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Camphill Research Symposium

The Living History Project in North America

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The Living History Project in North America

What is the Living History Project?

The Institute wants to preserve more of the treasured memories and experiences of people who knew Karl König and experienced the beginnings of Camphill. With many of these people now in their nineties, the Living History Project will conduct a series of video interviews to document this history.

Two initial interviews have brought hidden gems to light, as shown in this beautiful quote from Helen Zipperlin, describing Dr. König:

“A small person in stature...an enormous person in reality. Unforgettable face. When he didn't think you were looking at him, his face carried all the sorrows of the world in its wrinkles...sooo sorrowful. But in the moment he was among people, there was always laughter. If you were in place where there was a meal, you could always tell Dr. König's table because that's where people were laughing their heads off. Wonderful kindness...big eyes, so full of kindness...and full of sorrow at the same time... Wonderful, wonderful person!”

While the scope of the Institute's project is international, we will focus the first phase in North America. The new Institute branch there will record interviews with approximately 20 individuals in the United States and Canada. We are excited to see what these memories will bring!

Who will be interviewed?

Co-workers who participated in Camphill's founding, with many having dedicated their lives to its aims, co-worker children who grew up in Camphill in Karl König's time, and several people who were students in the Camphill Schools back in the founding days.

How will the interviews be used?

The interviews will serve our interest in history. They will offer enjoyment and inspiration as we hear first hand how people's lives were forever changed by Karl König and Camphill. They will be available for the education of coworkers and for research. They will support communications with people beyond Camphill who are interested in understanding and furthering Karl König's aims. They can help with fundraising in support of Camphill. And importantly, they will shed light on how Karl König's impulses can keep evolving so they continue to serve the needs of today and the future.

What is the timeline for the project and what happens once the interviews are completed?

Phase 1 is filming/recording the interviews. Phase 2 will be editing short excerpts for social media, the Camphill Foundation and the communities to use. Phase 3 will be editing the interviews into a 60-minute documentary that could be used in different ways.

How will the project be funded?

The Karl König Institute in North America will undertake a fundraising campaign to help support this and other projects that are planned for the first three years of its work.

For more information, please contact the Institute's North American administrator, Deborah Grace:
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