For a long time we have described how the world is moving simultaneously in two opposing directions. Over the past year we have seen this trend intensifying. As governments cave into the pressures from a deregulated market, poverty and ecological destruction are escalating. But at the same time there is a massive increase in truly significant initiatives that demonstrate hope and real people power.

The majority of the population is still viewing events through national or local lenses that prevent them from seeing the bigger pattern, particularly the contours of the global economic system. So there is a tendency to focus far too much on political theater, and there is little awareness of the de facto government: interlinked banks and corporations.

Without seeing the bigger picture, many people fall into the trap of believing that human beings are greedy by nature, and that the destructive, dysfunctional system in which we seem trapped is a product of that greed. If human nature is to blame, it follows that there’s nothing we can do to bring about fundamental change. For many, this thinking leads to apathy or even despair.

I’m convinced that people are neither greedy nor violent by nature, and that the problems we see all around us emanate from an economic
As the influential NGO Films for Action (www.filmsforaction.org) points out, “documentaries have an incredible power to raise awareness and create transformative changes in consciousness both at the personal and global levels.” This is precisely what we were hoping to do when we released our documentary film, *The Economics of Happiness*, in 2011. For that reason we are honored that Films for Action has put the film at the top of its list of transformational documentaries three years in a row. Other films that have made the list include *The Corporation*, *Food Inc.*, *The Age of Stupid*, *No Logo*, *Gaslands*, *In Transition*, and *Permaculture: A Quiet Revolution*.

Overall, *The Economics of Happiness* has been seen and used by individuals, community groups, NGOs, educational institutions, social movements, religious communities and spiritual groups on five continents. It has been screened well over a thousand times, in countries ranging from Japan to Mexico. The film is often the springboard to further discussion, thereby helping to catalyze local alternatives to the corporate-led global economy.

To date, the film has been translated into 23 languages — in large part by volunteers eager for people in their home countries to see the film. The non-English languages include Cantonese, Croatian, Czech, Dutch, French, German, Hindi, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latvian, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Slovenian, Spanish, Turkish and Ukrainian — with Swedish, Norwegian and Persian translations currently underway.

Last year, the film was screened by the German airline Lufthansa on domestic flights, and shown in the Italian Parliament at the initiative of the Five Star Movement (M5S). In Romania, the documentary has been part of a nationwide educational project aimed at generating critical social analysis among students. And in Japan, Korea and Australia, local government authorities have used the film to initiate discussion about the need for alternatives to the global growth economy.

Four years after its release, *The Economics of Happiness* continues to attract attention. A noteworthy example is the Latvian Platform for Development Cooperation, which collaborated with several other NGOs in Latvia to organize 100 public screenings of the film this spring. The screenings, part of a celebration of the Latvian Presidency of the European Union, took place over a period of three months in venues across the country.

We are currently working to make *The Economics of Happiness* more widely available in countries where the film’s message seems particularly timely, including Greece and Cuba. Simultaneously, we are in the process of developing a one-day workshop module based on the film, for use by community activists who want to kick-start effective local action.
Planet Local Photo Contest

Our second annual Planet Local photo contest drew entries from around the world, featuring farmers’ markets in Australia, native fish ponds in Hawaii, indigenous vegetable art from India and many other symbols of localized economies. The photo contest is part of our broader Planet Local initiative, which showcases localization in action. Besieged as we are by bad news, it’s encouraging to see how many positive efforts are taking place all over the planet—from school gardens to artisanal fisheries, locally-based conservation projects to community music festivals. The photo contest gives our supporters a chance to show what localization looks like in their locales. It also gives Local Futures a wealth of beautiful images to illustrate what we mean when we say localization is a real solution-multiplier. To see all the submitted photos, take a look at our online album: http://tinyurl.com/ppcbaz4

Girl fishing for crab, UK by Hilda Feenstra

Chorotega Artistry, Costa Rica by Kristy Mulcrone

Marrakesh, Morocco by Alice Perna

Nature’s Nurture, India by Basapur Sudharm

Caught prawns, Malaysia by Audrey Woon
The Ladakh Project

Alex Jensen and Brian Emerson, Project Coordinators

Once again, it was a busy season for the Ladakh Project. Here are some of the highlights:

Conferences and Workshops

In early August, Local Futures ran our Global to Local workshop at the beautiful, historic “Lonpo House”. The workshop attracted a diverse group of over 50 participants from around the world, including India, Germany, Canada, Greece, France, Australia, US, Korea, Netherlands, Belgium, the UK, and Japan. We explored issues of development and sustainability, the true costs of corporate globalization, and localization alternatives. We tackled these issues as a group through a combination of interactive exercises, games, presentations and films. Enthusiasm for the workshop exceeded the three days originally scheduled, so a fourth day was added to delve further into local solutions.

