



Summer
2010

Kimberthon Hills News

The Three Gifts | **Diedra Heitzman**

Somewhere, but not in our immediate universe, “crafts” are used as activities to fill time. Sometimes handiwork activity, referred to as crafts, such as sticking sequins on popsicle sticks or stickers on plastic flower pots (perhaps fun for four-year-olds) is deemed suitable for adults with so-called disabilities. They might be called “crafts.” Not here.



Gabrielle Beratan weaving chair mats

When we speak of, teach, or do craft work, we mean to engage with natural substances: wool, clay, cotton, wood, silk. These carry their particular qualities to the fingers that work with them, hardness, softness, malleability, strength, and so on. They ask of the crafters to engage with something “foreign” (yet natural) and work until it becomes familiar. This is not “virtual reality,” this is reality. These substances ask that we recognize them and relate appropriately. They give us their willingness to be changed by our hands.

Another gift true crafts give is to help us learn to focus, to concentrate, and in the process take time to see mistakes and learn how to correct them – to admit imperfections as a part of the process and to find ways to make an article beautiful. The processes involved in creating in turn shape us!

The third gift is that genuine crafts are useful. They can add beauty, of course, and should, but they are also made to be used by others. To be able to create something that is needed in the world is a strong benefit for any of us, and in our craft work, as in our gardens, bakery, and café, our work is useful. Our crafts, when well done, create useful, durable, earth-friendly items. That is gratifying!

What more needs to be said? Our crafts are sold, the money helps us exist, and we want you to enjoy and use our items. We want you to remember that we are putting our effort into each one and through the process are learning, producing, crafting.



Andrew Abramowitz, Johannah Newman and Lynn Schatzberg working with wool.

Of course, that is only part of what happens here in the summertime. The gardens are glorious, the cows are happy to be on the fields (why else would they dance when they are first given pastures to romp in after being in for the coldest of the winter months?), and the lawns are mowed (we are relying more and more on push mowers for some of our smaller lawns). Vacations dot the calendar, visitors abound, and soon most of this year’s crop of wonderful service volunteers will be leaving us—and some will stay another year. Their help has been especially fine this year and we wish them well as they go on to studies and other life experiences—including Trevor who will join a Camphill endeavor in India.

We hope you enjoy this bit of summer reading and the photos as well!

What’s Inside

Happenings	2
Taking our show on the road	3
Many threads: how the weavery was born.	4
Family and Friends Day	5
Village Profile: Bill Lewis	6

Camp Hill Village Kimberthon Hills

Happenings



Volunteers lend a helping hand in our garden.

When the weather turns nice, things really start happening around Kimberton Hills. We have welcomed many visitors lately. One class studying sustainable villages visited from Radnor Middle School.

Three groups of

Waldorf high school students came for a week of volunteering, their helping hands most welcome by our garden crew. Three groups of third graders from the Owen J. Roberts school district were here learning about plant life cycles and bees. And four pleased audiences saw performances of *Singing Crow* - a new musical by Veronika Roemer.

In June, Family and Friends Day brought us together again for our annual celebration. The Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Funders came for a tour and lunch. The annual Hootenanny brought old and new friends here for great local music and food.

Yes, we're busy! What else is new? That's why we are here: to work, play, share, teach and learn ~ together. We hope you'll come out and be part of the summer fun!



Thanks to you and your efforts, we are thrilled to announce that local Chef Stephanie Krzywanski has won the first round of the Sears Chef Challenge, a nationwide culinary competition.

The Sears Chef Challenge (SCC) aims to find the nation's next up and coming chef while raising money for food-related charities. Chef Steph selected Kimberton Hills as her partner charity organization. As a winner of the first level of the competition, we have won \$5,000 - and could win up to \$20,000 if she wins the whole thing!

A total of 24 chefs in four cities: New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C. compete by completing a variety of culinary challenges,



Chef Steph (right) meets Beth Bradley during a break from work in the garden.

culminating in the Championship Finals in Chicago. Each chef has chosen to be paired with a food bank or food related charity in their home cities and given the opportunity to raise money for their communities.

