



FALL  
2008

Kimberton Hills News

## We are made for these times | Diedra Heitzman

Doing good activates confidence and counters worry, fear and isolation. Activities that make even the smallest difference have an effect that can dispel despair. While there is real reason to stay informed, the serious situations we face combined with news from the media can create an atmosphere of anxiety. Whatever seems overwhelming needs the counterbalance of positive inner and outer activity.

The writer Clarissa P. Estes writes, “We are made for these times.” That statement is deep. It affirms that we have capacities we can put at the service of humanity and the earth, even at times when there are so many challenges. We may rue the current economic crises and whatever wrongdoings preceded it, but we also can know better. We can choose to act on the “better.” Trust, gratitude, and love reawaken as we work to “do better.”

Kimberton Hills is, of course, strongly affected by the larger world around us. Often our internal struggles are to find the right ways to do things, the healthy ways to proceed, and to put and keep what is happening here “on the right track.”



*Our Kimberton Hills community*

While from outside

our lives may seem simpler, simplicity is not the overriding quality of our times—for you or for us. But as community, we find help in talking things through and responding to each other’s and the larger world’s needs. As a part of the larger community, we find our determination reawakened as others reach out to us.

In this issue of our newsletter, we celebrate some of the local friends who have “kept us going” through their goodness and generosity. In many ways, they encourage us to go forward, recognizing our common humanity and to have faith that we, all of us, are “made for these times.”

We believe their deeds are written on the history of our times as healing remedies, and hope that each of you feels warmed when you read what follows...

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*Camphill Village  
Kimberton Hills*

# Happenings

Thanks to the generosity of Betsy Church, Beth and Jeff Horstman, and Susan and Kim Montgomery, village residents have spent many evenings enjoying a beautiful new pool table.



*Betsy Church demonstrates her skills to Michael Babitch (center) and her son, Ross.*

With the refurbishment of the Café, the well-loved Helen's Bring and Buy had to close to make room for the new café seating space. For those who still like to browse for hidden treasures, Kimberton Hills tried out the idea of a yard sale or rummage sale in a tent on the green adjacent to the café. It was a true community effort; many friends responded to requests for donations of good quality items and natural fiber clothing, the village helped to set up, and lots of neighbors and friends came to browse and buy. Organized by Felicity Jeans, the event was a lot of fun and raised over \$1,000 for the village. There was also a jewelry sale held in the former café space, which also raised over \$1,200. The beautiful pieces of jewelry that were donated were cleaned and restrung as needed by Mimi Coleman. Because of the success of these two events, the village hopes to hold the Yard Sale twice a year in the spring and fall. Donations will be accepted for six weeks prior to the sale.



*Steven Aussenberg (left) and Ben Cownap work together on the building of White Pine.*

A new estate and maintenance shed was erected in the woodlot. Named "White Pine," the structure was built using an ancient, simple, but strong building method: mortise and tenon, which joins pieces of wood without nails. The structure was built by village residents with fallen timber from the land. White Pine replaced a 30-year-old shed and now houses maintenance tools and

estate equipment. The new space allows the estate crew to meet as a group and organize work plans. White Pine was funded by a grant from the Walter J. Miller Foundation.



*Eva Herz shares the spotlight with the Indian dancers.*

Eva Herz, a 30-year resident of Camphill Kimberton, took the trip of a lifetime in October. Eva, along with Service Volunteer Madeleine Banulski and some friends from Camphill Soltane, traveled to a sister community called Sadhana Village in Pune, India. To help raise funds for the trip, an Indian-inspired evening was held at

the Camphill Café. Guests enjoyed a three-course vegetarian Indian meal followed by a presentation of classical Indian dance and a performance by renowned Indian vocalist Sankumani Sarma. The next issue of the newsletter will include a recap of their trip.

