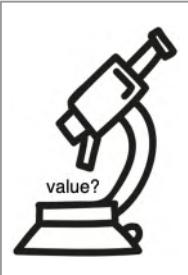


Magic Highlights - 2021

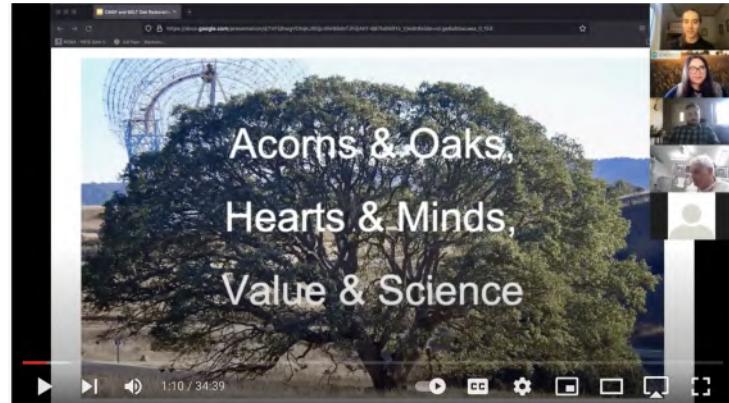
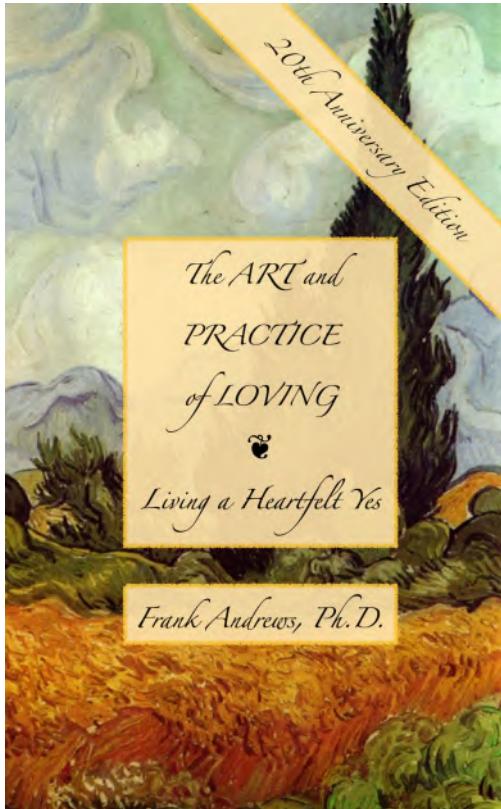
Everything that Magic is today, has been for more than forty years, and may become reflects overlapping circles of residents, friends, familles, students, volunteers, donors, clients, advocates, and partner organizations. We invite all to share our joy and satisfaction in what we accomplished together in 2021. We look forward to good works and good times in 2022. Thank you for making Magic. If you've yet to do so, we'll welcome you.

Contents

	Valuescience: Promoting a scientific approach to value and values		Residential Service Learning: Living for common good
	Habitat Stewardship: Enlisting others in greening Earth		Silicon Valley Barcode of Life: Cataloging and advocating for biodiversity
	Reduce Waste. Feed People. Collecting surplus food for hungry people		Liveable City: Bringing human population and artifact into balance with nature
	Land and Buildings: Caring for assets with which we serve		Escondido Outings Club: Providing youths and families opportunities to enjoy wild nature

Valuescience

Reaching a Broader and More Receptive Audience



We distributed *The Art and Practice of Loving*, a valuescience approach, which Magic publishes. We presented valuescience to 100+ rural and urban forest managers in online seminars for California ReLeaf, Big Sur Land Trust, and California Marine Sanctuary Foundation. We offered weekly in-person, online, and hybrid valuescience seminars attended by 5-10 participants.

PANDORA



We created a banner ad and a 30-second audio ad for a five million impression Pandora valuescience campaign.

Aided by artist Anouska Buch, we created a Magic valuescience logo.

