

Tammy Berman bundles up during our eclipse party in April.

Village View

Spring Review
2024

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Transitioning to Ghent



Camphill Village
C O P A K E

A group of people gathered outdoors for a candlemas celebration. In the foreground, a man wearing a bright yellow safety vest over a dark jacket, a neon green beanie, and a blue and white striped scarf is smiling and talking to a person whose back is to the camera. The person has their hood up and is wearing a dark jacket and bright red pants. Other people in winter clothing are visible in the background, some wearing hats and scarves. The ground is paved.

Introductions

Cap Bielenberg greets friends at our Candlemas celebration in February.

Alec Baresich



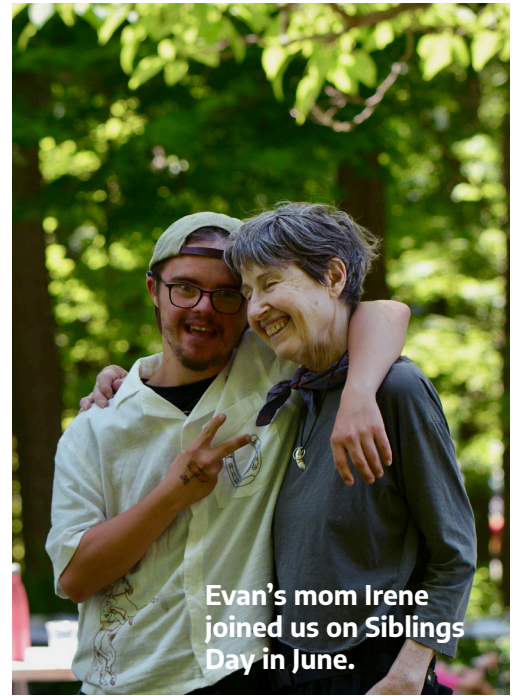
Alec works to properly place and size the wooden pegs that will be added to our building blocks.

Jesse Meril



Jesse spends a sunny afternoon in the lower vegetable garden.

Evan Young



Evan's mom Irene joined us on Siblings Day in June.

Welcome, New Coworkers!

Our community is so glad these new volunteers have joined us here in Copake. We look forward to living and working with all of you!



camphillvillage.org/volunteer

Andrea Baring and Karime Rios Piedrahita paint together in our Paper Crafts Studio.

Jessica Duarte Sousa Fontes from Brazil

Julian Krebber from United States

Viktoria Bakos from Hungary

Hannah Petermann from Germany

Greta Morsbach from Germany

Lin Tsu Yang from Taiwan

Teresa Yasuda from Brazil

Ann Geraldine "Gerry" Gavini from Argentina/Canada

Karime Rios Piedrahita from Colombia

Alice Little from United States

Sophia Luenenbuerger from United States/Germany

Morgan Johnson from United States

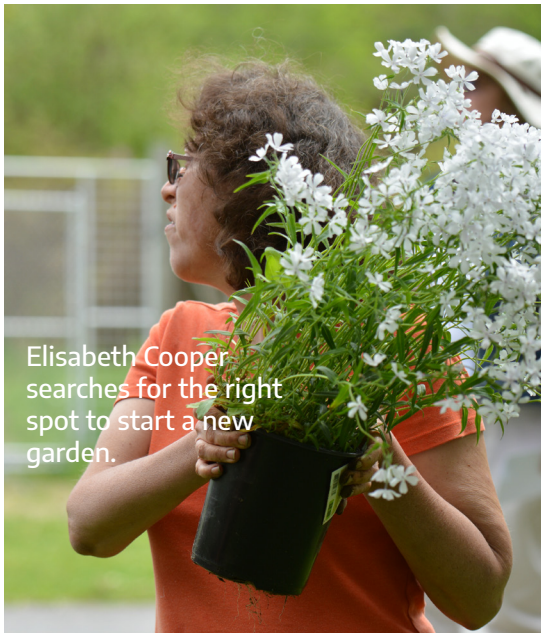
Pippin Ibell from United Kingdom/New Zealand

Juan Felipe Ruiz Moscoso from Colombia



Festivals and celebrations

Brian Wilson carries his rooster bread through the Village during our Palm Sunday walk.



Elisabeth Cooper searches for the right spot to start a new garden.



