kinds. Silent items are typically \$75 or more minimum. Live items are often valued at over \$500. Items that garner the most bids are unique and often handcrafted. Gift certificates can also be great auction items.

It’s easy to become a sponsor or donate an item. Tear out this page and return it to Upland Hills School at the address below. If you’d rather do it without a stamp, click on the UHS website at www.uplandhills.org and go to the “auction” tab. There you can submit the form electronically. If you have questions or need more information, email Staci Brodeur, Auction Coordinator at auction@uplandhills.org or call Terry or Staci at the office 248-693-2878.

- 🍏 Platinum Sponsor \$5000**
 UHS & Karen Joy Theatre Website link, full page ads in the Karen Joy Theatre Playbill for 2010-11 season, four season tickets to Karen Joy Theatre.
- 🍏 Gold Sponsor \$3000**
 UHS Website link, half page in the Karen Joy Theatre Playbill for 2010-11 season, and two season tickets to the Karen Joy Theatre.
- 🍏 Silver Sponsor \$1000**
 UHS Website link, half page ad in the Karen Joy Theatre Playbill for one selected performance, two season tickets to the Karen Joy Theatre.
- 🍏 Patron Program \$400**
 Patron tables seat 8 people. They allow you to make sure you and your guests have a table together! You can also share a table with others.
- 🍏 Friend \$50**
 Enjoy the evening at one of our empty tables.
- 🍏** I am not able to attend. Please accept my /our enclosed contribution of \$_____ to support UHS.

Business/Organization/Person _____
 Contact Person _____ Phone _____
 Address _____ E-Mail _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Email: _____

For item donations:

____ Certificate Enclosed ____ Merchandise Enclosed ____ Merchandise will arrive by: _____

Describe Donation: _____

Value of item (actual or sentimental): _____

Karen Joy Theatre: Setting the Stage for Sustainability

By Jane Kline

With *sustainability* serving as the theme of the newsletter, you may wonder how an article about the Karen Joy Theatre made its way into this issue. Various meanings of the word 'sustain' range from the ability to "maintain", "support" or "endure". In 1987, the United Nations initiated the Brundtland Commission to address concerns centered on the deterioration of human and environmental resources globally. The Commission published its notion of the three pillars of sustainability: environmental, economic and social. In other words "sustainable development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs." This concept can easily be adapted for the 'Karen Joy Theatre pillars of sustainability'.

Environmentally, from its inception and throughout construction of the Karen Joy Theatre, the goal was simply to build 'more with less'. The concrete filled Styrofoam blocks which form the theatre foundation came from recycled coffee cups. The plush, authentic theatre seats awaiting patrons were rescued from the Palms Theatre in Detroit. These are just two examples of why Karen Joy Theatre is applying be recognized as a Michigan "Green Venue". Green Venues Michigan is a statewide "green" certification program for entertainment venues, convention centers, and similar facilities. It is designed to encourage and assist facilities to adopt cost-saving, green practices which conserve natural resources and prevent pollution. Upland Hills School has already been certified as a Michigan Green School and the theatre adopts many of the same principles and criteria for this distinction.

Economically, Karen Joy Theatre creates events which service the community, employ staff and performers. A local, organic restaurant has sold delicious, wholesome concessions during recent events. Building strong revenue streams and donor support help generate funds to 'maintain' and 'endure' long into the future.

However, it is the *social* component of the three pillars which delivers the greatest potential for Karen Joy Theatre to endure. KJT serves as a central 'hub' bringing community together and offering a range of sustainable opportunities: educational and environmental films and workshops, performing arts events, recitals and venue rentals. These events support the intellectual, emotional and, for some, spiritual needs of both individuals and the community, bringing a sense of wholeness to each.

Because Karen Joy Theatre values the performing arts and honors the creative process, it has attracted many professional performers who have experienced a profound connection to this enchanting space. "The performer is much more conscious and connected to the audience because of the amphitheatre design. I like looking up at the people," said singer/songwriter and UHS teacher, Ted Strunck. Brian Vander Ark, formerly of the highly successful band Verve Pipe, told his audience, "Musicians love to perform at an intimate theatre like this. The acoustics are amazing. There just aren't enough places like (this) in the world. I look forward to returning."

Sustainability goes beyond the environment here. A musician sustaining a musical note....an actor staying in character...the rush of a standing ovation. UHS Theatre student, Jack (age 12) expressed how it feels to perform on the Karen Joy Theatre stage, "Small space that comes alive beautifully when the audience pours in and the lights go up." Oakland County and the surrounding region benefit from this cultural jewel. The Karen Joy Theatre continues to build relationships, working to create a sustainable future for generations to come.



**CALLING ALL PAST & PRESENT UHF CAMPERS,
COUNSELORS & EMPLOYEES**

WHAT-- Upland Hills Farm is planning a reunion.
We're celebrating 50 years of business.

WHEN-- July 2nd & 3rd, 2010

WHERE -- Upland Hills Farm

We would like your email address so that we can send you all the details. Just go to uplandhillsfarm@sbcglobal.net to send us your addresses, or use snail mail

(UHF 481 Lake George Road, Oxford, MI 48370) or call
248-628-1611.

Spread the word to family and friends or send along their emails!
Hope to see many of you in July.

karen Joy theatre 2009-2010 Season

The Theatre in the Woods

To order tickets...call 248.693.2878

Online at www.karenjoytheatre.org

Jesse Elder Trio

Friday April 9, 7:30 pm & 8:30 pm

\$15 adults \$10 students/seniors

A UHS alumnus, Jesse brings his NYC based jazz ensemble to KJT!

They perform at the top NYC jazz clubs, including The Blue Note, The Jazz Standard, Small's, Fat Cat, Barge Music and many others.

Jesse is a 3 time winner of the national "ASCAP Young Jazz Composer's Competition"!

www.myspace.com/jesseelder

Upland Hills School's Theatre Play Shop

presents

Oliver!

Friday April 30, 1 pm & 7:30 pm

\$12 adults \$7 students/seniors

*Pre-performance PJ Party 6:45 pm-7:15 pm

Support Karen Joy Theatre -- Become a Sponsor

Contributions are vital to help underwrite the cost of bringing you quality performances each season.

Ticket sales alone cannot completely cover expenses. Donations are tax deductible. Please visit www.karenjoytheatre.org for giving levels and benefits. Or be a volunteer and see the shows free!

THANK YOU!



UPLAND HILLS SCHOOL

2575 Indian Lake Rd.

Oxford, Michigan 48370

248.693.2878 Fax 248.693.4317

www.uplandhills.org

Email: info@uplandhills.org

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 6

Lake Orion, MI