



Camp Hill Village Kimberlin Hills
news

Summer 2020

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Just as the past Spring newsletter was getting ready for the printers, we had the first early indications of Covid-19 reaching the USA. Little did we know of the immense changes to life this global pandemic would bring to all of us.

As word was reaching us that this flu-like illness was spreading, two of our young volunteers had been to Philadelphia over the weekend, and a few days later had slight fevers and flu-like symptoms, so the house that they lived in went into quarantine and tests were made. After almost 2 weeks the results came back clear: no Covid-19, and others remained healthy. But we had the experience of what it would be like to have houses isolate within Kimberton Hills.



Eleven international service volunteers consciously chose to stay in Kimberton Hills to fulfill their commitment for the year; two returned to their home countries at the call of their governments and families. We needed to look into ways for incoming volunteers to be able to have 2 weeks in quarantine before full immersion in community life in all its various modes including adapting to recommendations regarding Covid-19.

With much regret, we closed our Cafe to the wider local community i.e. the public. We are not hosting our annual Hootenanny- Local Music-Food & Fun on the Village Green, nor a number of cultural events hosted in Rose Hall in collaboration with the Kimberton Arts Alliance. Regretfully, we asked our Day Volunteers who have faithfully come over many years to support us not to come. We adapted our Craft Studios and have varied the Festivals we normally celebrate to have consecutive gatherings, allowing small groups to have a festive experience. We all miss the experience and warmth of having all our friends in the community gather together, but are aware of the need to develop the practice of safe, physical distancing for the well-being of all.

The CSA garden team is doing amazingly well, even with no visiting college groups or volunteer forces that we have become appreciative of over the years. There is now the extra step of preparing the members' harvest shares into pre-packaged boxes for ease of collection. So unfortunately the wonderful social element of the CSA vegetable pick up days is drastically reduced, but the vitality of fresh biodynamically grown vegetables is still being shared with those many friends who signed up as CSA members for the season.

We are looking at how to adapt our Friends and Family Day in order for families to make individual arrangements to connect with family members in Kimberton Hills, as we will not be able to have 250+ people come together in Rose Hall. Fortunately a new resident volunteer Kris has some film making skills. In the midst of all this a storm brought many trees down. One made a direct hit to Oberlin house! We appreciate immensely everyone who has been able to contribute to the insurance deductible to enable repairs to happen.

The world was stunned by images of the life of George Floyd being taken during 8 minutes 48 seconds. Our heartfelt sympathies to his family and all people in minority situations who do not feel safe. We in Kimberton Hills are in support of efforts to redress personal and societal issues that contribute to racism and its effects. We stand with all those working for equality and against systemic and individual racism, injustice and prejudice in all its forms.

Through all this, the natural world gave us a slow delightful spring with the most beautiful flowers and bird song that seemed to expand further as air traffic and commercial factories slowed the production of pollutants in the atmosphere. As many of you do, we so look forward to the time we will be able to visit with friends and welcome you here again.



Crafts During COVID-19



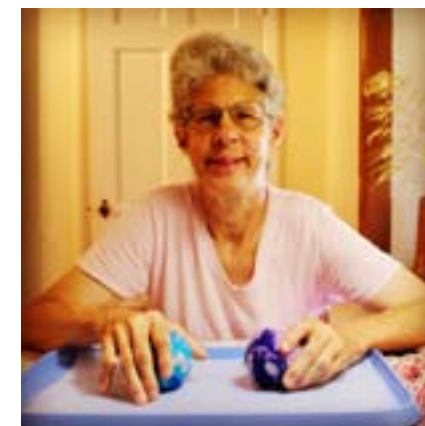
Joe Harris, former president of CANA, with his gift from our Mosaic Studio

Some examples of the crafts that have been taking place during COVID-19 include processing wool, dressing looms and making patterns for tunic dresses. Several have been working on looms and making place-mats. Both our Fiber Arts and Pottery Studios have been distributing materials so work can go on at home such as felting balls, and making clay bowls and figurines. Our Mosaic Studio has also been busy glazing hand-painted tiles that will be used in future mosaics. Our Woodshop has been making key holders, as well as frames for the Mosaic Studio.

With Kimberton Hills limiting outside visitors during COVID-19, the Applied Arts Association has been working on marketing crafts online. We are looking to platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and Etsy to help with this. These sites allow the craft studios to reach a wider audience and increase sales. The Applied Arts Association was pleased that the Camphill Association of North America (CANA) contacted the Mosaic Studio with the request to purchase a glass-on-glass mosaic. This mosaic was presented to Joe Harris to thank him for his three years of service as the President of CANA.



Bill working on pottery at home



Claudia creating felted balls at home

For the last 3½ months, Camphill Village Kimberton Hills has taken the necessary steps to implement the CDC's recommendations regarding COVID-19. In order to help slow the spread of the virus, our workshops have been limited to essential work which includes our house, land and bakery workshops. Our café has been closed and the craft studios have been primarily closed with limited participation taking place in our homes and in the Weaving Studio where social distancing can occur.

While the crafts are not considered "essential work" during this pandemic, they are very essential in upholding the ethos and culture of Camphill. The Applied Arts Association (the governing body of the craft workshops) has enjoyed keeping the crafts going, even though the studios are not operating at their normal capacity.

In our efforts to maintain the ethos of the crafts, the Applied Arts Association has been continuing to study during COVID-19. Workshop leaders have logged on to Zoom sessions to discuss the content of study called, "Craft in Camphill" which includes articles by a collection of authors who share their thoughts regarding Camphill Craft studios all over the world. It is the hope of the Applied Arts Association to host the Regional Craft Conference at Kimberton Hills in 2023, so this study is helping to prepare for this.

