

January 9, 2018

Statement from Phaedra Bonewits and Deborah Lipp

We've read excerpts from Moira Greyland's book *The Last Closet: The Dark Side of Avalon*, including references to Isaac Bonewits, with a mix of heartache, sorrow, and a host of other emotions.

Our hearts truly break for Ms. Greyland's tragic experiences. We are having a hard time reconciling her descriptions of Isaac with anything we know.

Isaac first moved to Berkeley in 1967, when he was 17, and he became friends with Marion Zimmer Bradley, Walter Breen, and others in their circle.

The personal circumstances Isaac confided in us don't line up with Ms. Greyland's memories and timelines. Ms. Greyland gets a number of dates and facts wrong. This is understandable, as she's working from memories from when she was quite young. For example, she says Isaac lived in a commune sometime between 1972-1975, during most of which period he was living in Minneapolis. He did not live in a California commune until 1977. She says his wife "Celine" was transgender; Isaac's first spouse is transgender, but Selene, his second wife, is a different person altogether.

Given this, we think it's possible that Isaac's presence, in sexual situations, around people who *did* sexually assault Ms. Greyland, may have led to additionally distorted memories. We do not believe that Isaac said or did the abhorrent things stated and implied in Ms. Greyland's book, they are entirely inconsistent with the man we knew.

Isaac wasn't perfect, but we knew him as gentle, loving, good-hearted, a wonderful father, and a tender husband. We honor and cherish his memory. It is in the spirit of honoring this good man who is not here to defend himself, that we reluctantly break his confidentiality. Whether Ms. Greyland was hurt by Isaac himself, we have no direct knowledge, nor does she state so explicitly. But unquestionably, her life was one that no child should ever have endured, and we extend to her our deepest sympathies.