Valuescience

Collaboration with the Foundation for Intentional Community

Foundational Language for Ecological Culture

By Jen Bayer and Hilary Hug



Magicians with surplus food they gathered at a farmers' market for local social service agency partners.



Jen (third from right) and twin sister Hilary (far right) celebrate their 21st birthday mid-COVID-19 with a Magicians-only dinner at the beach.

Photos courtesy of Jen Bayer and Hilary Hug

• PANEL EVENT
You're invited to take a
Virtual Tour of Intentional Communities

May 27 | 1pm ET

[Register now](#)



How to Start a Community

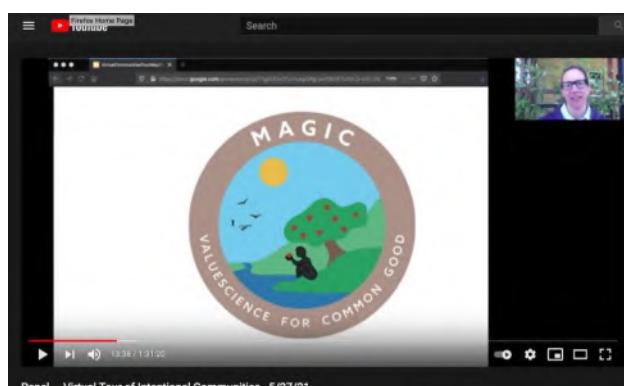
Get ready for the journey of a lifetime! Most folks underestimate the amount of time, energy, and skill required to assemble a founding group, pen the necessary agreements, search for property, and then set up residency or build infrastructure... all while maintaining a healthy community culture.

The failure rate of new communities is high, but this doesn't have to be the story of your group. First, check your ego at the door and examine your intentions for wanting to start a community. Many already exist. Have you visited lots of them? Is what you want to create already out there?

If you are committed to starting something new, make sure you and your group are well versed in the organizational structures, fundraising, and zoning or permitting options in your location. Consider hiring outside consultants. Better yet, first take an online course to know what you are getting into!

Top Resources for Starting Community

- The online course Starting an Intentional Community is the best way to learn about the process and know what you are walking into.
- And/or consider taking the Legal Basics for Forming Communities course to understand the legal options for starting community.
- The book *Creating a Life Together* is an essential resource, as is *Creating Cohousing* for those who want to start a cohousing community specifically.
- You can also follow the story of one brave community founder in Robin Allison's book *Cohousing for Life*.



We published "Foundational Language for Ecological Culture" in *Communities* magazine, presented Magic to 100+ viewers in a "Virtual Tour of Intentional Communities," and appeared in FIC's "Starter Guide to Intentional Communities."

Residential Service Learning

Changing Faces of a Community Regrowing

Twelve of us entered 2021. During a year of comings and goings influenced by pandemic, we slowly grew to 17, three of whom were on leave at year-end, seizing opportunities and shouldering responsibilities elsewhere. All told we were 21 people from seven countries and six US states.

January 2021



January 2022



In residence for part of 2021



Residential Service Learning

Hosting Reunions With Family and Close Friends

During the late spring to late autumn interval when vaccination was a path to prudent sociability, we hosted several family members and close friends for stays of a week or more.



Former resident AJ and wife Priya (whom we met for the first time) made their first visit to a Pacific Coast beach with David, Hilary, and Jeff.



We were overjoyed to reunite with Andrew's mother, Marylou, who had visited regularly pre-pandemic.



Sam, a son of David, contributed to habitat stewardship, grounds maintenance, and valuescience.



Gus' parents, Sanjiv and Mona, traveled from their home in Canada to celebrate Gus' birthday with him and visit California friends. They and Gus enjoyed an outing with David and Hilary.



Former resident and *Planting for the 2nd 100 Years* manager and ongoing collaborator Dave Muffly added his wisdom and perspective to valuescience discussions.



Clém's partner Nikki flew from France for a long Thanksgiving at Magic and a lightning tour of the Southwest.

