



Summer
2011

Kimberton Hills News

The gift of friendship | **Diedra Heitzman**

Friendships are a gift. They can be established in a single meeting—or many—and can develop over a long time. It may seem mysterious when we feel a profound connection to certain people — Rudolf Steiner suggests in such cases we may have met in a previous lifetime — but there it is: we find sustenance in our friendships. When a friendship is changed by the death of a friend, we grieve and simultaneously feel our hearts full with a mixture of gratitude, longing, and profound presence.

On the road to Dorset, Vermont recently, to honor our friendship of Wendell Holland, long time Kimberton Hills resident, and his mother Mary, who had recently passed away at age 98, the skies were tumultuous and the vistas were beyond impressive. The spring greens of the hills and then mountains were stunningly contrasted with dark blue-grey clouds and sudden views of enormous white cumulous puffery amid bright blue skies. Bach cantatas were filling the interior car space, and spring effusion was all around. In Dorset, Mary, an extraordinary friend to many, was honored. Many details of a remarkable life were shared as friends and relatives reminisced about this petite woman who defied convention by piloting airplanes when they had open cockpits, and, even when it was remarkable to do so, freely and proudly shared about her young son Wendell’s challenges, giving him dignity and a solid place in the family and world. Mary was not only a staunch supporter of Kimberton Hills’ life, but she knew how to be a friend, to make people immediately comfortable with her, and to offer camaraderie and help to anyone in need.



There was another insertion into this trip. Elisabeth Zimmerman James, a longtime personal friend of mine, and another nonagenarian, passed away just as I began my trip, though I only heard about it the next day after stopping overnight in Camphill Copake. Suddenly the impressions of the joyful vistas of skies over New York and Vermont flooded over me. I passed her alma mater, Bennington on my journey, newly aware of her journey across the threshold. Elisabeth had taught me many things: how to manage the early years of motherhood, how to rejoice in children, in their literature and music, how to appreciate “what others are up against” without judgment. Our priceless friendship survived moves, distances, and time. It will continue to do so.

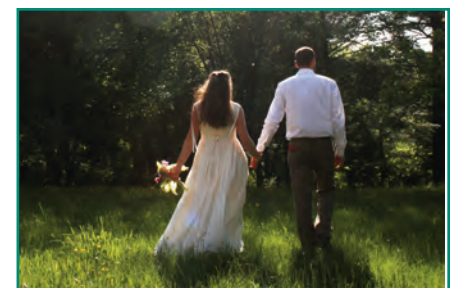


At the same time, Mary Wildfeuer was marrying Todd Newlin in Kimberton Hills, with around 250 friends and family members attending. Their partnership enriches us, and we hope their marriage and friendships with each other and Kimberton Hills grow joyfully. Mary and Todd are in Hyacinth House and are managing our Sankanac CSA, among many other village tasks.

We celebrate our friends, are moved by the glory of even one good friendship, and hope to continue to make new friends as we “keep” the old. There are more examples of friendship in this issue of our newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading about them.

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Happenings

The Prince and The Pauper appeared on the Rose Hall stage in February, under the direction of Veronika Roemer. *The Prince and the Pauper* is based on the story by Mark Twain. Prince



Edward, son of King Henry XIII, and a poor boy of the slums of London have a chance encounter. They discover that they look very much alike and decide to change clothes "for an hour or two." The exchange lasts much longer and both boys, as well as everyone around them, discover many new things about life and about each other. This was the sixth show produced by Roemer, who lives and works in Camphill Kimberthon.



Householder and art therapist Mimi Coleman and nurse Karen Alderfer established the "Helping Hands" Program for all Villagers in order to help them have a stronger understanding, through a visually tangible experience, that they are cared for and supported every day. They traced their own hands where each finger represented different individuals in the village they would like to turn to if needed. (The names of the people they identified are kept confidential, and they can change the names if they desire). On a second day, in a celebration of their friends, they

painted their hands in glorious colors. These paintings were hung on the wall in the CHC to welcome and provide villagers with a regular visual reminder of friendship and community.