Esther Martin has begun a new venture to create a Kimberton Hills songbook, filled with music and lyrics to be used in households and for festivals throughout the season. Suzy Newcomb is working with Esther to illustrate the book on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Esther hopes to expand the workshop to get more people involved and interested in this project. "It would be a very unifying thing to have everyone able to sing the same songs," says Esther. "Music holds this community together. Music allows everyone to participate ~ even as a listener, one can be involved in the celebration or ceremony." After completion of the book, Esther hopes to have it published and completed a grant application to help fund the project. She would like each household to have a copy and eventually share the books with other Camphill communities.



*Suzy Newcomb works two mornings a week on the songbook's illustrations.*

## VILLAGE NEEDS

The weavery is in need of denim jeans, in any condition, as long as they are clean. Fiber arts can also use donations of used golf balls. These items are recycled into denim rugs and felted juggling balls. Have you considered donating frequent flier miles? This donation would allow villagers to fly home to visit their families. If you can donate any of the above items, please contact Bernadette at 610-935-0300, ext. 12.

Kerria House is in need of a sleeper sofa or loveseat and would appreciate a donation of a laptop computer. If you can donate either of these items, please contact Don at 610-935-0301.

## Third Annual Camphill Classic



A pleasant, late summer day was the backdrop for The Third Annual Camphill Classic, held September 16. A new venue brought new friends to the event which was a success, thanks to our golfers and generous sponsors. At Bellewood Golf Club in Pottstown, the group gathered for a challenging day of golf, followed by cocktails, a silent auction, dinner and prizes. A putting contest, with the chance to win \$5,000, was an exciting addition to the event this year.

Thank you to our lead event sponsors: Phoenixville Federal Bank and Trust, Sovereign Bank, and A Friend of the Village.



*L to R: Camphill Classic Chair Rob McNeil, Putting Contest Runner-Up Ed Nangle, Village Resident and Board Member Charlene Roth, and Contest Sponsor Jim Kovaleski of OWM Law.*



*Bellewood Golf Professional Tony Perla donated dozens of used golf balls to the Kimberton Hills weavery for use in felting projects.*

## Commitment to Community

It truly takes a community effort to keep the Kimberton Hills mission alive, and we are grateful for contributions which help to make the village economically sound. In particular we'd like to recognize two special people from two extraordinary organizations who have chosen to financially support us each year, specifically through the title sponsorships of our Camphill Classic. Their confidence in Kimberton Hills reinforces our commitment to our vision and mission. We value their friendship and dedication.



*L to R: Gary Boyles, Jack Killen and Bob Smith attended the Camphill Classic.*

*John Killen, Sovereign Bank Foundation*

Jack Killen is the director of the Sovereign Bank Foundation, which provides funding support to non-profit organizations operating in Sovereign Bank's principal banking markets in Pennsylvania and surrounding states.

Jack first learned about Kimberton Hills nine years ago. He attended a dinner event in Philadelphia sponsored by the Pew Foundation and met Helen Zipperlen and members of the Kimberton Hills development staff. "After a visit to Camphill Village I appreciated and understood the needs of the community," says Jack. From that moment, he wanted to get involved.

Supporting people with disabilities is also a personal commitment for Jack. "Our family association with folks with special needs comes from my daughter who is a Special Educator," says Jack. He also chairs the Schools of Special Education Advisory Committee for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

*Richard A. Kunsch, Sr., Phoenixville Federal Bank and Trust*

As the CEO/President of Phoenixville Federal Bank and Trust, Dick Kunsch feels charitable giving is important. "As the institution is created for the benefit of the customers," says Dick, "Phoenixville Federal wants to tie its income back to organizations that help improve the quality of life for the community."



*L to R: Kurt Kunsch, Doug Darlington, Steen Woodland and Dave Evans represent Phoenixville Federal at the Camphill Classic.*

Dick became involved with Kimberton Hills almost 10 years ago when he was asked to serve on a Board of Directors subcommittee. After coming to meetings, he became aware of the mission, purpose and role of the village. He was impressed with what he saw and the idea of volunteering and giving one's life to Kimberton Hills. "To commit one's life to that purpose is extraordinary," says Dick. "We had to support it."

Today Dick is instrumental in introducing new friends to Camphill Kimberton. "It is so important to bring people there and let them see the work that is happening," he says. "Once you see, you can't help but want to get involved."