Chef Steph, who grew up in West Chester, Pa., and lives in Phoenixville, Pa., won the first round of the competition which was determined by online voting. Yes, your votes made all the difference in this very close race. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Now she moves on to the next round of competition. Stay tuned to hear the results. Chef Steph, good luck in Chicago and thank you for partnering with Camphill Kimberton!



**Join us for
the Camphill
Challenge:
October
17, 2010**

On Sunday, October 17 join us for the Camphill Challenge: a splendid bike ride during peak autumn foliage that supports the children, youth, and adults of the Camphill Communities in Pennsylvania. Proceeds benefit Camphill Village Kimberton Hills, Camphill Special School, and Camphill Soltane.

The event features a 50-mile route for avid cyclists, a moderately challenging 35-mile route suitable for most ability levels and a 10-mile family ride suitable for children and beginner riders. You will pedal through Camphill Special School's Children's Village at Beaver Run and Transition Program at Beaver Farm and Camphill Soltane; the ride begins and ends at Camphill Village Kimberton Hills.

Rider Amenities include: water stations stocked with beverages and snacks (restrooms available), T-shirt with paid registration, picnic lunch and musical entertainment.

Sponsorships are available and volunteers are needed.

For more information on sponsorships, riding or volunteering, please contact Bernadette Kovalski at 610-935-0300, ext. 12 or bernadette@camphillkimberton.org.

Taking our show on the road

by Jessica Sabo

Located in Kepler House, nestled snugly between the weavery and fiber arts workshops, the Kimberton Hills craft shop rests at the hub of Village artistry. It is an “Aladdin’s cave of glorious handcrafted items,” describes weavery workshop leader Felicity Jeans, “New things catch your eye every time you come in.”

But one does not have to “come in” to feast one’s eyes on the collection of handmade wares made in the weavery, fiber arts, pottery and wood workshops. Though many shoppers do travel off the beaten path to visit during the 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. craft shop business hours, a selection from the shop is packed up weekly and brought out to various farmers markets in the greater community. Felicity, accompanied by some of the weavers and knitters themselves, can be found at the Anselma Farmers and Artisans Market every other Wednesday, the Phoenixville Farmers Market every second Saturday, and the Bryn Mawr Farmers Market every third Saturday of each month.

Not only do the crowds get to touch, see, and purchase the array of handcrafted items, but they also have an opportunity to meet the artists themselves. Says fiber arts workshop leader Debbie Wright, “Going to the farmers market breaks down the barrier between those with abilities and those with so-called disabilities. Customers see products that they cannot make themselves. They can see that people with challenges are not necessarily disabled—they have many abilities.”

When they are not working the table or telling curious passersby about Kimberton Hills, the farmers market crewmembers practice their trades in view of the crowds. The skills involved in the production of the yarn and fabric may seem to many fantastical, or even obsolete. But the craftsmen and women at Kimberton Hills demonstrate that these skills are still very much alive, not only to be found in fairy tales.



Felicity Jeans and Michael Babitch share Camphill Kimberton's work in downtown Phoenixville.

Ina sits at her spinning wheel and transforms cloud-like mounds of carded wool into long strands of yarn as children and adults stand back in fascination. Lynn, one of the craft workshop’s accomplished knitters, brings her knitting needles and creates stuffed animals from cotton yarn and wool harvested from local sheep.



Ina at her spinning wheel.



Volunteers and villagers work in the crafts tent during the Hoedown.

“I talk to people and work on knitting animal toys,” Lynn says. “I love to go because I get to socialize and see all the people there.”

While at the farmers markets, people can also learn about opportunities to support and visit the village. Every Wednesday at 7 p.m., those interested in learning and practicing the art of spinning meet in the Kepler Fiber Arts workshop. Occasionally between the fall and spring seasons a class is offered, bringing in locals who would like to learn how to knit, spin, or make a felted scarf.

