In Response

Kathleen Kinkade

Valerie Renwick
Twin Oaks Community

I am writing from my home at Twin Oaks Community to express thanks and appreciation for the memorial you published about our founder, Kathleen Kinkade. The article was a wonderful representation of Kat's long-term relationship with the ideas of Skinner, starting with her initial inspiration to found a behaviorist community, and continuing on through the changes that both she and the communities she helped to create experienced, as the decades passed.

I would like to make one clarification. The article states that "Twin Oaks does not mention its behaviorist past on its current Web site home page." This is true; however, we do include that information on the FAQ page of our site, in the history/founding section. We are aware that we owe our existence to Skinner's work. Although we no longer identify as a behaviorist community, we haven't forgotten where we came from, and it is important to us to acknowledge that. Each week when I give our Saturday tour, I make a point of telling the tourists that this was the actual sunken living room

(yes, it was the 1970s!) where Skinner was filmed for the TV show *Nova*, talking about Twin Oaks.

In 2009, Twin Oaks is continuing to thrive, as we enter our 43rd year of existence. We are at our highest population ever (94 adults and 10 children) and we currently have a waiting list for people who want to join the community when space becomes available. We have a diversified communal economy, although making hammocks and tofu continue to be our largest income areas. We produce approximately 75% of our own food. We continue to employ both the planner-manager self-government model and the labor-credit work system, both of which were taken directly from *Walden Two*. We welcome interested people to come for an afternoon tour, or one of our 3-week visitor programs. More information can be found on our Web page (www.twinoaks.org).

We are grateful for the legacies of both B. F. Skinner and Kat Kinkade. Once again, our thanks to Deborah Altus and *The Behavior Analyst* for the memorial.