# Giving and Receiving

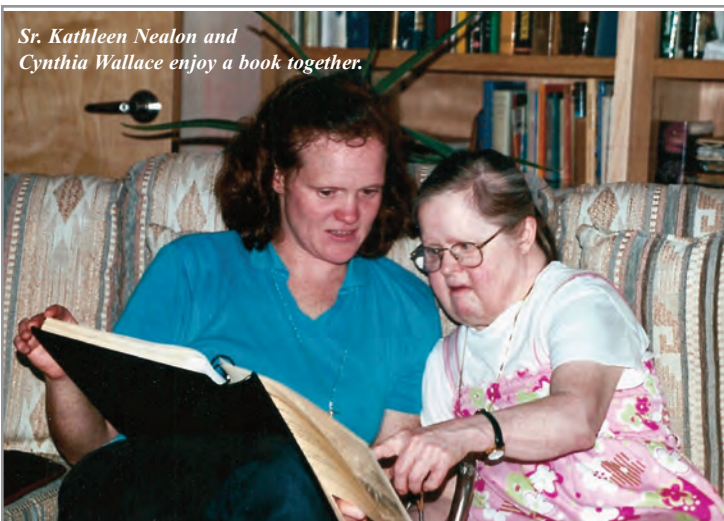
The word *volunteer* is heard often at Kimberton Hills. Short and long-term coworkers join this community for a year, or even a lifetime, and *volunteer* their lives to work, learn and grow in this very special setting. Friends and neighbors spend a few hours or a few days *volunteering* to work in the garden, or cook meals, or paint walls. “To perform or offer to perform a service of one’s own free will; to do charitable or helpful work without pay” are the usual definitions of volunteer, and what most think of in conjunction with Kimberton Hills.

If you look further into additional definitions of volunteer, you find a botanical reference: an adjective meaning, “growing from self-sown or accidentally dropped seed.” Perhaps this definition is one to focus on. In fact, one type of *volunteering* leads to another. The spontaneous joy or the unexpected friendships that blossom ~ those *volunteer* moments from giving of one’s self ~ are gifts to both parties. Many folks tell us that they gain as much as they give.

“It was such a privilege to meet the people who form the community at Camphill Kimberton,” says Sr. Kathleen Nealon, who spent time in Sankanac and Serena Houses in August. “I was very impressed by the spirit of the people, by the way that a diverse group of people and ideals were integrated into community. Although it has been a few months since my last visit, I frequently recall faces, smiles, and conversations for which I am grateful.”



*A group from the Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program gets ready to go to the dairy barn for a day of work.*



*Sr. Kathleen Nealon and Cynthia Wallace enjoy a book together.*

“It was an empowering experience that was very educational for all of us,” says Amanda George, who came to Kimberton Hills for the day with a group from the Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program. “We normally spend our workdays focused on the technicalities of giving and granting, so being personally involved in front-line charitable work is tremendously rewarding.”

Elaine Oleck visits with John Gardner once a month and says, “I love it! I feel so good when I am there and thank you for allowing me this opportunity. God works in mysterious ways and has brought me to a wonderful place.”

Would you like to experience the joy of volunteering? Groups or individuals who are interested in seeing our community in action or volunteering can contact Bernadette at 610-935-0300, ext. 12 to learn more.



Camphill Kimberton recently celebrated the grand opening of the renovated Camphill Café with a performance by Ensemble Casa de Venezuela in Rose Hall followed by a festive reception in the new café space. The event was an opportunity to thank the generous donors to the renovation project and to celebrate the efforts of all involved.



Another reason to celebrate was that Rose Hall was named the 2008 “Best Live Music Venue” in Chester County by the readers of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Be sure to join us for an upcoming event to see why. To be added to our event mailing list, e-mail [bernadette@camphillkimberton.org](mailto:bernadette@camphillkimberton.org).