The 13 weavers and eight fiber arts craftspeople in the Kimberton Hills craft program take pride in the handcrafted nature of their wares. They believe there is a sense of warmth and love naturally imbued in their products that can’t be found in the same items made by machine. Every week they bring products with this warmth and love to the farmers markets and invite those present to take some of it home with them. We invite you to come to the markets or to Kimberton Hills and do the same!

Many threads: how the weavery was born by Kathryn Keegan

The weavery workshop began when Kimberton Hills was given a flock of sheep in the early 1980s. Donated looms and a vision to create real work for the villagers spirited this new venture. Ruth Liberatore started a spinning workshop to provide yarn for the looms and the knitters. Natural dyeing soon became part of the growing endeavor.

This fledgling weavery hobbled along until Carol French-Corbett arrived in 1992 and saw the opportunity to produce raw fleece rugs with the amassing bags of fleece. Preparing fleece, washing, fluffing and carding as well as the actual weaving were perfect jobs for villagers. Donated jeans were also abundant and ideal for Carol's specialty, denim rag rugs. The weavers and wool workers were soon producing well-crafted rugs and knitted items in a congenial space where an MC Richard's painting, "Catching the Light," hung over the fireplace.

A few years later, Carol's successor, Eleanor Adams, revitalized the spinning and natural dyeing workshops and brought her professional skills and design ideas to the textile workshop. She developed new products consistent with each villager's strength. Eleanor stressed quality of work and a serious workplace ethos.

In 2008, Felicity Jeans walked into a well-equipped textile workshop and met people who were thoroughly trained in wool processing, knitting, felting and weaving. She succeeded a line of weavers who gradually over the years built a thriving workshop at Camphill Village Kimberton Hills. Each weaver has a personal loom. The emphasis is to develop each weaver's ability and stretch their potential in a way that is manageable and to help them produce work that enlivens their interest.

Today, Felicity regards herself as a workshop facilitator involved with the beginnings and ending of the work. "The cloth tells the weaver what is needed," she says. "I'm just here to translate that. The less I do, the more people do for themselves. I'm here to guide their course."



Eleanor Shartle enjoys work twice a week in the weavery.



Camphill Benefit Concert Supporters

Thank you to the following donors who contributed to the Camphill Benefit Concert, held in October 2009. Some names were missing from our 2009 Annual Report. Our sincere apologies for this oversight and continued gratitude for your support.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Herbert and Gloria Abramowitz | Robert Mark |
| Hilary J. Abramowitz | Murray and Bee Miller |
| Harold and Gayl Beretan | Elizabeth Moran |
| Robert J. Chalfin | Kristen Reifsnyder |
| Joan Charlip | Peter F. Roth |
| Betsy Church | Beth Sabo |
| Howard Coonley | Elihu and Shirley Sachs |
| Lenore Davis | Sarah Schneider |
| Jean Flood and Paul Nemeth | Jerry Schwartz |
| Arthur and Hildegard Herz | Steven Smolinsky |
| Joanne E. McCready Irrevocable Trust | Edith Strauss-Goldsmith |
| Christopher and Leslie Jones | Sylvia Trotiner |
| Eli Kallet and Rose Clair Newman | Joseph and Jane Vasile |
| The Kornblau Family Foundation | Andrew and Jody Weisman |
| Marilyn Kurtz | Edith Wertheimer |
| Seymour Lieberman | The Family of KateWright |

With your contributions, the concert raised more than \$13,000 for Kimberton Hills. Thank you for your support!

Friends and Family Day 2010

Thank you to all who visited Kimberton Hills for our annual Family and Friends Day in June! It was a beautiful afternoon filled with presentations and updates on our workshops, informative seminars, and a potluck lunch under the tent.



From top, clockwise:

Eva Herz's family checks in while Sam Bicking greets old friends.

Michael Weinstock and friend enjoy a laugh in the shade.

Lynn Shatzberg and her brother, Steve, had a chance to catch up.



Posie Huston and her family greet each other as they arrive for Family and Friends Day.

David Crow and his son, Thomas, share a meal on the green.



The tent provided welcome shade and a place for all to gather to enjoy the delicious potluck lunch.

