

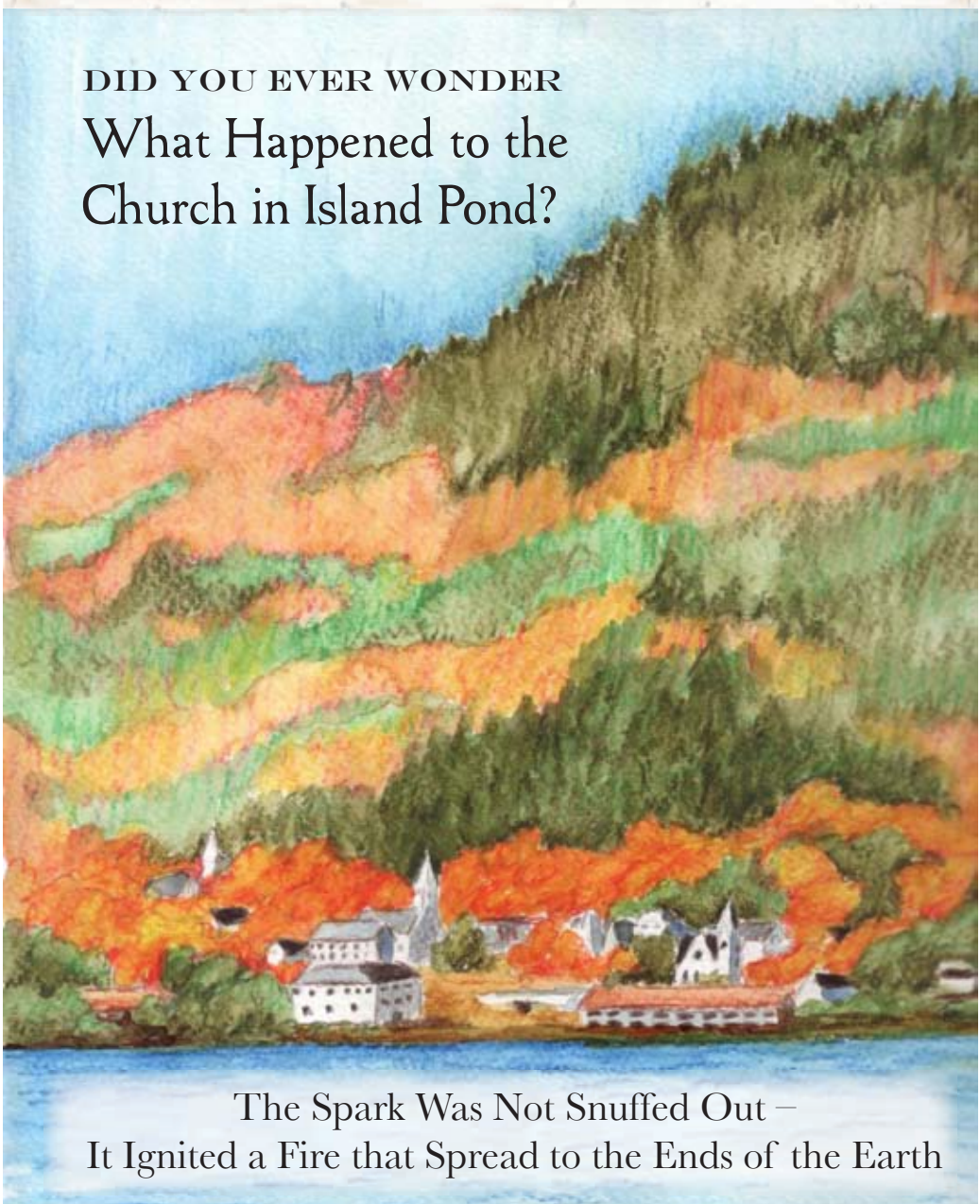


TWELVE TRIBES FREEPAPER

JUNE 22, 2024

ISLAND POND, VT (YEHUDAH)

DID YOU EVER WONDER
What Happened to the
Church in Island Pond?



The Spark Was Not Snuffed Out –
It Ignited a Fire that Spread to the Ends of the Earth



On June 22, 2024, we gathered in Island Pond to commemorate and celebrate how our Father delivered us from near destruction.

