

Campbell Village Kimberton Hills
news

Summer 2019



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Inclusion and Diversity

By Felicity Jeans, Executive Director

Camphill Village Kimberton Hills is a part of the International Intentional Communities network. This past July, the International Communal Studies Conference, which occurs every 3 years, met in the Hudson region Upstate New York, where there are several very distinct Camphill Communities. The theme for the conference was Inclusion and Diversity in Community. This was a perfect theme to be hosted by Camphill Communities that strive to support individuals to develop their unique qualities, and their place and contribution towards the world.

There were presentations, including from the House of Peace (begun by former Kimberton Hills Coworker Carrie Shuchard) that supports refugee families from war torn lands. There was also a presentation by L'arche communities, started by Jean Vanier, who passed away this year.

There were artistic, drama workshops and presentations, and varied presentations from communities worldwide, including a group hoping to begin a Camphill Community in Rwanda.

Looking at the historical elements of social life for those with varied abilities from Exclusion, Segregation, Integration to Inclusion and Belonging, it is wonderful to experience that society at large is becoming more accepting of unique qualities. Consciousness is needed for the creation of places in which each person is able to contribute from their perspective and where each one can experience a sense of belonging.

Those who come to our Kimberton Hills community are given the space to mutually develop and contribute their wonderful gifts. We find that the experience is a two way route of learning, growth and development. Although some may initially think they are were coming to help people with special needs, they are going on into the world having learned aspects of relationships and interdependence that can be a part of ongoing interactions wherever one is in the world. Although some may come feeling a burden of "special needs," that burden can be lifted in interdependent community life. And the friendships and abilities gained during time here may well be with one forever.



Supporting Kimberton Hills

You can direct your support of Camphill Kimberton in the following ways, or if you are interested in supporting another aspect of our work, please contact our Development Office at 610-935-8660.

Village Support Fund: *general operating costs*

Founders Fund: *Fund to offset fees for future low income applicants*

Morrie Huston Villager Activity Fund: *vacations, outings, and recreation for villagers*

Posie Huston Fund for Aging Villagers: *unexpected costs associated with aging*

To make a tax-deductible gift to any of these funds, please fill out the enclosed envelope and note the designation of your contribution. You may also make a contribution online at our secure site, www.camphillkimberton.org/ways-to-give. Thank you for your continued support!

Sankanac CSA Garden



There is always something bountiful in the garden to keep the Sankanac crew busy.



Amid the continual suburban development of Chester County's fertile land, a healthier trend continues to grow as well – Community Supported Agriculture. The "CSA" garden is a popular draw for families looking to eat healthier and support their local farmers.

Sankanac CSA Garden was one of the first CSA's in Chester County and continues to hold a strong focus on both organic and biodynamic farming elements on its 20 acres. Located in Kimberton on a larger 432 acre estate, Sankanac is part of Camphill Village Kimberton Hills, a nonprofit organization where more than 40 adults with developmental disabilities live and work as part of a life-sharing community.

The garden began in 1972, initially supplying produce for village residents. In the 1980s, it started sell beyond the village community to the public. By the late 1990s, it expanded to offer shares to the public. This season, the garden is offering 275 family shares. Shareholders pay a set amount for the entire 24 week season which begins in June, and stop by once a week to pick up a plethora of vegetables, fruits, herbs and flowers. Shareholders can often pick berries, peas and flowers themselves, a family-fun activity for all ages. One share provides enough fresh produce for a family of five per week.

The word "Sankanac" was the Native American name for the French Creek which flows alongside the farm on what was once Leni Lenape land. Garden managers Eliza Killo, Jasper Williams and Erin Throop initially began as apprentices and have seen the garden expand over the years to its current size.

"Community Supported Agriculture began with the impulse of trying to create a localized economic model that helps the farmer and the consumer. It brings them together, so there's a mutual understanding and everyone is a part of the farm together," Williams said.

"We set our budget then come up with the number of how many shares we need to meet that and be financially successful each season. The last two years were the two highest years ever at with 280 and 285 shares. This year we are shooting for 275," said Killo.

While they have room to expand their mid-sized CSA garden, the farmers are mindful of maintaining soil health. They focus on the quality of their crops, not the quantity of shares, which can lead to soil depletion. This concept ties in with the biodynamic element of their work model which aims to have a self-contained farm that can ultimately rely on its own resources.

(continued)

“Biodynamic means working with the Earth as a living organism, and treating the soil as a living soil that is interconnected to the plants. They’re all communicating. A lot of ‘wacky’ ideas that came from biodynamics have recently been concretely proven in natural science,” said Williams.

“In general, farmers take into account the sun rhythms and sometimes the moon rhythms for the obvious effect it has on water. You can see things grow differently around the full moon. Biodynamics uses all the other planetary rhythms and the subtle effects they have, and the optimal times to plant and harvest.”

