

Social ecology pioneers



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CARA AND ROBB

The Love Bus

Inside the Love Bus just a month after the project was started to create a new home.

Marc Tonglen
Nederland

The Nederland area has always given the impression of being environmentally progressive with conservationist values. Recently, a family has moved back to town that is ready to push the edge of our comfort zone with regard to how we may best live in connection to ourselves, the earth, each other and the natural environment. Cara Judea Alhadeff, PhD and Rob Menagerie are a climate action duo, and along with their young son Zazu. They are focusing on living a life of social permaculture, focusing on the inherent connection that exists between people, economies and governing structures – and creating the conditions for humans to flourish on a societal level and to develop beneficial relationships with the ecosystems which sustain us. They have returned to the Nederland area so as to engage the community in how we can do the same.

Cara and Rob traveled back to the region on the home they built on wheels while living out in Appalachia. The Love Bus is a masterful piece of art thanks

to Rob's fine woodworking skills. As Cara explains, "How we build our home using only repurposed materials parallels how we build our sense of belonging. Our home demonstrates our deepest sense of self and our deepest sense of community." She continues, "This includes how we educate and raise Zazu through creative-waste living – everyday choices that echo our deepest ecological and social justice values. Our social permaculture-based homeschool program weaves together human rights and ecological resilience within a cross-cultural framework. Our home reflects all of this as a shared artistic practice."

The family trio is also focused on raising awareness around Petroleum Parenting. As Cara tells it, "We're always using our children as a rationale or excuse: 'The children are our future!' Yet we're not educating them in a way that reflects a deep change and a deep respect for the planet and one another, and that's heartbreaking to me. We have this infrastructure (Wild Bear for example) but where are all the families? Kids are

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