We are gathered here today in Island Pond, Vermont to remember what happened here 40 years ago on June 22, 1984. The facts of what happened here that day are not so important as the reason that the God of heaven protected and defended the little band of believers that lived here striving with all their “heart, soul, mind and strength” to follow the Word of God.

You all know that the state seized 112 children to look for signs of child abuse. They found none and a righteous Judge named Frank Mahady sent all those children home that day. He documented the Constitutional protections ignored in the state’s plan to take the children in a masterpiece of legal writing totaling 64 pages.

What we want to tell you is not about what the state did TO us that day, but rather what Our Father, Our Creator, whom we strive to obey, did FOR us. In retrospect, 40 years later, we want to explain the significance of who the Northeast Kingdom Community Church of 1984 was and who the current Twelve Tribes Communities, “serving God night and day” (Acts 26:7), now in nine countries on five continents, is today.

When a group of believers from the South migrated from Chattanooga, Tennessee to Island Pond, Vermont in 1978 there was a distinct reason for it. A similar group of disaffected Christians in the Northeast Kingdom had already abandoned some mainstream churches, looking to more completely devote their lives to follow the Son of God. The gospel preached by those few Southerners resonated with them and they joined forces, devoting themselves to live like the first church in the Book of Acts desiring to live together and share all their possessions to care for each other.

Between 1978 and 1984, the upstart little church group took their children out of public school and started home-schooling. Because their family classrooms did not fit a state category, they were prosecuted for truancy until 1990 when Commissioner of Education Richard Mills visited Island Pond, saw the children and agreed to an amendment in the education law that has worked ever since.

These handful of families from the South and North bonded, having one heart and one way, with the Vermont families inviting the Southern believers into their homes in order to follow God's command that "All who believed were together..." (Acts 2:44) These were the ones who did it; they "gave it all up" to obey the gospel.

So, God provided servants to help us, the little group that was being persecuted for following their convictions about what the Word of God said to do. They were totally willing to do God's will and gave up their individual upright lives in order to obey the gospel. Our Father knew from this miracle in Island Pond that he had a people that were living for Him, the beginning of a people for His very own possession, a people He would uphold, defend and protect through his servants in government.

In large part, this revolved around the discipline of our children whom we love. We rely upon them to become the next generation to walk by faith in the light of the love of God and to be a witness of that truth to the whole world. We are commanded to "love one another as I have loved you." (John 13:34)

It was that next generation of children that Judge Mahady delivered that day... "And by this love all men will know that you are My disciples." By this love, the Miracle of Island Pond will continue... ✽



*Top: Baptism with
all gathered*

*Right: Apple
picking crew*



A new “Life Together” ignited in Island Pond as families responded to the uncompromised gospel. Families from the Northeast Kingdom looking for God’s will received the messengers from Chattanooga who brought an uncompromised gospel. An amazing life resulted: we left our old jobs and worked together. We danced and sang together. We lived together in the homes that were given up. We sugared together in the farms that were given up. Together, we opened the Common Sense Market and Restaurant.

Trouble was Brewing

A new group of 300 people in a place like Island Pond didn’t go unnoticed. We took our children out of public school and taught



Top: Celebration at the Block
Mid: The "Maples" house
Bottom: The "Block"
which was located across
Cross St from the park.



them at home. We believe what the Bible says about discipline and raising children. We were different.

A Plot to Destroy Us

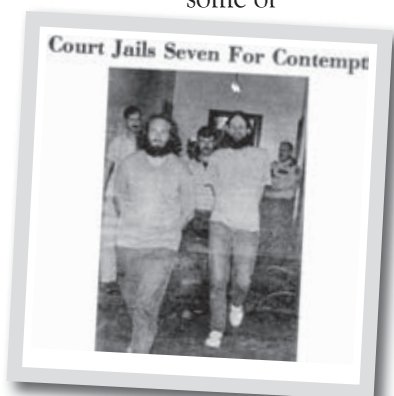
The Bible warned us that disciples would be misjudged and misunderstood. We thought most would see that we weren't lawbreakers; we just wanted to be godly. We discovered later that an organization was coordinating media, government, and social services with the expressed purpose of destroying the Church. They fed their misinformation to the media and government.