Residential Service Learning

Adapting with Grace to Pandemic

Though only 12 to 17 people, with our diverse skills and similar values we made life very good by ...



working from home together ...



team training on weekday mornings ...



dancing and



practicing yoga on Sunday afternoons ...



hiking in Foothills Nature Preserve on a clear and sunny Thanksgiving Day, and ...



enjoying the last sunset of 2021 on San Gregorio State Beach. (Hily's social distancing after travel.)

Residential Service Learning

Adventuring Together

Regular immersion in nature was a tonic for sanity. We were COVID-safe with each other ...



bicycling along the beach in Santa Barbara ...



snorkeling off the Channel Islands...



hiking Sunol Wilderness ...



soaking in hot springs and cold plunging in the Kern River ...



camping in Death Valley ...



exploring Pilot Rock ...



hiking in SoCal ...



and in Mammoth.

Residential Service Learning

Growing, Preparing, and Sharing Food

We tended our more than 30 fruit trees; grew herbs and vegetables; raised tilapia and prawns; foraged, cloned, and cultivated mushrooms; made cheese; and baked and broke bread together.



Marieke harvested citrus.



Ali grew mushrooms ...



... and made cheese.



We cooked and ate together nightly, celebrated twenty birthdays (one every 2-3 weeks), and hosted thirty friends for Thanksgiving dinner with live music (just before the arrival of Omicron).

Habitat Stewardship

We danced the COVID dance, working from January through June without volunteers from outside Magic and from July into December with 150+ volunteers diverse in age and background who gave 1,000+ hours. We partnered with the Haas Center for Public Service, the Stanford Biology Department, the Stanford Conservation Program, Phoenix Garden, and the California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center.

Planting for the Second Hundred Years

We grew 400+ native oaks in Magic's nursery, gave ~200 of these to be planted by other public service organizations, transplanted 20 ourselves into nearby open space used by 600,000 visitors annually, and irrigated 400 and maintained 2,000 oaks previously planted on Stanford land.



Magic-grown oaks make their way to CalAg Sierra Research Station (left) and Phoenix Garden (right).

Jen and David plant a sapling Coast Live Oak from Magic's nursery into nearby open space.



Harper builds a durable water-retaining berm around planting site.



A volunteer waters a young oak.

Habitat Stewardship

Sticky Monkeyflower Nectar Microbiome Research

We germinated thousands of native sticky monkeyflower seeds, transplanted and cared for 900+ seedlings at Magic, and transplanted 512 (32 to each of 16 sites) near the Dish to support Professor Tadashi "Tad" Fukami's nectar microbiome research.



Tad does a field check.



Hil and David sprout seed.



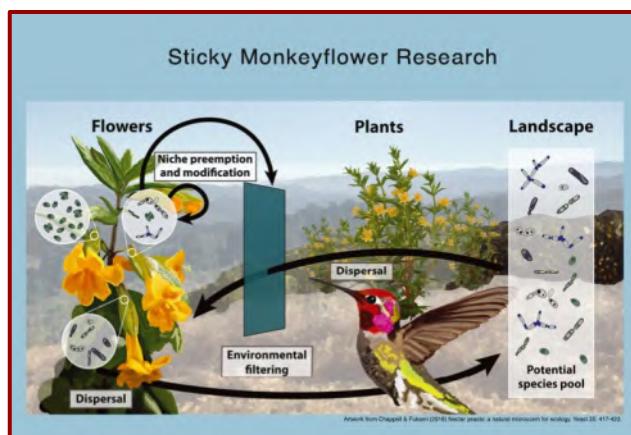
Hil tends her "babies" in Magic's nursery.



Hil trains Magic residents and friends to lead other volunteers on six subsequent planting days.



Volunteers celebrate a completed planting.