“The workshop offered a unique opportunity for deep reflections and cross-cultural dialogues about well-being, the romanticization of Western consumer culture, “progress”, “development”, and the role of technology. A central theme was food and farming, dismantling the myth that industrial agriculture is needed to feed the world. We also explored theories, strategies and living examples of alternatives rooted in local production for local needs. We’d like to thank everyone who came and participated in the workshop, and especially our stellar volunteers Henry Coleman and Angie Polkey. We also thank the Himalayan Cultural Heritage Foundation for making Lonpo House available and for providing delicious, traditional local lunches.

Local Futures conducted a session on “mitigation, adaptation, resilience and localization” at a one-day conference on climate change. The workshop participants consisted of about twenty-five Ladakhi college students, and included an interactive exercise on how to increase the economic and ecological resilience of Ladakh in the face of climate change.

In late July, a group of local and regional NGOs co-hosted a gathering of Ladakhi activists, politicians, and NGO leaders to discuss ecological and socially-just visions for the future. Ladakh Project coordinators Alex Jensen and Brian Emerson helped organize the gathering, and Alex gave a presentation showing the connection between corporate globalization and the growing problems of plastic waste and processed junk food in Ladakh. He argued for regulatory action (rather than merely personal consumption modification) to confront the growing presence of destructive products and companies in Ladakh.

Local Food and Farming

Late August through mid-September is harvest season for much of Ladakh. During this period the region becomes a golden patchwork of small fields of barley and wheat – the traditional staple crops. Harvesting is traditionally a communal event, with groups of families joining together to work each other’s fields – combining work with singing and regular festive breaks for food and drink. Though this tradition persists in many villages, it is in decline, as development and modernization pull people away from the villages into sprawling urban centers, where educational facilities, jobs and political power are concentrated.

During the 2015 harvest season, Local Futures organized a number of ‘crop mobs’. Working with youth leaders we arranged for groups of tourists to help with the harvest using traditional hand harvesting techniques. The crop mobs offered participants a unique hands-on opportunity to
learn about traditional Ladakhi farming – and the profound changes it is undergoing. They also provided useful labor to local family farms, and most importantly, they helped to raise the status of rural knowledge and skills. Across the world, this is needed to counter the imagery in advertising and the media which makes villagers feel backward and stupid.

One of the many highlights of the season was a field trip to the village of Takmachik in western Ladakh to help officially launch it as an “organic village”. The entire village of sixty households has committed to 100 percent organic farming. The initiative seeks to strengthen the village economy, providing viable agrarian livelihoods to help stem the rapid urban migration trend happening across Ladakh. Many participants stayed the night in the homes of local families, and teamed up on the second day for our first crop mob, helping harvest a field of local lentils and wheat.

Tourist Education

For people from the West, Ladakh is a place where preconceptions about “progress”, “wealth”, and “development” are difficult to hold onto. For this reason, a fundamental rethinking of basic assumptions in Ladakh can remain with travelers even after their return home. As in years past, our tourist education program consisted of daily screenings of either Ancient Futures or The Economics of Happiness at the Ecology Centre. Following the films, there were stimulating discussions led by Local Futures staff on the impacts of globalization on Ladakh and other parts of the world.

We also continued to run our Mindful Tourism program, which includes a “Mindful Travel” brochure (now in seven languages), an “Eco-Friendly Guide Book for Leh City” and an “Eco-Map of Leh”. These publications provide guidelines for how tourists can play a positive role by supporting the local economy, helping to protect the local environment, and supporting local NGOs.

As part of our Traditional Knowledge & Skills series, which gives outsiders an experience of traditional Ladakhi culture, we held a workshop in the village of Hemis Shukpachan that showcased basket weaving, traditional meals, and traditional folk songs. Along with homestays with local families, the workshops gave outsiders an experience of traditional Ladakhi culture. It also provided the opportunity for Westerners to contribute to the restoration of respect for place-based knowledge and skills. Their interest in learning these skills is helping to restore respect for local knowledge.
Our ongoing series of Economics of Happiness Conference continued in February 2015 with a 3-day event in Portland, Oregon. Following on from similar gatherings in Berkeley, California, Byron Bay, Australia and Bangalore, India, the conference brought together international speakers, new economy leaders from the local area and nearly 400 participants from a wide range of ages and walks of life. The program included plenary sessions covering a diversity of topics, including law and the new economy, climate change, trade treaties, spiritual connectedness, alternatives to GDP, and indigenous traditions.