"Fishing"

The State lacked evidence. They didn't even have the names of the children. All they could prove was membership in the Church, which is no crime. The State arrested some of our leaders and threatened them with jail if they did not reveal the names of everyone in the Church. We refused. The judge released us, and said the State could not proceed without names.

Warned in a Dream

Two of our members had been given identical dreams. They saw a giant wave crashing down upon us. Then



it passed, and we were all still standing—every last person.

They Seized All the Children as Evidence

Early in the morning, we awoke to State police with guns and bulletproof vests in our homes. We weren't afraid.

"You Will Never See Your Children Again"

Some parents were informed that social workers and foster parents were waiting at a nearby ski resort to inspect and keep the children.

Children were Photographed; Names Demanded

Parents were told if you they didn't cooperate, their children would not be returned. Photos were taken, and the children bussed over to Newport. The social workers thought it would be a quick day in court, then the children would be taken to a nearby ski resort for examination.

Before the Judge

The families that gave names were given lawyers and appeared in

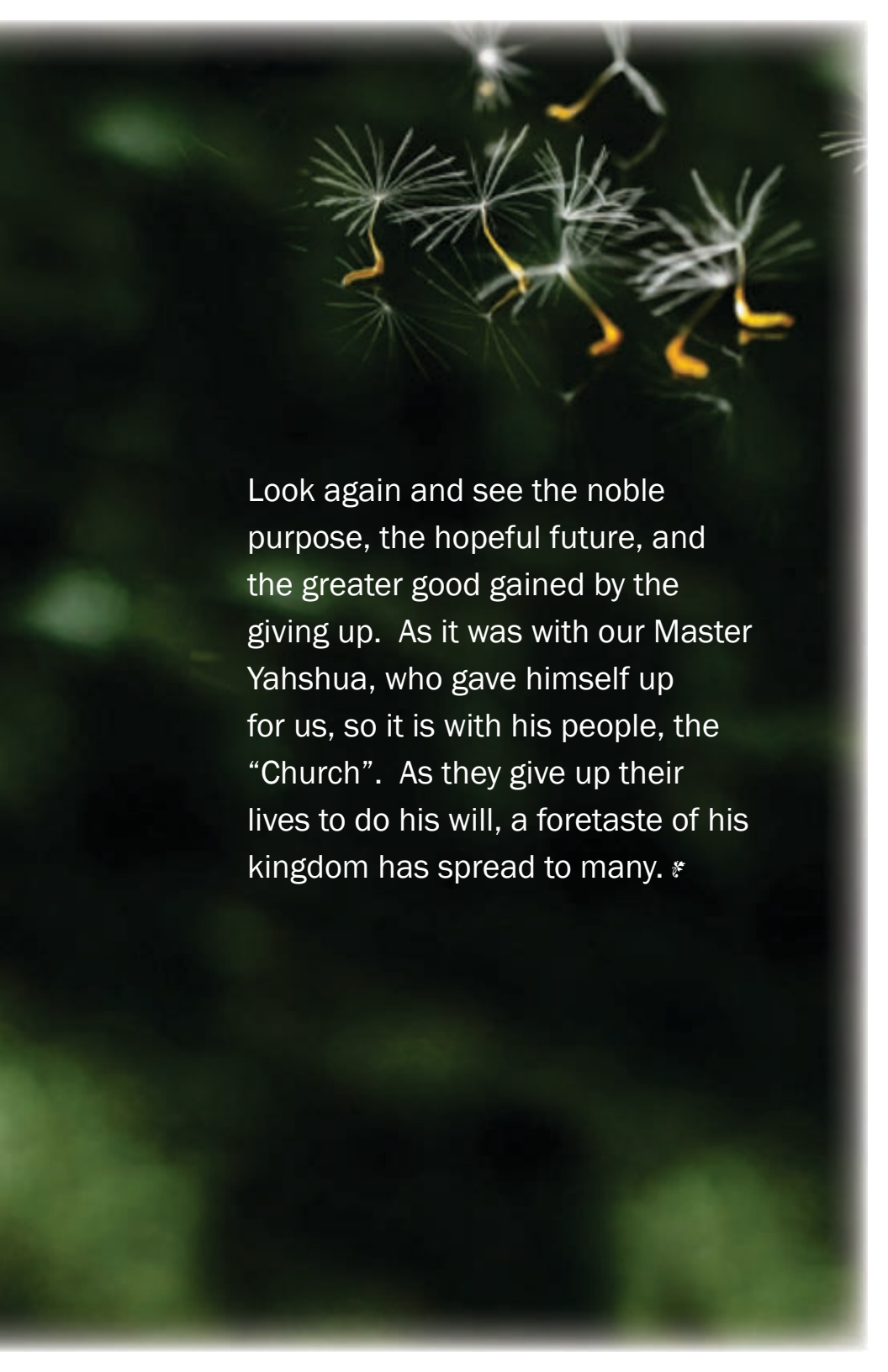


DON'T FORGET

The Power of a Seed

YOU MIGHT LOOK AND SEE the thing alone, or the loss, or the thing given up. Maybe you wondered where the 300 people went, that used to be part of the “Church in Island Pond”? Maybe you wondered what happened to the houses, the farms, and the money that were given up?



A close-up photograph of several dandelion seeds with their white, feathery pappus and yellow-orange seed heads, set against a dark, blurred background of green foliage. The seeds are positioned in the upper half of the frame, with some appearing to be in motion or falling.

Look again and see the noble purpose, the hopeful future, and the greater good gained by the giving up. As it was with our Master Yahshua, who gave himself up for us, so it is with his people, the “Church”. As they give up their lives to do his will, a foretaste of his kingdom has spread to many. ✽

The Spark Was Not Snuffed Out

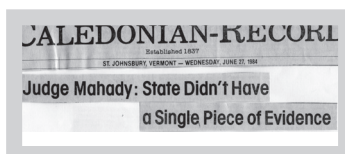
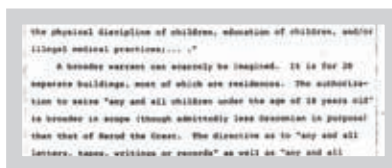