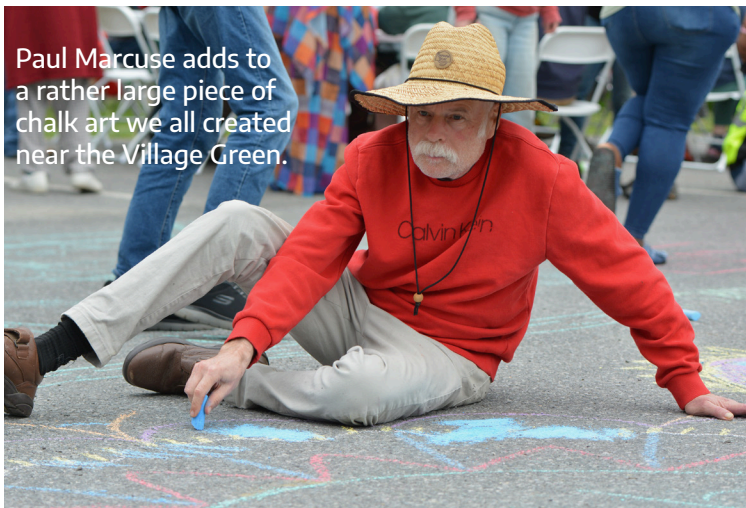
We're lucky to have so many experienced gardeners, like Emily Wallach, in the Village!



Ernesto Martinez adds compost to the garden in front of the Village Green with Sara Bella Wolff's mom, who was visiting for the week!

Ascension

Following a nice picnic by the Village Green on Thursday, we continued our Ascension Day festivities with crafts and garden projects to beautify our land. We made colorful mandalas, played hopscotch, planted lilacs, and enjoyed the best of a splendid afternoon in one another's company.



Paul Marcuse adds to a rather large piece of chalk art we all created near the Village Green.



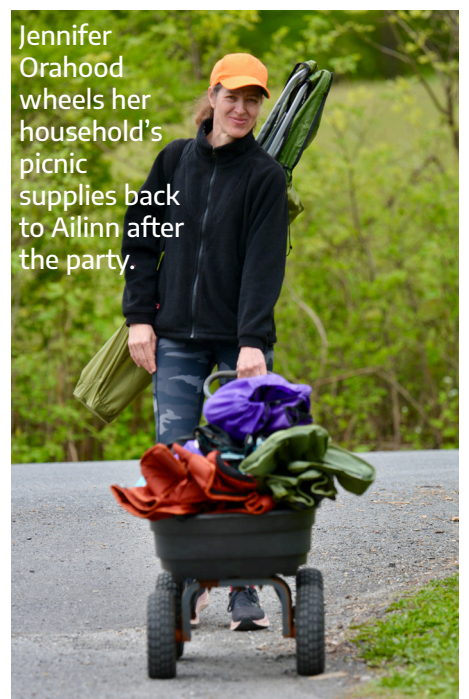
Laura Meza joins others making wreaths from dried flowers grown in the Village.



Stevie Gibson greets Zile Sahta and Andreas Fontein.



Susie Taube made some very cute pinwheels out of paper and stickers.



Jennifer Orahod wheels her household's picnic supplies back to Ailinn after the party.



Sheila Adelman looking lovely as ever for our spring weather potluck.



Kim Warga helps herself to a table of fresh fruits and sides prepared in our households.



Monica Talaya, our music therapist and director of our Bell Ensemble, performs a recorder piece alongside Joan Hill. Joan has been playing for several years.

Whitsun

Camphill Village is home to residential volunteers and students from all over the world. Together, many of our community members read from the Gospel of John in different languages and dialects in a moving acknowledgment of our common spirit on Whitsun, or Whitsunday, in May. After gathering to hear our friends recite the gospel—in Xhosa, Bemba, French, Japanese, Dutch, Latvian, Swahili, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, and more—we enjoyed a wonderful performance by the Village Bell Ensemble, followed by a potluck picnic.



Kizuna Shintani turns to Marc Blachere before our international community members read from the Gospel of John.



Ben Brusckke performs the bowed psaltery alongside Sophia Luennenbuerger on violin.



Elizabeth Chalakani greets Emma Krasky at our potluck gathering.



Performing from left to right: violinist Eugene Drucker, founder of the Emerson String Quartet; violinist Joana Genova, Indianapolis Quartet; pianist Gili Melamed-Lev, founder of Jazz & Classics for Change; cellist Roberta Cooper, American Symphony Orchestra; and violist Dana Kelley, Orchestra of St. Luke's.



Gail Mortman, Frances Manley, Carol Cole, and Rosie Edwards from Camphill Ghent joined us in Great Barrington!

We were delighted to see so many friendly faces from the different Camphill communities of Columbia County, as we gathered at the beautiful Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington in April for our concert, "Music in Praise of Dignity & Care." We thank the Triform Bell Choir directed by Akiko Suesada; concert musicians Eugene Drucker, Roberta Cooper, Joana Genova, Dana Kelley, and Gili Melamed-Lev; our most excellent masters of ceremonies, Sam Mirkin and Finot Selassie; and the many Mahaiwe staff and volunteers who created such a lovely afternoon for our attendees. Many special thanks to Gili Melamed-Lev of Jazz and Classics for Change for bringing these musicians together for our big day at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center!



