



SUMMER
2009

Kimberton Hills News

Growth and Change | Diedra Heitzman

In this issue we celebrate many things that happen at Kimberton Hills, and especially turn to agriculture. In the late 1930s, Alaric and Mabel Pew Myrin purchased most of what is now Kimberton Hills, the Kimberton Waldorf School, Seven Stars Farm and the Kimberton CSA land to introduce Biodynamics to America. The work prospered and then the war, social difficulties, and illness took their toll. In 1972, Karin Myrin gave her grandparents' legacy of the land of Kimberton Hills to Camphill.

Camphill Village Kimberton Hills pioneers came and, with awesome dedication turned to biodynamic agriculture. Crews formed, study was undertaken, and the Land Group became an every Sunday meeting. Nearly everyone fully participated and many found their "calling" in land work.



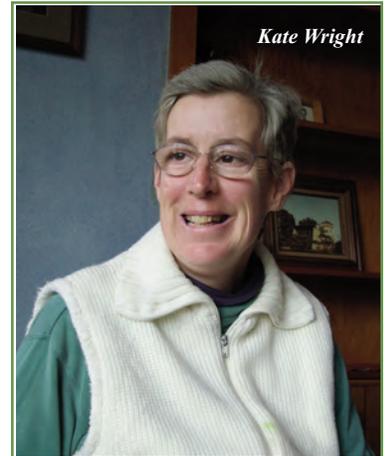
Kate walks through the woods with Martha (left) and Felicity (right) at her sides.

Now, many years and many incarnations of farm and gardens later we have nurtured a dairy and a CSA, as well as worked with herbs, bees, and orchards, and created a rich learning environment. The land enterprises have had bounty to share with many other people through sales and "shares." Courageous and hardworking people continue to work sustainably, with the larger world and spiritual truths in mind. Many people who trained here have gone on to develop other agricultural ventures and work.

Through all of this, Sherry Wildfeuer has taught, written, edited and supported the community in ways too numerous to mention here. One of her "offspring" is the Stella Natura agricultural calendar, featured later in this newsletter.

But now I would like to turn your attention to Kate Wright. Catharine Elizabeth Wright has been a villager in Kimberton Hills for 25 years. She has been a joyous and challenging social star. She has trained many so-called non-handicapped individuals, and has a following that would put most Facebook "friends" numbers to shame. Stories about Kate come to everyone's lips—perhaps no one living in Kimberton Hills has made a stronger impression on so many people. My son called her a Great Lady.

She also became, both to herself and to us, a Farmer and a Gardener. She found her vocations at Kimberton Hills, developed her talents and learned to play the lyre, compose music (with Kerry Lee), play in the village orchestra—and in Carnegie Hall!—as well as to contribute to many plays, skits, parties and breakfast tables where she happily delivered as many milk cans as she could with the time she had.



Kate Wright

No one could have anticipated that Kate would have left us so soon. Her vibrancy and health were obvious. But nevertheless, she died suddenly very early Sunday morning July 26.

As we lovingly said farewell and thanks to Kate during the next days, her connection to the people and of course all the land and animals of Kimberton Hills was significantly in our hearts. Blessings on your journey, Kate, and on the land you served and that served you, here.

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Camphill Village
Kimberton Hills

Happenings

Veronika Roemer once again directed a fantastic spring musical. The Sound of Music, one of the most beloved musicals of all time, came to the Rose Hall stage in April. A wonderful cast told the timeless tale of love, family, freedom and the power of music.



Left: Villagers Jean Vaughn and Lawrence Sherma perform the concert scene with Service Volunteer Simon Endres. Top: Maria, played by Alexandra Roemer, sings a song to the Von Trapp children.

Cloudy skies and eventual rain could not stop the fun at the annual Hootenanny, held in June. Local folk and bluegrass artists came to play on the solar-powered stage, and later on in Rose Hall. The Camphill Café provided delicious food while the hearty festival-goers enjoyed an evening of great music. Join us next year!

Look for Kimberton Hills' products on sale in the local area. On Saturday mornings until November, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., items from the Craft Shop and Sweetwater Bakery are available at the Phoenixville Farmers Market, Bridge Street and Taylor Alley in Phoenixville. On Wednesdays, visit our crafters at the Anselma Farmers and Artisans Market, from 2 p.m. - 7 p.m., through October. The Mill at Anselma is located at Route 401/Conestoga Road -1/2 mile west of Route 113 in Chester Springs.

We have been enjoying our connections with the local community. The Radnor Middle School Watershed Program returned for a study of the village and we welcomed the third grade from East Pikeland Elementary



Students from Radnor Middle School met some of our pigs in the "Enchanted Woodlands."