In workshops, participants had an opportunity to delve deeper into certain topic areas, such as education and schooling; DIY policy-making; race, gender and food systems; and the health benefits of nature. There was also a special grief-sharing circle led by a local activist, to help participants face the suffering of the world in a way that inspires action instead of despair. A number of other local community members also contributed significantly to the richness of the event with flute, vocal and guitar performances, with an exhibit of photographs of Bhutan, and with the creation of an Economics of Happiness mandala.

Many of our core Economics of Happiness speakers gave presentations, including Bayo Akomolafe, Camila Moreno, Carol Black, Charles Eisenstein, Manish Jain and Michael Shuman. We were pleased to also include talks by Vicki Robin, Severn Cullis-Suzuki, Chet Bowers, Jihan Gearon, Janelle Orsi, Sandra Lubarsky and other prominent thinkers and activists in the environmental and new economy movements. The conference was supported by more than 50 local, national and international partner organizations that helped us spread the word about the event and contributed local expertise. Many exhibited their materials and led workshops, helping to connect the big picture analysis to the local level.

In collaboration with these organizations, we also organized a number of field trips and off-site activities on Sunday morning. These included a tour of Portland’s artisanal economy, a walk through an urban orchard, a visit to a budding intentional community, and a session on brainstorming a new, economics of happiness conference.

Conference Feedback

“The conference overall was absolutely outstanding. Truly amazing.”

“It was excellent. The only problem was that too much was happening that sounded fascinating all at the same time.”

“There were such wise words spoken, and it was so vitalizing to see all the inspiring work being done around the world.”

Bayo Akomolafe, Michael Shuman
more people-centered Declaration of Independence.

As usual, feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with many asking us to hold a conference in Portland every year. It was exciting for Local Futures to bring the Economics of Happiness to a city already vibrant with local economy initiatives and to have our vision so well received. The energy generated from the event was palpable and we aim to continue to collaborate with participants and partner organizations under our Economics of Happiness program. We are grateful to the NoVo Foundation for supporting this project.

Jeonju, South Korea

In early September we held our second international conference of the year, this time in the city of Jeonju, South Korea. By all accounts the event was “a huge success — an historic event” in the words of the Mayor of Jeonju. The conference included international speakers Janelle Orsi (author of *Practicing Law in the Sharing Economy*), Judy Wicks (founder of BALLE), Keibo Oiwa (founder of Japan’s Sloth Club and author of *Slow is Beautiful*), Neil McInroy (head of the Centre for Local Economic Strategies), and Helena Norberg-Hodge. South Korea was represented by professors, activists and local government leaders, many of whom are members of South Korea’s Social Economy movement.

The final paragraph of the wall-sized, hand-painted conference Declaration shows clearly the enthusiasm and support for localization:

Together with the City of Jeonju and the participants of the International Conference on the Economics of Happiness 2015, Jeonju, we hereby declare our support for the values and direction of the economics of happiness in building a new model for local economies that looks beyond competition and divisiveness, and our commitment to cooperate with the efforts of Local Futures in helping the movement for localization spread and take root throughout the world.

This commitment has already been put into action by an association of mayors representing 57 South Korean municipalities and towns. Seeking “to show this wonderful documentary to as many Korean people as possible,” they will be screening *The Economics of Happiness* throughout the country, beginning with a huge event at an upcoming meeting of the Seoul Metropolitan Government. And plans are already being discussed for another Economics of Happiness Conference in South Korea, perhaps as early as 2016.

**Castlemaine, Australia**

Another inspiring conference in our ongoing series was held in mid-October in Castlemaine, Australia. Entitled “Local Lives, Global Matters”, it was hosted in partnership with Oases Graduate School in Melbourne and organized by three remarkable women, Ellen Madigan, Carolyn Nielson and Nikki Marshall. In addition to storytelling, art, music and visits to nearby localization initiatives, there were wide-ranging presentations, panels and workshops — from media liberation and the gift economy to local renewable energy and the moral underpinnings of economics.