court, one family at a time. The State's case fell apart, as they had no evidence to justify taking the children away from their parents.

After a day's worth of hearings, late in the evening, Judge Mahady saw the families that had not given names. All the families were sent home.

Judge Mahady's Opinions

He examined the Detention Order and declared it a "grossly unlawful scheme," saying "children are not pieces of evidence." He nullified the Search Warrant as illegal. In his written opinion, he said "it sets a modern world record for generality."



Years Later

Some critics still say the Church was guilty and was let off on a technicality. As in 1984, these speculations have no evidence. Quite the contrary: The Vermont Legislature worked with us to change the home-schooling laws to accommodate us. When Judge Mahady acquired terminal cancer, he requested our participation in his funeral, and asked the children of Island Pond to come and sing to him.

Our Father Delivered Us

In a time when other groups were destroyed or faded away, our Father in heaven saw something he could protect. He is our deliverer. We look back and see his hand working in the appointment of Judge Mahady, a man who listened to his conscience. We learned that although the “whole world lies under the sway of the evil one,” our Father can appoint servants in government who will uphold our right to exist.

A New Spiritual Nation Emerges as the Odd Promise is Fulfilled

Some might call it “odd” what Yahshua promised in Mark 10:29-30. He said whoever gave up family members would gain 100 more. The one who gave up a farm would receive 100 farms. What could this mean? What would you do with 100 farms? We learned that our Father was going to make a new spiritual nation. There would be exponential growth, an increasing number of brothers and sisters, along with farms.



Many Farms & Houses

As our Father led us to start new places, we learned about the Twelve Tribes in the New Testament, a restoration of spiritual Israel.

We saw that the new communities that were being established were in distinct geographical locations around the world. Tribal identities began to emerge and develop into a spiritual nation of twelve tribes.

There are farms in Vermont, California, New York, Argentina, North Carolina, Czech Republic, Brazil, and Canada, as well as urban communities in many countries around the world.