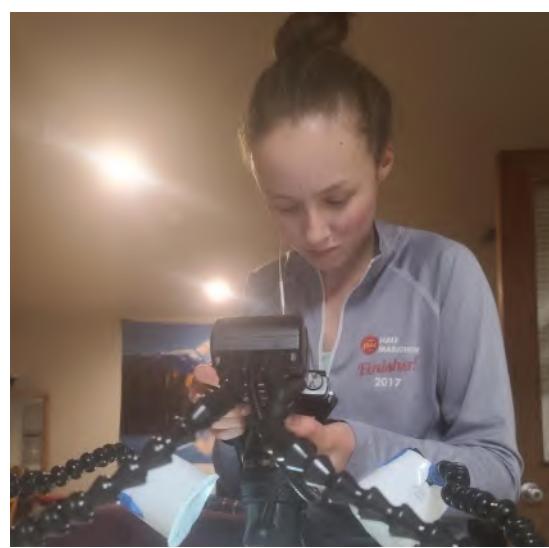
With signage at sites, we explained project goals.

Silicon Valley Barcode of Life

We became one of ~150 scientific partners in the Global Malaise Program and collected ~20,000 specimens from traps we deployed at Hidden Villa Wilderness Center, Foothills Park, Stanford, and Mono Lake. We also collected ~200 specimens by hand, macro photographed them, and sent them and Malaise trap catch for sequencing by the Canadian Center for DNA Barcoding.



Jen published an account of her Eastern Sierra SVBOL work in the Mono Lake Committee blog.



Jen deploys a Malaise trap; Hil makes a weekly trap capture bottle exchange; Hil bikes specimens for DNA barcoding to FedEx.

Jen takes insect macro photos like the two on this page to document SVBOL specimens submitted for DNA barcoding.

Reduce Waste. Feed People.

During 2021 we collected 25 tons of surplus from 24 California Avenue Farmers' Market vendors and from Country Sun Natural Foods. We processed it and delivered acceptable items to Community Services Agency and 1,000 Grains for distribution to hundreds of hungry fellow humans.



Farmers contribute wholesome fresh produce.



Other sellers donate prepared foods.



**REDUCE WASTE.
FEED PEOPLE.**

Who are we?
We're Magic, an all-volunteer public service organization demonstrating how each of us can practice valuescience—scientific methods and principles applied to questions of value—to discern and to further common good.

What are we doing here today?
We're collecting and processing surplus food. In a typical year, vendors donate more than twenty tons of nutritious produce and prepared foods that we and our service agency partners make available to hundreds of deserving people.

Want to contribute?
If you're a vendor who's yet to give, please begin. If you want to address personal, social, and environmental ills at their roots, learn and serve through Magic. Contact us at magic@ecomagic.org or (650) 323-7333.



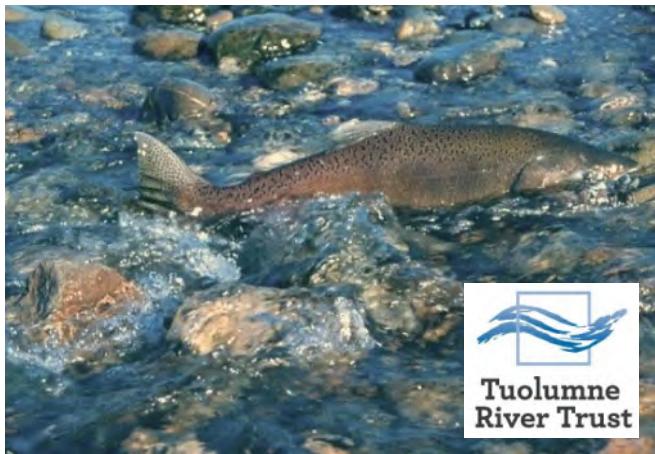
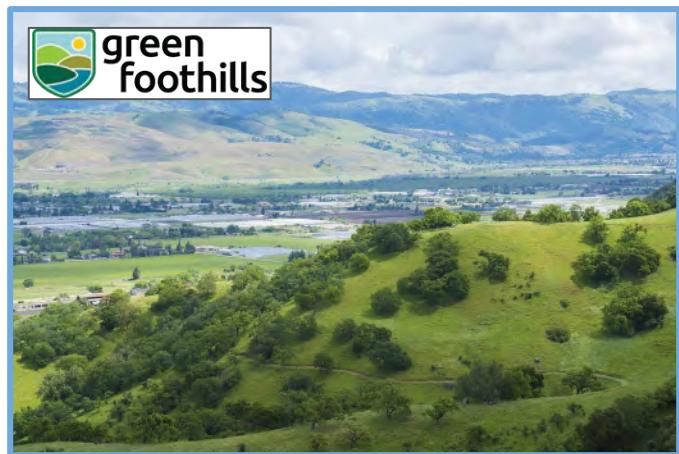
With new sandwich board we inform passers-by.