School for a tour and discussion on beekeeping and plant life. University of Pennsylvania Environmental Studies Program graduate students visited and toured.

We've also welcomed volunteers from four different Waldorf schools from all different parts of the nation. Eurythmists visited from Spring Valley and Eugene Schwartz gave a series of workshops in Rose Hall. We hosted a conference for the Fellowship of Intentional Communities and welcomed back NPR's "You Bet Your Garden" Host Mike McGrath for an informative talk on "Beneficial Insects."

Unfortunately, due to lack of registration, we made the decision to cancel the Camphill Golf Classic this year. We are grateful for those who responded so generously with sponsorships, golfer registrations, and auction item donations. We felt it would be unwise to proceed with the outing at this time. We want to be sure your contributions are being used in the most responsible way.

This fall, in lieu of the golf tournament, we will host a more family-friendly and affordable event here in the Village. More information on that event will follow. Thank you to our generous Camphill Classic sponsors and friends who said they would be sponsors of that event. Thank you also to our Camphill Classic Committee for their hard work and support.

On to the Camphill Foundation's triennial benefit concert:

Camphill
BENEFIT CONCERT

OCTOBER 6, 2009
AT 7:30PM

Dessert & Champagne Reception
immediately following

FEATURED MUSICIANS
Mark O'Connor • Paula Robison
Eroica Trio • MaDFusion • Cecile Licad
Camphill Village Ensemble

SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY
STEPHEN COLBERT

Frederick P. Rose Hall, Home of
JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER
Broadway at 60th Street, New York City

For sponsorship information or
to purchase tickets, call 845.517.2776
or visit www.camphillconcert.org

For more information on the Camphill Benefit Concert and how you can support Kimberton Hills, contact the Development Office at 610-935-8660.

The World Needs More Places Like Camphill

Each year, students from various Waldorf schools throughout the country come to Kimberton Hills to spend a week or more volunteering with us. Their experiences vary, but we find all come away with a changed perspective and an appreciation for community life. The following letter was sent to us from Elie Mala, Class of 2010, from the Rudolf Steiner School in New York City, who visited us in May. Thank you, Elie, and thank you to all the students who have spent time with us!

“I’m sure I speak for the whole class when I thank you for the great experience we had during our short time with you. We are still raving about the positive experiences and interactions we had at Kimberton Hills and with the Villagers. This experience has enlightened every one of us in different ways that is specific to the individual. It has strengthened our bonds as a class, introduced us to many kind people, instigated inner growth, and allowed us to see life in a new perspective. This short, but beautiful experience has changed our lives forever and has given us warm memories to recall for the journey ahead.

On a personal note, this experience has renewed my faith in humanity. As a New Yorker, I could have never imagined that such a positive community could exist and strive toward a goal in such a fashion that understands and respects every individual for who they are. I am glad that such a great community exists; the world needs more places like Camphill. The Villagers left a great impression on me and continue to do so. It was hard for us to leave Kimberton Hills, but I’m sure it was harder for the Villagers to see us go. I thank every one of them for letting us have a glimpse of their lives. We are going to miss their greetings and smiles which were unconditionally offered to us – something one can’t expect in New York.

I enjoyed having a purpose that served the community instead of my personal desires. I hope my peers felt this too because this experience has shown us that we can truly make a difference in this world by serving humanity. With this in mind, we are only stepping into the world destined to be beacons of morality. I look forward to hearing from you and participating in projects with you in the future. I wish the community nothing but happiness and success. Once again, thank you for the lifetime opportunity!”

Elie Mala, a student from New York City, works in the gardens while visiting Kimberton Hills.



Board VP Jane Vasile retires after 9 1/2 years of service

It’s with grateful appreciation that we announce the retirement of our Board of Directors Vice-President, Jane Vasile.

Jane has been a friend of Kimberton Hills for many years. She knew of the village through her work at The Devereux Foundation. “My dear long-time friend & neighbor Morrie Huston (former Board president), attempted to interest me in Kimberton Hills and particularly, the board,” says Jane. At that time, her full-time work schedule did not allow for further involvement.

“When I retired from Devereux, Morrie was, literally, at my front door, arranging a visit to Kimberton Hills and to the board,” says Jane. “I was impressed by my initial visits. Noteworthy, is the dedication of the coworkers in their efforts to make life for the villagers more meaningful and happy. Joining the board seemed a ‘good fit’ for me and Kimberton Hills.”

In addition to supporting numerous fund-raising efforts and village events, Jane has worked on the Master Plan Committee and the Serena House and Café Committees. “It gives me great pride to see how well both projects are working,” says Jane.