Check out <http://twelvetribe.org/farms>

Israeli Folk Dancing

This new nation has a culture. One of the things we like to do is Israeli Folk Dancing. People of all ages, races, and abilities are able to join the circle as a demonstration of unity.

Finding the Brothers and Sisters

We've customized buses and traveled all over, looking for our "brothers and sisters". We've gone out to many concerts and events, wherever people are searching for their purpose. Our bus says, "We know the way, we'll bring you home."





European Bus Tour

What happened in Island Pond has repeated itself. In every place, we are always seeking others with the same heart as us, that is, to give up your life to do God's will. In Europe, we traveled in buses to many different countries, singing, dancing and spreading the good news.

A Home for the Lonely

Psalm 68:6 says that God will set the lonely in families. There is a reality to this in our communities. You can come and visit. Widows and orphans can find a new family, and not be lonely any more.

A Hundred Mothers and Brothers

As the promise is fulfilled, it creates a life of love and care where everyone finds a place to belong. Each one gives all they can give, and everyone's needs are met. There is a place for everyone.

Yellow Delis Everywhere

Back in 1978, several of the Island Pond families visited a Yellow Deli in Chattanooga. They found love and the wonderful spirit of our Father. Since then, we've created Yellow Delis around the world. For they are a platform for us to serve our neighbors, and give those who are interested a way to find the source of the love. ✨



(888) TWELVE-Tribes



Visit our web site: www.twelvetribe.org
Call us toll-free, 24/7: 888-TWELVE-Tribes (888-893-5838)
Or visit us at any of our places listed below.

CALIFORNIA

Community in Vista 2683 Foothill Drive, Vista, CA 92084 ☎ 760-295-3852

Yellow Deli 315 East Broadway, Vista, CA 92084 ☎ 760-631-1888

Morning Star Ranch 12458 Keys Creek Road Valley Center, CA 92082 ☎ 760-742-8953

Yellow Deli 32011 Lilac Road, Valley Center, CA 92082 ☎ 760-742-2064

COLORADO

Community in Manitou Springs 41 Lincoln Ave, Manitou Spr, CO 80829 ☎ 719-685-1250

Maté Factor 966 Manitou Ave, Manitou Springs, CO 80829 ☎ 719-685-3235

Community in Boulder 5325 Eldorado Spr. Drive, Boulder, CO 80305 ☎ 303-719-8168

Yellow Deli 908 Pearl Street, Boulder, CO 80302 ☎ 303-996-4700

FLORIDA

Community in Arcadia 601 West Oak Street, Arcadia, FL 34266 ☎ 863-491-0160

Yellow Deli & Bakery, 22 N. Polk Avenue, Arcadia, FL 34266 ☎ 863-842-7545

Community on Pine Island 15621 Quail Trail, Bokeelia, FL 33922 ☎ 239-558-2266

GEORGIA

Community in Savannah 403 East Hall St, Savannah, GA 31401 ☎ 912-232-1165

Maté Factor 401 East Hall Street, Savannah, GA 31401 ☎ 912-235-2906

Community in Brunswick 927 Union St, Brunswick, GA 31520 ☎ 912-264-2279

Yellow Deli & Bakery 801 Egmont Street, Brunswick, GA 31520 ☎ 912-264-1069

KANSAS

Community in Lawrence 805 Ohio Street, Lawrence, KS 66044 ☎ 785-304-5110

Fieldstone Orchard & Farm 7049 E 149th St, Overbrook, KS 66524 ☎ 785-665-7643

MASSACHUSETTS

Community in Boston 152 Robbins Street, Milton, MA 02186 ☎ 617-282-9876

Community in Plymouth 35 Warren Avenue, Plymouth, MA 02360 ☎ 508-747-5338

Yellow Deli 59 Main Street, Plymouth, MA 02360 ☎ 508-747-3354

Community in Hyannis 14 Main Street, Hyannis, MA 02601 ☎ 508-790-0555

Pleasant Street Farm 1128 Pleasant Street, Raynham, MA 02767 ☎ 508-884-8834

MISSOURI

Community in Warsaw 1130 Lay Avenue, Warsaw, MO 65355 ☎ 660-438-2541

Yellow Deli 145 W. Main Street, Warsaw, MO 65355 ☎ 660-438-2581

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Community in Lancaster 12 High Street, Lancaster, NH 03584 ☎ 603-788-4376