The amazing community participation and enthusiasm made it a truly memorable event. In addition to Helena Norberg-Hodge, plenary speakers included Raphaël Souchier (a French localization advocate), Samuel Alexander (degrowth proponent and author of *The Sufficiency Economy*), Rob Hopkins (founder of the Transition Towns movement) via skype, and Susan Murphy (a Zen Roshi and deep ecologist). Manish Jain (India) and Camila Moreno (Brazil), who have presented at numerous Local Futures conferences, once again enthralled the audience with their thought-provoking analyses.

**Upcoming conferences**

In October 2016 we will be co-hosting another international Economics of Happiness Conference
in Florence, Italy. We are pleased to be collaborating with the Five Star Movement, members of parliament and local government, and with Macro Edizione, one of the biggest alternative publishers in Italy. Details on these and other upcoming events will be posted on our website.

Helena Norberg-Hodge had an extensive itinerary of speaking engagements in Asia, Europe and Australia this past year. In South Korea she was not only a featured speaker at the Economics of Happiness conference in Jeonju, she also gave talks in Seoul at Friends of the Earth, Korea, and at an event called “Localization and the Future of Society”, in which she participated in a panel discussion with several local mayors.

In Hong Kong, she led a two-day workshop that included group discussions, Q&A sessions, visits to a community farm and farmers’ market, and a screening of The Economics of Happiness. She also gave a public lecture at Lingnan University on “How human scale is essential for solving our social and ecological problems”. This event was at the invitation of Dr. Erebus Wong and Kin Chi Lau from the Rural Reconstruction Movement of China, which has been promoting CSAs and other local food projects in that country. They also invited Helena to be a co-founding member of the Global University for Sustainability, an online initiative born out of the World Social Forum.

Helena was in Ladakh for much of August this year. In addition to being a guest of honor at the International Festival of Buddhist Culture, she also delivered a number of lectures in English and Ladakhi to tourists, Ladakhi students, local NGOs and others, and spoke on the local radio station. Helena also met with local government, religious and NGO leaders to discuss the direction of change in the region, and to explore potential collaborations in the future.

Helena’s travels also brought her to the UK, where she gave a keynote address — “From Gandhi and Schumacher to Russell Brand” — at a celebration of E.F. Schumacher’s work, organized by the Schumacher Institute in Harbourside. In Embercombe, Devon, Helena facilitated a 4-day residential course on how localization can reduce our ecological footprint, create meaningful livelihoods, and rebuild the fabric of community. The course included a tour of Transition Town initiatives in Totnes.

Another highlight was the GEN+20 Summit at Findhorn, Scotland, which celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Global Ecovillage Network, as well as the 10th anniversary of its partner organization, Gaia Education. Attendees from across the world listened to stories of ecovillages past and present, debated hot topics and future strategies, and pursued discussion strands from ecovillage education to disaster relief policies. Helena, a co-founder of GEN and Gaia Education, presented at the summit and took part in a 3-day meeting to further develop the Gaia Education curriculum.

In Australia, Helena gave the 23rd annual Richard Jones Memorial Lecture sponsored by the University of Tasmania. Helena also spoke at the “Think Differently: Communities in Control Conference” – a huge conference in Melbourne featuring well-known thought leaders from all over Australia. She also participated in an event in Byron Bay called “The End of Earth, Inc. is Nigh!”, at which “handy tips for overturning corporate capitalism” was the theme.

Not all of Helena’s events could be pinpointed on a map: in February she joined author and colleague Charles Eisenstein for a live web discussion, titled “Happiness for All”, about Bhutan’s use of Gross National Happiness as a guide for development decisions. The webinar was hosted by Orion magazine.
If you’re looking for thoughtful commentary on current events from a global-to-local perspective, the Local Futures blog is the place to go. Here are excerpts from some of the past year’s blogs:

• **Globalization and Terror** by Helena Norberg-Hodge
  “For people in the modern world, there may be nothing more difficult to comprehend than the group calling itself the Islamic State, or ISIS. The beheadings, rapes, and other acts of cruelty seem beyond understanding, as does the wanton destruction of priceless ancient monuments. Perhaps most mystifying of all is the way ISIS has been able to recruit young men — and even some young women — from the industrialized West, particularly Europe: the conventional wisdom is that the cure for ethnic and religious violence is ‘development,’ education, and the opportunities provided by free markets. This seems not to be the case…