“I felt like a member of the Kimberton Hills family,” Jane recalls. “It was so pleasant getting to know the villagers and coworkers. I plan to keep in touch with my Kimberton Hills friends.”

SOMETHING NEW IN YOUR NEWSLETTER

You may have noticed something different about this issue of the Kimberton Hills News. We’ve enclosed a remittance envelope to aid you in making a gift to Camphill Kimberton.

With your support we will be able to continue to provide a high quality of life for the villagers who call Kimberton Hills their home. Many of our villagers and their families have difficulty meeting the costs with their resources alone.

The economic downturn has affected all of us. We ask that you consider making a contribution to help defray our costs, if you are able. Thank you for your continued support and friendship!

Reflections of a Garden Apprentice | Alice McClain



Alice takes a breath.

The garden is comprised of many inhales and exhales. The main breath is Sebastian, our head gardener-farmer and Lael, his wife, who conducts and plays the garden oboe. Jacob and I fill in the air about them as apprentices. The four of us have varying lung capacities and therefore sweep in air separately, often independently. In any given moment, I may be leading in the goats; Lael, watering the seedlings; Sebastian, setting out irrigation; and Jacob, spreading compost over recently tilled fields. In another flash, Lael will be digging beds for thyme; Jacob spraying a preparation over the fields; I will be weeding for tomorrow's harvest; and Sebastian will be cultivating the sweet potatoes.

Sometimes, we will all breathe together, while planting strawberries or sorting carrots. Sometimes, I'll look up and be alone in the peppers. Sometimes, I'll be surrounded by 20 teenagers in shorts and matching shirts, all pulling up pigweed from the raspberries, like birds about low-tide shores, bustling, busy.

I work in a biodynamic garden. We view our land as an organism. It breathes as we breathe. It's comprised of organs with their own sensitivities. It's not silly. It's sacred and science. Therefore, the metaphor of oxygen and carbon works. How else would anything grow?

The summer is reaching its high point; Sebastian said so over cold drinks. I drank and wiped my wet mouth with the back of my hand. The sun was at an angle that I had to shade my eyes to see him, golden in light. At the height of the season, we must sustain ourselves. How do we do so? We inhale, then exhale.

July has another two weeks, and then comes the creature August, in an altogether different colored coat. Almost everything is planted in the garden and there is new help. The toads work too, eating up insects at night.

At dusk, we free ourselves from the breath of the fields and come inside, bearing marigolds and zucchinis. Sometimes, I bring home these little weeds with these little flowers and photograph them on fabric of blue, pink and white. I think of the letter A and drink milk before I sleep, nurtured, at night.



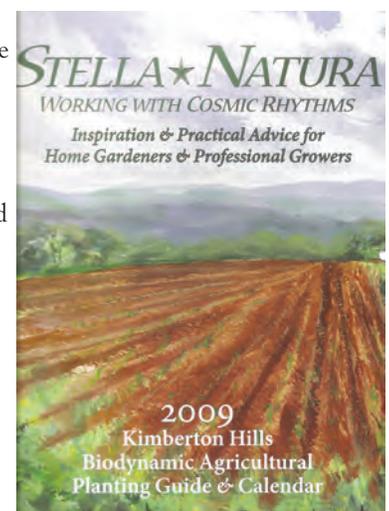
Lael leads our miniature donkeys as they pull the newly picked greens up from the garden.

Do you know about Stella Natura? | Sherry Wildfeuer

Every year since 1978 Kimberton Hills has been producing a biodynamic planting calendar. This publication had its origin in 1970 when I was learning about biodynamic agriculture by working at the Goetheanum in Dornach, Switzerland, which is the home of the worldwide Anthroposophical Society. One of my jobs was to replicate an experiment to test the efficacy of planting by the moon. Although I couldn't always understand what was being spoken to me in German, the language of the plants unmistakably confirmed the reality of the moon's influence through the timing of gardening activities.

I was so impressed that when I returned to America I began making my own calendar according to the principles I had learned. When I moved to Kimberton Hills I kept it up, and soon my husband, David Schwartz, suggested that I should make it more widely available. We found a backer, it was well received, and now we sell over 7,000 copies a year.

Stella Natura is a 40 page 9"x12" illustrated wall calendar with 14 thought-provoking new articles each year and monthly astronomical charts with practical advice for when to plant and cultivate garden crops. It's a great gift for any gardener (think of the holidays!) and every calendar sold, wholesale or retail, earns \$4.00 for Kimberton Hills. Anything we can do to increase our sales will be a help to the Village. For ordering information call 610-469-9686 or go to www.stellanatura.com.