Yellow Deli 65 Main Street, Lancaster, NH 03584 ☎ 603-451-6888

NEW YORK

Common Sense Farm 41 North Union Street, Cambridge, NY 12816 ☎ 518-677-5880

Community in Oneonta 81 Chestnut Street, Oneonta, NY 13820 ☎ 607-267-4062

Yellow Deli 134 Main Street, Oneonta, NY 13820 ☎ 607-431-1155

Community in Ithaca 119 Third Street, Ithaca, NY 14850 ☎ 607-272-6915

Yellow Deli 143 E. State Street, Ithaca, NY 14850 ☎ 607-236-3772

Journey's End Farm 7871 State Route 81, Oak Hill, NY 12460 ☎ 518-239-8148

Yellow Deli 7771 State Route 81, Oak Hill, NY 12460 ☎ 518-239-4240

Community in Hamburg 2051 North Creek Road, Lakeview, NY 14085 ☎ 716-926-9216

Community in Cocksackie 18 South River St, Cocksackie, NY 12051 ☎ 518-655-1007

Yellow Deli 18 South River Street, Cocksackie, NY 12051 ☎ 518-655-1655

NORTH CAROLINA

Gladheart Farm 9 Lora Lane, Asheville, NC 28803 ☎ 828-274-8747

Community Conference Center 471 Sulphur Spr Rd, Hiddenite, NC 28636 ☎ 828-352-9200

Yellow Deli 5081 NC Highway 90 E, Hiddenite, NC 28636 ☎ 828-548-3354

TENNESSEE

Community in Chattanooga 900 Oak Street, Chattanooga, TN 37403 ☎ 423-752-3071

Yellow Deli 737 McCallie Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37403 ☎ 423-468-1777

Community in Pulaski 373 Glendale Drive, Pulaski, TN 38478 ☎ 931-371-7731

Yellow Deli 219 S. Third Street, Pulaski, TN 38478 ☎ 931-363-8586

VERMONT

Community in Island Pond 126 South Street, Island Pond, VT 05846 ☎ 802-723-9708

Yellow Deli 2 Main Street, Island Pond, VT 05846 ☎ 802-723-4452

Community in Rutland 134 Church Street, Rutland, VT 05701 ☎ 802-773-3764

Hiker's Hostel 23 Center St, Rutland, VT 05701 ☎ 802-775-9800

Basin Farm 175 Basin Farm Road, Bellows Falls, VT 05101 ☎ 802-463-9264

Common Sense Market 7 Square, Bellows Falls, VT 05101 ☎ 802-376-1617

VIRGINIA

Stoneybrook Farm 15255 Ashbury Church Road, Hillsboro, VA 20132 ☎ 540-668-7123

Stoneybrook Farm Market 37091 Charles Town Pk, Hillsboro, VA 20132 ☎ 540-668-9067

WASHINGTON

Community in Raymond 418 State Route 105, Raymond, WA 98577 ☎ 360-529-1559

Willapa River Goods 700 Robert Bush Drive West, South Bend, WA 98586 ☎ 360-300-3043

ARGENTINA

Comunidad de Buenos Aires Batallon Norte 120, 1748 General Rodriguez, Buenos Aires, Argentina ☎ 54-11-5984-2613

Yellow Deli Pedro Whelan 501, 1748 General Rodriguez, Buenos Aires, Argentina ☎ 54-11-5984-2500

Comunidad de Sierra de los Padres, Los Jesuitas s/n esq. Los Almendros, Sierra de los Padres, Buenos Aires, Argentina ☎ 54-223-585-5667

Yellow Deli, Arturo 110, 7601 Sierra de Los Padres, Buenos Aires, Argentina ☎ 54-223-651-7248

AUSTRALIA

Community in Katoomba 196 Bathurst Road, Katoomba, NSW 2780, Australia ☎ 61-2-4782-2131