Planning for the future

These are challenging times for any non-profit. While our environment in Kimberton Hills is beautiful, and we don't seem poor, we are functioning on low levels of income. We are continuing to be as consequent and frugal as possible. We simply need financial help, as funds we have counted on previously have diminished while costs for necessities rise. We are looking everywhere to see how to insure the present and future of this precious village.

You can help. In the near future, families and friends will receive a call from us and a request for a visit with a representative from the community. When you hear from us, take us seriously and see what help and ideas you can share. Please also consider recommending Kimberton Hills to friends and family as a worthy organization to support. We are always available to welcome new friends to the village for a visit and to answer any questions. Please contact our Development Office at 610-935-0300, ext. 12 or development@camphillkimberton.org.

We are counting on you as we plan for the future of Kimberton Hills. Thank you!

NON-PROFIT ORG.
BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
POTTSTOWN, PA
PERMIT NO. 67
ZIP 19442

address service requested

Camphill Village Kimberton Hills
PO Box 1045
Kimberton, PA 19442

Phone: 610-935-0300
Fax: 610-935-8896
www.camphillkimberton.org

Edited by Bernadette Kovalski and
Jessica Sabo



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

CRAFT SHOP
Open
Monday-Friday,
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

CAMPBILL CAFÉ
Open
Wednesday-
Saturday,
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

VILLAGE PROFILE:

Bill Lewis by Freya Semes

Bill Lewis arrived at Camphill Village Kimberton Hills in July of 1976. Unsure whether or not this really was the place he could reside and call home, he remembers an amusing occasion during his trial period here at Kimberton Hills. He laughs as he recalls being discovered by his then housemother, walking toward Pughtown Road equipped with a packed suitcase in hand, having decided he was ready to return home! Despite that very early incident Bill tells me now, thirty-four years later, with an air of certainty in his voice that “Yes, it is home.”

In his time at Camphill, with his skills being nurtured and developed by co-workers and villagers, Bill has established himself as a talented weaver. Predominantly producing blue jean rugs, he has also tried his hand at making placemats, however, he receives more enjoyment from creating the rugs, as he feels that’s where his strength lies.

Bill undertakes the whole process of weaving himself. The preparation includes cutting up lengths of suitable denim material



Bill Lewis at his loom.

to be woven into the loom. This is then fed through the warp while maintaining the specific rhythm of the foot pedals in order to create his classic jean rug appearance. Bill also intermittently incorporates an assortment of colors within his pieces, to make each one stand apart from the others.

Working in the Weavery myself, I have experienced first hand his skill, enthusiasm and speed, all of which are ingredients that he pours into creating a unique masterpiece. There is one element in particular that he experiences during this creative process. “It calms me down,” says Bill. It is, I discovered, an opportunity for him to use his loom as a channel to release any frustrations that he may have within, as his big loom requires vigorous physical movement.

All the villagers who contribute to the craft workshops have spent many years continually learning and finely tuning their skills to produce the beautiful knitted and woven items which are sold. These are distributed both within the village and at Farmers Markets and Craft Fairs in and around the local area.

Bill explains that he has attended the Farmers Markets previously, which he enjoyed thoroughly. “I would show people and tell them about my rugs,” he says. “I would try and get them to buy my rugs too!” From his account and my own awareness, his quest has certainly been a fruitful one.

Felicity Jeans, workshop leader in the Weavery, says of Bill, “It is a wonderful and absolute pleasure to have Bill in the Weavery. He is independent and he does excellent work. There are only a few of his rugs left to sell in the shop!”

Those who attended Family Day here in Camphill would have seen Bill and a number of our other villagers exhibit what they lovingly make, while learning a little more about what goes on in the Weavery and Fiber Arts workshops from Felicity.

Having had the good fortune of both living and working with Bill for the last 10 months, I have found him to be a gentleman who is a true artist in his vocation as a weaver. He infects those around him with the joy he emits through his humor, laughter and wonderfully kind and playful nature. Bill is truly a blessing to Camphill Kimberton.