The Triform Bell Choir gave a spectacular performance!



Sam Mirkin and Finot Selassie, who live together in Copake, were terrific masters of ceremonies. Finot wore her mother's beautiful dress for the occasion.

Siblings Day



Michael Desmond catches up with his sister Mariah over lunch.

We so enjoyed seeing our siblings, cousins, and parents in the Village on June 1st. Our Bell Ensemble welcomed family members from near and far with a wonderful performance, and members of our Poetry Group recited their inspiring original poems between concert pieces.

We enjoyed beautiful weather during a potluck lunch with our families by the Hall Pond, and danced the afternoon away to live music performed by Liri Ronen and his father Ilan. Many thanks to our families for joining us!



Adam Smith laughs with his brother, Josh, who visited from Cleveland.



Ben Berry greets Michael Coughlan's brother, Xavier.



Denise Miano was delighted to make it to our gathering and spend the day with her son, Thomas.



Alex Laskaris enjoys the picnic with her sister Franziska.



David Wallace joins other members of the Poetry Group, reciting original poetry in between Bell Ensemble songs.



It was so nice to see Mike Davis's family in the Village!



Lindsay Mead was excited to host her sister, Sierra.



Cathy Fleming celebrated the day with her brother Jim and sister-in-law Lisa.



Liri Ronen on guitar and his father, Ilan, performed great live music!



Tijen Wilson and her dad, Markly, grab a bite during our potluck lunch.



Two lyre players—Elijah Kent and Magdalena Szweczykowska—share a glance on stage.



Thank you, families, for packing Fountain Hall during our performance!

The Present

The two of us
walking hand in hand.

The two of us
looking at the sunset.

The sunset sometimes will speak
with her voice.

The two of us
looking at the future, and the present
is in us.

- Ernesto Martinez



Thierry Gonzalez

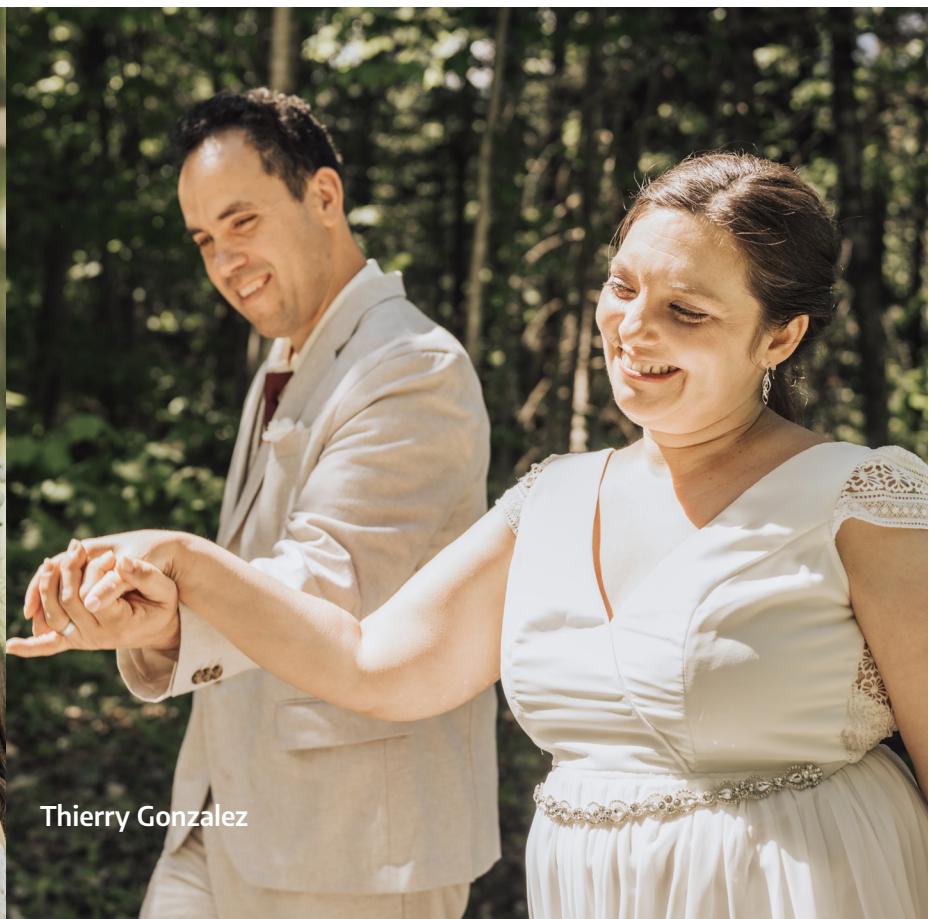
Ernesto & Amy

After years of being in a special long-distance relationship—with Ernesto Martinez living here in Copake and his wonderful girlfriend Amy living in a Camphill community in Canada—our loving friends tied the knot in May.