Yellow Deli 214 Katoomba St, Katoomba, NSW 2780, Australia ☎ 61-2-4782-9744

BRAZIL

Comunidade de Londrina Est. Major Archiles Pimpão 5000, 86040-020 Londrina, Paraná ☎ 55-43-3357-1212

Yellow Deli Estrada Major Achilles Pimpão 5000, Jardim Vale Verde, 86020-040 Londrina, Paraná, Brazil ☎ 55-43-3337-4562

Comunidade de Campo Largo BR 277, km 107,5 s/n° (Sentido Ponta Grossa - Curitiba) Caixa Postal 1056, 83608-000 Campo Largo, Paraná, Brazil ☎ 55-41-3555-2393

Comunidade de Itapeperica da Serra Rua Vinicius de Moraes 70, 06854-010 Itapeperica da Serra, São Paulo, Brazil ☎ 55-11-4667-4397

Yellow Deli Rua Porto Alegre 10, 06850-440 Itapeperica da Serra, São Paulo, Brazil ☎ 55-11-4210-4942

CANADA

Community in Winnipeg 89 East Gate, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2C2, Canada ☎ 204-786-8787

Yellow Deli 490 Des Meurons, Winnipeg, MB R2H 2P5, Canada ☎ 204-453-5156

Mount Sentinel Farm 2915 Highway 3A, South Slokan, BC V0G 2G0, Canada ☎ 250-359-6847

Yellow Deli 202 Vernon St, Nelson, BC V1L 4E2, Canada ☎ 250-352-0325

Fairfield Farm 11450 McSween Rd, Chilliwack, BC V2P 6H5, Canada ☎ 604-795-2225

Yellow Deli 45859 Yale Rd, Chilliwack, BC V2P 2N6, Canada ☎ 604-702-4442

New Sprout Farm 7191 Howard Rd, Merville, BC V0R 2M0, Canada ☎ 250-337-5444

Yellow Deli 596 Fifth Street, Courtenay, BC V9N 1K3, Canada ☎ 250-897-1111

Community in Kingston 1560 Abbey Dawn Road, Kingston, Ontario K7L 4V3, Canada ☎ 613-877-3754

Yellow Deli 647 Princess Street, Kingston, Ontario K7L 1E4, Canada ☎ 613-546-8384

CZECH REPUBLIC

Preserved Seed Farm Mšecké Žehrovice č. 150, 27064 Mšec, Czech Republic ☎ 420-314-314481

Community Foods Farm Store, Vinohradská 74, 13000 Vinohrady - Prague, Czech Republic ☎ 420-228-229145

Community in Skalna 481 Česká, 35134 Skalna, Czech Republic ☎ 420-355-455182

ENGLAND

Stentwood Farm Dunkseswell, Honiton, Devon EX14 4RW, England ☎ 44-1823-681155

Yellow Deli 43-47 High Street, Honiton, Devon EX14 1PW ☎ 44-1404-378023

FRANCE

Au coeur du grain 47 Rue Riquet, 31000 Toulouse, France ☎ 33-950-604992

ROMANIA

Community in Cluj Strada Libertății 163, 407035 Apahida, România ☎ 40-739-257-430

SPAIN

Comunidad de San Sebastian Paseo de Ulia 375, 20013 San Sebastian, Guipúzcoa, Spain ☎ 34-943-632316

Yellow Deli General Etxagüe 5, 20003 San Sebastian, Guipúzcoa, Spain ☎ 34-943-477441

Comunidad de Orio Benta Aldea 5, 20810 Orio, Guipúzcoa, Spain ☎ 34-943-632316

Yellow Deli Benta Aldea 6, 20810 Orio, Guipúzcoa, Spain ☎ 34-843-740020

Comunidad de Corella Avda Navarra 22, 31591 Corella, Navarra, Spain ☎ 34-943-632316

JAPAN

Community in Kyoto 621-0122, Kyoto fu Kameokashi, Nishibetsuinchou, Manganji daido 21-59, Japan ☎ 81-80-8948-1619

Yellow Deli Kyotofu Kyotoshi Ukyouku Uzumasa Tayabucho 14-11, Japan ☎ 81-75-881-6886