Thanks to the efforts of Alice Dworkin, estate manager, Gov. Tom Corbett issued an official proclamation naming June 20-26, 2011 "Pollinator Week" in Pennsylvania. In celebration of this week, the Camphill Café offered patrons a special menu featuring pollinated foods and a tour was given to interested members of the public. Visitors learned that pollinators are vital to our ecosystem and discovered ways in which Kimberthon Hills helps to ensure the safety of bees, birds and butterflies.



A letter to a friend

Dear Mike Silvert,

Sometimes the deepest part of a friendship is what happens when we are apart; that is because it takes place in the silent moments in our heart. I want to convey a moment that has affected me, but happened to you twelve years ago before I had ever met you. It was a moment that defines our friendship to this day and that will go on defining it into the future. Though it was a moment in time particular to this friendship, it stands, in my life, as an emblem of what can happen in all friendships. You and I have lived and worked and played together during only some of these years. Most of the time, however, we have just been friends without those daily or weekly connections.

I have never shared this story with you, Mike, and I am proud to do so, now, so that you can hear how deeply I care about you. Maybe you already know how I feel, but I just want to be sure! Here is what I wrote about that moment:

Someone said people like you were not much more than animals.

I knew it could not be!

I made it my mission then to find out who you really were, where was the light in your eyes, the humor in your heart. I took it upon myself to see what more you could be, to meet the person inside, to see the jewel in your soul.

I was not surprised to see it; it was easy!

I soon got to know you and now you are dear to me.

Though your actions are misunderstood, your motives are always pure.

Each time you greet me I get it- the warmth of your smile, the touch of your hand, the funny way you say my name.



Mike and Mimi collaborate on the Helping Hands project.

Thank you for being who you are, for your presence in my life. I know I have uncovered a treasure, and my life will never be the same.

Thank you for being my friend.

Yours truly,

Mimi Coleman

A tribute and a challenge



J. Clifford Todd

Betsy Church and her late husband, John, formed a friendship with Clifford Todd almost 60 years ago. Cliff was with them in the hospital the day their son, Ross, a villager at Camphill Kimberton, was named. “It was an immediate bond,” says Cliff.

As time passes contacts often fade, and Betsy and John lost touch with Cliff for more than 40 years. Betsy’s daughter recently found Cliff via the internet and reconnected the long-lost friends, now in their 80s.

It is a remarkable story of the strength of friendship. However,

Cliff’s qualities of loyalty and connection were fostered long before he met the Church family.

Cliff is a twin. He and his sister, Catherine, were born at home. Catherine arrived first and the complications of her delivery left her with a traumatic brain injury leading to developmental disabilities. Cliff was born “normal.”

“We were a poor family with seven children,” says Cliff. As she grew up, Catherine had a number of health issues, including ear problems, but medical attention was not always available or affordable. “When I got my first job, at age 16, I bought her a hearing aid,” he recalls.

This bond of brother and sister surpassed any limitations of disability. “Most people couldn’t understand her, but I could,” says Cliff. “We had our own language.”

Catherine lived her final years in a nursing home and would draw back if anyone touched her. “I could touch her,” recalls Cliff. “I could put my hands on her shoulders and she would know it was me.”

After a recent trip to the village to visit Ross, Cliff mentioned that he wished a place like Camphill Kimberton had been available for his twin sister. He told Executive Director Diedra Heitzman that he wanted to leave a legacy gift to the village – a truly remarkable gesture.

Months later, Diedra received another call from Cliff. This time the impact of his generosity would be felt immediately.

Cliff posed a challenge to Diedra: could we raise \$50,000 in operating funds? If we are able to raise the first \$50,000, he will match it by donating another \$50,000.

We will only receive his donation if we can raise \$50,000 on our own.

“He really thinks Camphill is a wonderful place,” says his friend, Betsy Church. “It was his wish that he could have had a place like Camphill for

his sister.”

Our charge now is to make it happen. “I always wanted to do something in her name,” says Cliff.

Inspired by this wish and fueled with the generosity of our friends and supporters, Camphill Kimberton will be able to provide a beautiful home ~ for others like Catherine Marie Todd, and in remembrance of her.