Other Local Futures staff also actively reached out to the public this year, with Program Coordinator Anja Lyngbaek screening *The Economics of Happiness* in Mexico, and Managing/Programs Director Steven Gorelick promoting local food systems and decentralized renewable energy in Vermont. Program Coordinator Alex Jensen was particularly busy: in addition to organizing and participating in workshops and conferences in Ladakh (see page 4), he helped design content for a weeklong workshop, “Mountains and Us: Rethinking Development in the Himalaya” at the Sambhaavnaa Institute in Himachal Pradesh, India; he presented his slide-illustrated talk on “Globalization and Waste” at both the Sambhaavnaa Institute and at the Fireflies Ashram in Bangalore; gave a talk on the global-to-local argument at two other Sambhaavnaa courses, including a two-week program for youth involved in social change initiatives; and presented on Ecological Sustainability at the Vikalp Sangam gathering in Madurai, Tamil Nadu.

To really understand the rise of religious fundamentalism and ethnic conflict we need to look at the deep impacts of the global consumer culture on living cultures throughout the planet. Doing so allows us not only to better understand ISIS and similar groups, but also to see a way forward that lessens violence on all sides…”

• **Current trade treaties: “a revolution against law”** by Managing/Programs Director Steven Gorelick
  “A respected human-rights expert at the United Nations, Alfred-Maurice de Zayas, has joined the global movement opposing trade treaties like TPP and TTIP. And he has novel and powerful legal arguments. In international law, de Zayas says, there is a hierarchy of agreements, and at the top is the UN Charter: “in case of conflict between the provisions of the UN Charter and any other treaty, the Charter prevails.” In other words, trade treaties that lead to a violation of human rights — or breach any other obligation set out in the UN Charter — are legally invalid…”

• **We Are All Greece** by Helena Norberg-Hodge
  “Greece reveals clearly where a centralized economy dominated by corporations and banks leads…. [But] there is an alternative to starving our own people to enrich foreign banks: it involves moving away from ever-more specialized production for export, towards prioritizing diversified production to meet people’s genuine needs; away from centralized, corporate control, towards diverse, localized economies that are more equitable and sustainable. This means encouraging greater regional self-reliance, and using our taxes, subsidies and regulations to support enterprises embedded in society, rather than transnational monopolies…”

• **The End of Politics as Usual in the UK?** by Programs Director John Page
  “These days, mainstream politics is just about the last place you would look for genuinely progressive ideas, for thinking outside the box. Whether nominally Democrat or Republican, Labour or Conservative, politicians on every continent read from the same dog-eared script… But then there is Jeremy Corbyn… To put it mildly, he is not everyone’s cup of tea. But one thing is sure: debates in the Houses of Parliament in Westminster will, for the next few years at least, be anything but ‘politics as usual’. And we should all be grateful for that…”
Resisting the Technocratic Paradigm
by Managing/Programs Director Steven Gorelick

“Ever since the release of Pope Francis’ encyclical, *Laudato Si’*, people in our circles have been waxing rhapsodic about its message: finally, a powerful global figure is explicitly calling for fundamental structural change. Unfortunately, the media has pigeon-holed the encyclical as a ‘climate change’ document, and so Francis’ deep and broad critique of the modern economic system – with particular emphasis on its links to reductionist science and technology – isn’t getting the attention it deserves… For this reason it’s worth looking at Francis’ words in some detail…”

Small Loans, Big Problems: The false promise of microfinance, by Helena Norberg-Hodge

“Ever since Bill Clinton and the World Bank enthusiastically embraced the microfinance concept in the 1990s, we at Local Futures have been skeptical of its benefits, seeing it as part of a whole package of ‘market solutions’ to our social and environmental crises that, in the long run, make things much worse. We have pointed out that these loans often target rural populations who were not previously in debt: they represent the long arm of capitalism reaching into remote rural areas, encouraging a shift away from dependence on the land and the local community, towards competition in a resource-depleting global economy…”

A Tribute to Eduardo Galeano
by Project Coordinator Alex Jensen

“Local Futures wishes to pay tribute to the Uruguayan writer, Eduardo Galeano, who passed away on April 13th… He was one of the few writers, from either the global North or South, to understand that ‘development’ as emulation-of-the-rich was not just objectionable because of environmental limits and constraints, but also because even if the project were physically possible, to succeed at it would be a Pyrrhic victory of the worst sort. Global industrial-consumerist growth and development aren’t just physically impossible, they are undesirable, even deadly…”

Climate Happiness

Ever since the historic People’s Climate March in September 2014, we’ve seen some very encouraging signs in the international climate movement. People are increasingly seeing links between our social and financial crises and runaway climate change — connecting greenhouse gas pollution to racial injustice, Wall Street corruption, profit-making education, corporate dominated global trade, and other seemingly separate issues. This emerging big-picture critique is important, but as a movement we still have a ways to go in formulating solutions. We need to go beyond halfway measures like divestment, carbon-trading, or replacing industrial-scale fossil fuels with industrial-scale renewables. What we really need is systemic economic change.