The study includes a lecture by Karl Konig that he gave at the 2nd Craft Conference at Camphill Newton Dee in 1966 where he describes the crafts using a German proverb: "Handwerk hat goldenen Boden." – ("Craft has a foundation of gold.") He explains that the initiates of this proverb meant, "Love, morality, is the foundation of craft." He shares a quote from an article he wrote entitled, "Arts and Crafts in Camphill Villages" which elaborates on this idea.

"It is not only astonishing, but often also deeply moving to experience the formative power of craftwork on morality. Will power transformed into beautiful shape, motor activity lifted up to skill - change an insignificant activity into a growing virtue. It does well to ask whether and to what extent the almost complete disappearance of handicraft is responsible for the decay of present day morality. From what I have experienced in our Villages over the last few years I know that moral substance has begun to become active again in them. This is not merely due to regular labor, but far more to the joy of creative work, the products of which are not only purposeful but beautiful and noble as well."

Overall, the crafts have remained alive and well in Camphill Village Kimberton Hills during COVID-19. The Applied Arts Association continues to remain strong in our mission to offer space and time for creative work where relationships can be nurtured, skills can be learned and where integrity can shine.

- Judith Hokky



Cindy in the Woodshop



Diana glazing tiles to be used in mosaics



We are on Etsy: [camphillkimberton](#)
Instagram: [camphillkimbertoncrafts](#)

Volunteering in the Village *By Sandy Bardsley*

What a haven CVKH is! My daughter and I have been privileged to spend a month or so here for each of the last five summers. This year the contrast with a COVID-ravaged, politically-fraught United States seems all the greater. It's not, of course, that CVKH is not affected by COVID or the political and social turmoil. Rather, these things are decentered, and the rhythms of healthy lives hold center stage.

As I am writing this, Cai, aged 14, and I are still in quarantine for another 9 days, but so far we've been able to help in the herb garden in physically-distanced ways and have enjoyed conversations with many old friends. Johnny has been by several times to tell us, from an appropriate distance, that we're still in stage yellow and check that we agree that "this virus isn't very nice." Working with herbs is new to us, so we are learning a great deal under Martha's tutelage. We've harvested lavender, mugwort, St. John's wort, elderflowers, chamomile flowers, and burdock roots. We've learned how to make tinctures and how to use the drying racks. After three months of urban lockdown, this expanse of lush greenery -- and this new learning -- is balm to the soul. As we work, we hear community life going on around us. Maria delivers packages on her trike. Andy hauls recycling. We've had to back off rapidly from a couple of well-intentioned hugs, but people are being very good about distancing. In the evenings, we've wandered down to the creek, exchanging conversation with Charlene and Mark outside Kerria. Community continues here in its own authentic way.

Much as we're enjoying this time, we're also looking forward to coming out of quarantine and being with our old friends at Sankanac. We'll get to experience Nancy's hugs. Cai and Beth will make jokes about pickles that no one else will understand. We'll talk with Esther about the Black Lives Matter movement, and how we can help. We'll sit with Mike on the picnic table and watch the CSA pickups and enjoy that sense of coming home. The world may be falling apart, but CVKH and its people are doing just fine.



Sandy with daughter, Cai



In response to COVID-19, the Sankanac CSA crew has made ongoing safety adjustments to the pick-up process for its regular season

Annual Report Correction:
Gifts from \$5,000 - \$9,999
Mark & Elizabeth Hansler



Congratulations to Eli Maltz and Kylie Gilliams of Kerria House who were married in June!



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CRAFT SHOP

By appointment, call ext. 16
Also check our Etsy page

CAMP HILL CAFE
Currently Closed

SANKANAC CSA
Harvesting May-October

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. Postage
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The mission of Camphill Village Kimberlon 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.

Updates and Projects

We have exciting news amidst all the ups and downs of the past months. Chester County Craftworks, (by the time you read this), in collaboration with Kimberlon Hills and Bob and Katherine Martin will have begun construction on a brand new three bedroom residence at the top of the Kerria Orchard, near Kerria and Kepler Houses. Similar to a cooperative gesture with Erica v. Asten many years ago, Kimberlon Hills and the Martin's have made an agreement to provide a new place for the couple to live for as long as they are able. They are very interested in our community and will bring many gifts. When it is no longer needed for them, Kimberlon Hills will have a beautiful three bedroom house in the top of the hill neighborhood! It will be similar to Sassafras with some updates and modifications to the design.



Oberlin House after a 70' tree fell through the roof

Our CSA gardeners have revised the plans for the new Clifford and Catherine Todd Garden Building, which has delayed beginning construction. When original estimates were rising substantially, and with input from our astute board, the decision was made to make a simpler, less expensive building that will meet the core needs for sanitation, hygiene, safety, and high quality storage and distribution. Thank you to all who have enthusiastically supported this effort for your patience and generosity. We want it to be the best it can be!

After the recent severe weather, we are working hard to restore Oberlin House. It sustained major damage to the third and second floors when a 70' tree that weighed approximately 20,000 lbs, fell into it during a "derecho" storm. The roof will be restored, one dormer and one bathroom need to be completely rebuilt. There will also be ceiling, wall, floor restorations due to water infiltration and broken pipes. Fortunately no one was injured and we are grateful that residents have been flexible and resilient as well in moving and adjusting to temporary accommodations within the village.

- Mark Ohi

Be sure to follow us on social media!

Facebook:

Camphill Village Kimberlon Hills

Instagram:

camphillkimberlon

Thank you for your continued support of our village! To make a tax-deductible gift, 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.camphillkimberlon.org/ways-to-give