To make your contribution to the Catherine Marie Todd Fund and ensure that we will receive the additional \$50,000 matching gift, please contact Bernadette Kovaleski at 610-935-8660 or bernadette@camphillkimberton.org, or return the enclosed envelope with your donation in any amount.

Thank you!



Betsy and Ross Church

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

We’re off to a great start! At the time of printing, we have raised \$19,700 of the \$50,000 requirement.

Thank you to Betsy Church, who made our very first donation. Thank you also to an anonymous donor who gave a leadership gift of \$10,000. Gloria and Herbert Abramowitz, Joe and Mary Beth Bright, K.C. Layfield, and other family members of villagers have also given significant donations.

Now it is your turn. This challenge gives you a wonderful opportunity to effectively double the size of your gift, maximizing its impact. This is also a great way involve your family and friends in helping you support Camphill Kimberton. We can customize a personal fundraising plan to help you reach out to your contacts.

Gifts in any amount are welcomed and will help us reach our goal. Consider it this way: \$25 will become \$50; \$250 will become \$500. And working together, \$50,000 will become \$100,000!

Thank you for your continued support!

Reflections on friendship

I first met Michael when he came in 1982, he was just new in Kimberton Hills. I was taking a walk and he said, "I'm lost." I said, "I can help you, I came here in 1977." I knew the place well. Since then, Michael and me were friends for a long time.

Me and Susan Weicheld went to school together when we were two years old! And now we are both here and are still friends.

Coming here to Camphill Village, everyone is friends. You can't have just one buddy; you can have everybody, like Craig, or Lyla, or Bernadette or Diedra, too. Everybody out in the world should have friends, they shouldn't be in institutions, and they should be free and have other friends like in Camphill.

I like friends. They are special and nice. - *Charlene Roth*



Michael, Charlene and Sue



John and Marilyn

In my volunteer work to benefit Camphill Kimberton's beautiful songbirds, I have mainly worked alone. Recently, however, I needed help in placing several posts in the ground - as supports for new bluebird nesting boxes.

I was teamed up with John Tower for an afternoon of "bird work." This was a joyful and beneficial effort - combining different strengths of two individuals. I knew the preferences of Eastern Bluebirds (where they like their nesting boxes), and John knew exactly how to get the post holes in the ground at the right size and depth.

Putting the capabilities of two or more individuals together is uplifting and beneficial to everyone. Working toward a common goal gives a sense of knowing that - with cooperation all tasks are made lighter, more enjoyable, and beneficial to all concerned. To me, this is the meaning of "Friendship."

- *Marilyn Michalski*

The bonds of friendship have helped me celebrate the good, work through the difficult and enjoy all that life offers in between.

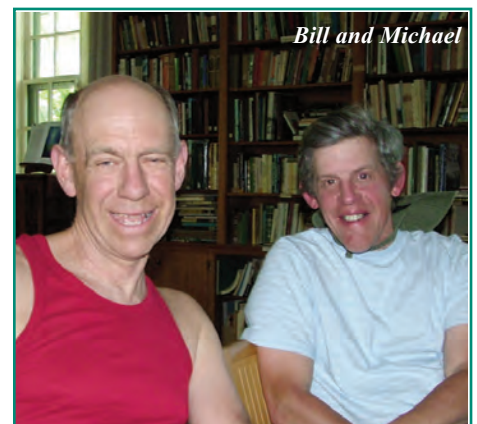
My friendship at Kimberton Hills started with my dear sister-in-law, Susan Weicheld. Her smiles and singing bring me joy.

Next, I have the good fortune to volunteer at Serena House. My visit begins with a warm hug from Karen Arthur. My dear friends Eleanor and Regina fill me in on all the many activities going on in Kimberton Hills and Serena House. Dear Herbert helps me catch up on world news and, of course, sports! From Debra I learned the powers of gentle nursing. Dear David gives me a big hug and tells me how he missed me. I have learned to be a better friend and person, because of the "random acts of kindness" I have witnessed from all the residents of Serena House.