# Friends and Family Day 2008

The annual Friends and Family Day celebration was a sunny afternoon in June where we welcomed old friends and first time visitors. We were entertained by the bell choir and the beautiful voice of Sarah Schneider. Everyone participated in a naming ceremony for the newly created Red Oak Terrace and then enjoyed a pot luck lunch on the Kepler green.

Clockwise from top,  
left to right:

Ben Simenhoff,  
Michael Mains and  
Lawrence Sherma  
enjoy the sunshine on  
the Red Oak Terrace.



Serena Volunteer Joan  
Palumbo and Eleanor  
Shartle watch the  
naming ceremony  
and eurhythmy  
performance.



Our newest villager,  
Jeffrey Mark and his  
mom, Elana, get  
ready for lunch.



Rita Sherma,  
Lawrence's mom,  
catches up with Joe  
and Mary Ann  
Wilson, Joe-Joe's  
parents.

Sarah Schneider sings  
as Johannah  
Newman, Nathaniel  
Hecht, Eva Herz  
and Lynn Schatzberg  
play the bells in Rose  
Hall.

Thank you to Suzanne  
Simenhoff for sharing  
her photos with us.

## Sharing the season

As the days get colder and the leaves disappear from the trees, you may be considering a charitable donation as a way to celebrate the giving spirit of the approaching holiday season. There are several ways you can make a gift to Kimberton Hills to benefit others as well as securing tax benefits for yourself. Consult with your tax advisor to learn more about the specific benefits, but here are some ideas to get you started:

- ♦ Contributions by cash or check are the most common type of charitable gifts. They are simple and go to work immediately.
- ♦ Planned gifts include contributions you can make through a will, trust, insurance policy, or retirement plan.
- ♦ Memorial gifts can be made in the name of a loved one who has passed on. Gifts may also be made in someone's honor, to celebrate an achievement or milestone.
- ♦ In-kind gifts are donated items like clothing, furniture, computer equipment or household goods.

For questions regarding charitable contributions, call the Development Office at 610-935-8660 or e-mail [development@camphillkimberton.org](mailto:development@camphillkimberton.org).

Thank you for considering Kimberton Hills in your philanthropic plans. Together we can increase potential and inspire souls in our village and beyond.

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## VILLAGE PROFILE:

### Ina Sawitz

When Ina Sawitz arrived at Camphill Village Kimberton Hills in 1977 there were five residents. Over 30 years later, she has seen many changes in the village; it has grown into a community of over 100 people with 17 households.



*Ina playing the lyre at Serena.*

Ina has lived in different houses throughout the Village, but really enjoyed Martin's House and where she lives now, Kerria. "Those are my best houses," she says.

Her favorite thing about the village is to "take a walk and go to work." But when she first arrived at Kimberton Hills, there were no workshops. Ina babysat for a young boy named Thomas. "I liked to babysit. I like children," she shares. Today Ina works in a few different workshops.



*With her friend, John, in the café*

In the wool workshop, Ina does a great job carding the wool, which means to prepare it for spinning by cleaning, separating and straightening the wool fibers. She enjoys working with her hands and in her free time likes to knit. Ina also works in the weavery and is currently working on a chair mat. "It is white and gold," she says. "I picked the colors."



*Ina in the wool workshop*

Ina's face lights up when she describes her Friday work schedule. At the end of the week, she puts down the yarn and wool and goes to Serena House to help with dinner preparation and to share a meal with the household, including her good friend, John Gardner. In the evening they enjoy watching movies together. *Harry Potter* was a recent film they watched; however, musicals are Ina's favorite. Some of the titles she likes best are *Mary Poppins*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and the *Sound of Music*. "Sometimes I sing while I'm working," says Ina.

For her 50th birthday, Ina received a lyre and has been taking lessons. She has been learning music from the *Sound of Music*, most recently, *Edelweiss*. "On Mondays I have the music workshop," says Ina, "and sometimes orchestra. I like to go to events to play for the guests and for people's birthdays." Ina is also a member of the bell choir.

Ina recently traveled to New York for her cousin's wedding. She loves spending time with her family, especially her nieces, Beth and Nicole, for special occasions and holidays.