People eat more healthfully!

Liveable City

We submitted written comments, testified publicly, lobbied neighbors, friends, and government officials, and advocated in diverse settings for ecologically-based population, land use, and transportation policy, natural resource conservation, pollution prevention and clean-up, wealth and income disparity reduction, and transition to a steady-state society in Palo Alto, the mid-Peninsula, and beyond.



Clockwise from upper left: Robin, David, and Jeff offer comments at one of many online public meetings. We supported causes that included neighbors' rejection of added office space and calls for below market rate housing in the North Ventura neighborhood, Committee for Green Foothills' advocacy for protecting Coyote Valley from sprawl, California residents' demands for debris blower bans, Tuolumne River Trust's actions to restore river flows essential to wildlife, and American Bird Conservancy's proposals for wind turbine and building design and lighting regulation nationwide to reduce hazards to birds.

Liveable City

Evergreen Park Neighborhood Association

We organized publicity, live music, set-up, and clean-up for a summer block party attended by 100 and autumn picnic attended by 50, and launched a process to draft a new association charter.



We flyeried every home.

Magicians Andrew and Jeff and friends made music.



Robin welcomed attendees.



Everyone enjoyed food and conversation.



Ko set up for block party.



David led steering committee charter revision meetings.

Land and Building Improvements

We strung supporting wires, built and installed trellises, and planted to shade and visually soften the 373 building and fences. We refinished 391 siding, 381 exterior trim, and 373 cedar sills and railings. We installed solar screens on 391, 381, and 373 glazing to reduce summer heat gain and sun glare.



Jeff strings wires for vines.



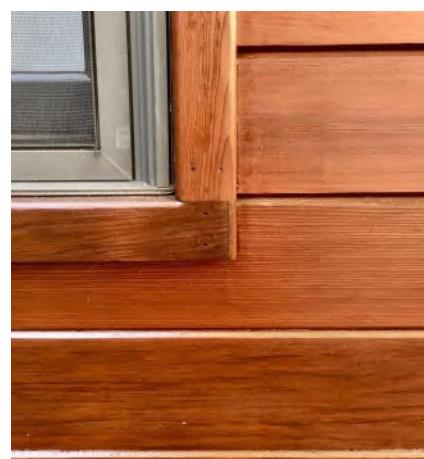
Vines soften and shade 373.



Jasmine screens 373 porch.



Climbing fig softens 373 fence.



391 redwood siding glows.



373 railing glistens.



Rosemary softens lightwell.



Solar screens shade windows ...



... and skylights (Robin).

Escondido Outings Club

Escondido Outings Club offers experiences in wild nature to youths and families. Magic serves without fee as fiscal fiduciary. Fifty-two people participated in a 13th annual backpacking trip to Shealor Lake and seven river rafting trips where they experienced 151 nights under the stars. Some individuals trained and were certified in first aid and CPR, as swimming lifeguards, and as junior rafting guides. Club leader Sven Thesen raised all funds required by the club.



The trail to Shealor Lake is almost two miles of granite, most of it gradual though much poorly marked.



The reward after a hot hike is a lake with jumping-off rocks and calm, deep, cool water.



Hungry campers cook dinner.



The day ends with marshmallows toasted over a campfire.



Fifty-two parents and kids made the trip.



Rafting is another story.