-- *Sue Weicheld*



Herb, Regina, Sue and Eleanor



Bill and Michael

Bill is a nice guy. He's funny. We play baseball together. Sometimes he helps me down in my wood workshop.

- *Michael Weinstock*

Michael helps me out at bowling. He invites me over to his house to visit him.

- *Bill Lewis*

Friends and Family Day 2011

Saturday, June 4 was a beautiful day for our annual Family and Friends Day celebration. Visitors joined with us as we explored the theme of social responsibility within the context of life in Kimberton Hills. The day began with a Family Day Song performed by the CVKH Orchestra. The afternoon continued with presentations about our garden, forestry project and development work, followed by a delicious lunch on the green. After lunch, our visitors had a chance to participate in wool fleecing, playing along with the orchestra, walking the woodlands and more. Thanks to all who participated!



Family Day Song

lyrics by Jessica Sabo, set to the tune of "Battle Hymn of the Republic"

Mine ears have heard the rooster
as he crows o'er Pfeiffer Hill.
Calling time for work, to milk the cows,
to weave and mow and till.
Let us rise each day to greet the sun
and beauty of Camphill.
The Cows all say "Hello!"

Glory, glory, such a pleasure
Glory, glory, to see you here.
Glory, glory, try the cookies!
The Cows all say "Hello!"

We knit and weave with fibers sheared
and spun all naturally
Cooking lunch with vegetables that
grow biodynamically
Let us thank the cows for milk that makes
our yogurt and our cheese.
The Cows all say "Hello!"

Glory, glory, such a pleasure
Glory, glory, to see you here.
Glory, glory, Thanks for singing!
We all say "Hello!"



From top, clockwise: 1) Eva Herz and her family talks with Thea and Thomas Crow. 2) Claudia Swenk says hello to one of her nieces and her sister, Jena 3) Suzie Newcomb tells a joke to Michael Babitch and Robert and Joan Stern. 4) Ina Sawitz and her brother, Eric, share a quiet moment together on the swings. 5) Michele Acquaviva and her aunt, Shirley, have a chance to catch up.



On Sunday, October 16 join us for the Fifth Annual 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 50, 25 and 10-mile routes and a short family fun 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, Camphill Soltane and Camphill Kimberton; the ride begins and ends at Kimberton Waldorf School.

Rider Amenities include: water stations stocked with beverages and snacks (restrooms available), T-shirt with paid registration by September 30, picnic lunch and musical entertainment.

Sponsorships are available and volunteers are needed. For more information on sponsorships, riding or volunteering, please contact Bernadette Kovaleski at 610-935-8660, bernadette@camphillkimberton.org or visit www.camphillchallenge.org.

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VILLAGE PROFILE: Suzie Newcomb

by Mary Cauffman

Why is Camphill Kimberton so important to me? It's where I made a life-long friend in Suzie Newcomb.

I had reached a point in my life where I wanted to focus more of my time helping others in the community. So I contacted the folks at Camphill Kimberton. They were so open to my offer of time and friendship with one of the villagers.

Once they had an opportunity to get to know me for a little while, they suggested that I meet Suzie. They described her as someone very special. I have to say that they were so right! On our first visit to the Camphill Café (where they make the best oatmeal cookies), she was a little shy, but that didn't last long. Her sense of humor and playfulness came out immediately. To this day, she always makes me laugh.

The other members of my family, John (my partner) and Julie (my daughter), love spending time with Suzie, too. Whether we're having snacks at Kimberton Whole Foods, going out to lunch or dinner, or relaxing at our house with our dog, Riley, we have so much fun together.

Suzie has an unbelievable memory, too. She likes to carry several duffel bags filled with her belongings, and she's always pulling out things we've given her over the years. It's the best because we never know what is coming out of that bag!

We've been friends with Suzie for over ten years and our relationship is one of mutual caring. At first, I thought that volunteering with Camphill Village Kimberton Hills would be a good way to give back to my local community. But, I admit with my whole heart that Suzie has given my family so much more in return. We love her and are so happy to have her in our lives.

I am honored to have a friend like Suzie Newcomb.