Our upcoming Big Pictures briefing on climate change and trade will show how localization can reduce greenhouse gas emissions while increasing resilience and our social and economic wellbeing. We’ll outline both the policy shifts and grassroots initiatives that will take us from climate chaos to climate happiness. Timed for release around the upcoming UN Conference on Climate Change, this report will offer a concise overview of how shortening the distances between producers and consumers is one of the most strategic and effective responses to climate change.

Check out our current and past blogs at www.localfutures.org/blog. Please post comments and read what others are saying about the content.
The International Alliance for Localization (IAL) is Local Futures’ most ambitious networking initiative to date. It was first announced publicly in November 2014, at our “Voices of Hope in a Time of Crisis” symposium in New York City, marking the start of a year-long launch of the IAL. Since then, the ideas behind the Alliance have been shared widely through conferences, talks, workshops and face-to-face discussions in Europe, Asia and North America. The response has been almost uniformly positive.

We believe the time is ripe for the IAL. Although many groups are in broad agreement in their critique of the global economic system, few have paid sufficient attention to localization — and until recently even fewer recognized its possibilities as a systemic solution. This is changing, and increasing numbers of people across the planet support a global-to-local shift. Importantly, the IAL’s international platform will include both resistance and renewal — countering economic globalization while supporting steps to strengthen healthy communities, economies and ecosystems.

Our intention is to build bridges among a wide variety of interest groups worldwide — from environmentalists to social justice activists, from farmers and labor unions to small business groups, from opponents of “free trade” agreements to those working to protect their culture and environment from global predation.

In summary, the IAL seeks to:

- expose the threats posed by the deregulation of global trade and finance, which include giving multinationals the right to sue governments over laws or regulations that might diminish corporate profits;
- share information about the worldwide kaleidoscope of vibrant localization initiatives;
- promote local alternatives, at the grassroots and policy levels, to large-scale mass-production;
- foster an understanding of the importance of cultural and biological diversity for the survival and wellbeing of people and the planet;
- forge partnerships in support of economic localization around the world.

A full introduction to the IAL can be found on our website, along with an online sign-up form for both individuals and organizations. Those who sign up for the IAL will receive our monthly update, which will include:

- **Policy Watch**, with updates on trade agreements and other policies that tighten corporate control;
- **Planet Local**, with news about inspiring grassroots initiatives that strengthen local economies and communities;
- **Take Action**, with information about strategic campaigns, petitions and protests.

We envision that all three categories will be enriched with contributions from IAL members. Internal communication between members, as well as the sharing of materials and other resources, will initially take place through a listserv.

“"It was a shot in the arm for me. I returned home full of ideas that I shared with local activists and friends, and already have several small collaborations in the works with people I met.""

- Severn Cullis-Suzuki, after the IAL meeting in Portland

Activities planned for the near future include a series of live webinars on topics related to the global-to-local debate, the creation of an online space for shared resources, a Take Action Calendar, and the development of DIY global-to-local workshop modules.

We invite you to join us!
On September 6, the world lost Hildur Jackson, a visionary leader and co-founder of the Global Ecovillage Network. Hildur had been a close personal friend since the 1980s. She was brilliant, full of energy, unfailingly warm and generous. She loved life; she sparkled: you felt better in her presence.

Hildur was also a passionate activist – in fact, I know very few people who have done as much as she did to make the world a better place. Her vision was to rebuild the spiritual connections that have shaped humanity throughout history: the deep interdependence between people, and between humans and Nature. With her husband, Ross, she was able to translate this vision into a living reality, providing thousands of people across the world with the opportunity to rediscover community, to fulfill their dreams, to live in harmony with their deepest needs.

Thank you, Hildur, for everything you brought to our lives. And may the clarity of your vision continue to brighten our troubled world.