“We try to crop half of our land at a time, so it isn’t over cropped. The idea is to take care of the soil,” Killo said.

“Sankanac offers more than seventy crops. Within that are multiple varieties of vegetables, like 12 different types of lettuce and tomatoes. While not a certified organic farm, Williams noted they often go beyond certification standards in their pest management practices, where they get their seeds and protecting pollinator habitats. They remain focused on growing in an environmentally responsible way.

“The importance of organic farming is huge. The task of organic farmers is to be going the extra mile, to be planting pollinator habitats within your farm and not leave bare soil exposed that will just evaporate and be washed away. Ultimately, it’s about caring for the Earth as a living thing and cultivating that living soil,” Williams said.

As farmers, there are hardships they face throughout the year. Climate destabilization is a big challenge as the weather remains in a near constant state of unpredictability. This makes it difficult for the farmers to plan their workdays, and can damage crops. Williams noted another challenge was finding the right scale of the CSA. As the size increases so does the work load, but the amount of people working stays the same. Environmental factors can also arise with scale changes.

“In farming, you are inevitably doing something different than what nature is doing. Whether that is having exposed soil or trying to have a controlled environment like a greenhouse. Balancing that out can be a challenge, but it can also be an inspiration to do better, and reassess your techniques. Is your land base a balance of what you are giving to nature and what you are taking away from it.”

Unique to Sankanac compared to other farms in Chester County is their use of Belgian draft horses to assist in the fields. The horses do diverse work and are easier on the soil. Killo noted a horse-pulled plow is less intense and doesn’t go as deeply into the soil as a tractor.

Incorporating adults with special needs is another unique aspect of Sankanac. They learn a multitude of farm tasks, from planting vegetables to washing the harvest.

“The garden is such an open space for folks to work. They are maintaining their skill sets and developing new ones. There is also the social dynamic of having friends and working together with people,” Killo said.

“There’s a real ownership for everyone’s work. It’s our task. I thrive on that and so does everyone else. Knowing your work means something,” Williams added.

- Virginia Lindak



Coming Soon

The Cliff and Catherine Todd Sankanac CSA Building. We are excited to let you know about our new project that is in the planning stages and anticipated to begin in the spring of 2020. Thanks to an extremely generous donation by Cliff Todd, we are able to begin our plan to build a modernized storage and processing space that will be in compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act of the FDA. The building will be able to host events and trainings for the community and CSA members. To support this project, please ask a gardener, visit our Facebook page for updates, or contact our Development Office at 610-935-0300 ext. 11 or 12.

SAVE THE DATE

What’s For Dinner?

Saturday, Sept. 21, 6:30pm
Camphill Cafe

Friends and Family Day

Saturday, Oct. 5, 11am - 3pm
Neighbors CSA Event at 3pm

Events to be held at:
Camphill Village Kimberton Hills
1601 Pughtown Rd.
Kimberton, PA 19442

Summer in Kimberton Hills





PO Box 1045, 1601 Pughtown Rd.
Kimberton, PA 19442

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

CRAFT SHOP
Monday-Friday, 9 am to 5 pm

CAMP HILL CAFE
Wednesday-Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm

SANKANAC CSA
Harvesting May-October



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The mission of Camphill Village Kimberton Hills is to create and maintain a land-based community together with adults with special needs. Inspired by Anthroposophy, members of the community support one another to contribute to the wider society through biodynamic agriculture, handcrafts and other ecological, social, cultural and educational endeavors.

VILLAGE SUPPORT FUND

The Village Support Fund is our annual operating fund, used to finance the day to day costs of running this community. Unrestricted gifts to this fund pay for basic needs in Kimberton Hills, including food and household budgets, workshop supplies, maintenance, and energy costs.

MORRIE HUSTON VILLAGER ACTIVITY FUND

Enriching the lives of his special friends, including his daughter, Posie, was the sole aim and purpose of Morrie Huston's devoted service to Kimberton Hills. Through the Morrie Huston Villager Activity Fund, established following his death in 2008, we are able to continue his legacy and offer enjoyable outings, experiences, vacations and cultural activities to our residents, many who have minimal or no family support.

POSIE HUSTON FUND FOR AGING VILLAGERS

Priscilla Huston, mother of Posie, established this Fund in 2013 in Posie's honor with the purpose of providing support to benefit aging villagers. This restricted fund will support emergency needs that arise specifically for aging villagers, which may include, but are not limited to, nursing care, therapy, mobility assistance and health and hygiene products.

To make a tax-deductible gift to any of these funds, please fill out the enclosed envelope and note the designation of your contribution. You may also make a contribution online at our secure site, www.camphillkimberton.org/ways-to-give. Thank you for your continued support!