Friends and Family Day 2009

Thank you to all who visited Kimberton Hills for our annual Family and Friends Day! It was a beautiful afternoon filled with musical selections from the Sound of Music, the dedication of our Memorial Garden, and a delicious lunch on the green.



*From top, left to right:
Nathaniel Hecht's (center) family checks in with Mimi and Diedra, while Sam Bicking waits for his nametag.*

Mike Silvert performs with the bell choir.

Bill Lewis (right) and his family smile for the camera.



Sherry Wildfeuer shares a story during the dedication of the memorial garden, behind Rose Hall.

Sue Weicheld (right) and her sister-in-law, Sue, share a laugh before the festivities begin.



The bell choir performs Do, Re, Mi from The Sound of Music.

Consider planned giving in tough economic times

In today's economic climate, many of us have less discretionary income than we previously had for making philanthropic gifts. Would you like to continue to support Kimberton Hills but are wondering how to do so? Are you also rethinking retirement and estate plans? Now might be a good time to consider a planned gift to Kimberton Hills.

A bequest to Kimberton Hills through your will can reduce estate taxes and enable you to make a more significant gift than you can during your lifetime. Ways to do this include a specific amount of cash, stock or real estate; or all or a percentage of your estate after other distributions are made.

To discuss options that benefit both you and Kimberton Hills, contact your personal attorney directly or the Kimberton Hills Development Office at 610-935-8660.

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

CAMP HILL CAFÉ
Open
Tuesday-Saturday,
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed in August

Mark your calendars for our **Michaelmas Fall Festival and Hoedown on Saturday, October 3 from 3-9 p.m.** Join us for live music, food, family activities, crafts, games and more.

VILLAGE PROFILE:

Sebastian Kretschmer by Rachel Martin Swartz

As an 18-year-old conscientious objector, Sebastian Kretschmer chose to serve his mandatory German military service in a SOS Children's Village located in northern Germany. It was there that Kimberton Hills' head gardener had his first encounter with working the land. For the next year and a half the farm and the community were his life. Sebastian reflects, "It was a real awakening for me to both the agricultural world and life within an intentional community."

Sebastian's agricultural interest only continued to strengthen and deepen. After a three month practicum in Spain, he spent the next two years in Camphill Oakland in England apprenticing in their biodynamic agricultural program. This experience changed things. "I knew I was going to be a farmer," says Sebastian. "I was 21 and had this strong dream that this was my vocation." It was also here that he met his future wife, Lael Rasch, whom had grown up in Camphill Village Copake.

He returned to Germany to attend college after a year and half as a journeyman at the community Seeds of Change in New Mexico. He received his bachelor's degree and continued on to earn a Master of

Science in Organic Agriculture. Equipped now with both the experiential and the classical agricultural education, he was ready to take on a project of scope: Camphill Village Kimberton Hills' CSA. In 2004, Sebastian, Lael, and their two children, Ciaran and Nayali, moved to Kimberton Hills. "It was a real appealing initiative: to build up the CSA from the rudimentary stages into a full fledged farm- a farm that now, after five years, includes livestock and a sufficient infrastructure to support 200 CSA year-round shares." It required building two greenhouses



Sebastian Kretschmer

with floor radiant heat, repairing the CSA Hritz barn, creating connecting roads within the farm complex, enriching the soil fertility and the purchase of additional farm equipment.



The garden crew

Sebastian's visionary approach to agricultural and innovative initiatives has taken root:

- **Biofuel:** Every two weeks the CVKH truck visits two local restaurants and relieves them of frying oil. Through a process of settling and filtration, the transformed vegetable cooking oil is now a fuel capable of powering the farm truck and irrigation pump.
- **SolarPower:** A rain water catchment system has been installed for biodynamic preparations. The water is gently warmed in solar heaters. With the introduction of the enriching agent, the water is stirred for a specific amount of time and then used as field sprays.
- **Compost toilet:** An outdoor compost toilet has intrigued and introduced the many school age students that have visited our community to the difference between an aerobic and an anaerobic environment.

Sebastian was also instrumental in creating a two-year biodynamic garden apprenticeship program. Modeled after the program in Germany, after a three year collaborative effort, it is now officially sponsored by the Biodynamic Association.

Sebastian and Lael may be the driving force behind the gardens' transformation, yet without the help of the farm team comprised of: 10 villagers, six resident volunteers, and three garden apprentices, the incredible cycle of planting and harvesting would not be possible. It does take a village to sustain a vital, robust and healthy garden that then, in return, sustains a larger village.