Lirio House traveled with Ernesto across our northern border, so he and Amy could celebrate their commitment to one another among loved ones. We are so happy for this wonderful couple and we look forward to seeing Amy more regularly while she visits Ernesto throughout the year.



Thierry Gonzalez



Thierry Gonzalez

Lunar Eclipse Party

Our community gathered for a *stellar* ice cream social during the total solar eclipse in April. Our Finance Office provided protective glasses and served us ice cream that was generously donated by Crescent Creamery in Pittsfield, Mass.! How nice to be together to observe the change in light and sound—the shifts in our environment—and to reminisce about previous eclipse experiences that we've enjoyed together.



Andrea Baring romanticized the meaning behind the eclipse.



Oliver Dawdy and Vicki Fliesler line up for ice cream.



Bill Kolberg, our director of finance, passes a spoon across the ice cream table.



Asha Elhassan and Tasheni Mutale enjoy the eclipse together.



Randy Simon was excited for days leading up to the event!



Jeff Sexton shares his glasses with David Freed.



Anna & Muka

In June, Anna Ilker and Muka Mutale read sincere, moving vows by the Hall Pond in front of our community. We're so fortunate they've decided to start their family here in Camphill Village, where they met. Anna's family and best friend Bianca were able to fly in from Germany, and Eileen Tau walked Muka down the aisle.

We all enjoyed perfect weather, a picnic, dancing, and a beautiful cake that Anna made herself. Many congratulations to this sweet family! We are so glad to celebrate your happiness.

Richard Neil conducted the ceremony for Anna and Muka. Also pictured is the couple's daughter, Maluba.



Pamela Takaindisa and Tijen Wilson pose with our good friend Thandeka Ndhlovu, who visited for the day!



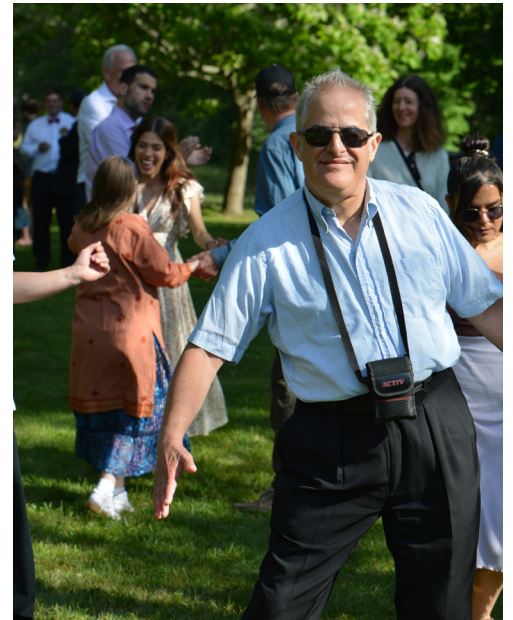
Muka and Anna cut their beautiful cake, which Anna made.



Christopher Duffy and Susie Taube cut a rug!



Laurie Benton and Pia Beckmann dance by the Hall Pond.



Ricky Hauptman never passes up an opportunity to dance.



Karime Rios Piedrahita joins Lulu Viets and Danny Miller. Their circle of three quickly grew to six.



The wedding party rehearsed a beautiful dance before the wedding, and impressed us all on the big day!

Maple Season

**“These trees have
been here for as long
as I can remember”**

- Lindsay Johnston

*Lindsay's interview
on the first sap run of
the season:*

*[https://www.
youtube.com/
watch?v=yOIS-
snfrz0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOIS-snfrz0)*

Lindsay Johnston transports a bucket of freshly collected sap on the first sap run of the season.

The sugar maples of Camphill Village have sweetened our community life for decades. Not only do they enable us to fill our pantries with enough jars to flavor oatmeal, yogurts, and desserts; they bring us together on some of the first warm, sunny days of early spring in a fun community-wide effort.

During the darkest days of the year, when evenings in Camphill Village become quiet and we find comfort together indoors, our forests are also reserving their energy. The roots of our sugar maples have been storing sap that will begin to flow in late winter, when February delivers frigid overnights and sunny afternoons above freezing temps. Camphill Village counts on these reliable temperature fluctuations to continue our tradition of boiling sap in our sugar house before bottling it for our community and shop customers.

Maples by the Numbers

It takes 40 gallons of sap to produce a single gallon of syrup!

2022	2023	2024
~ 650 taps	~ 735 taps	~ 735 taps
5,105 gallons of sap collected	6,875 gallons of sap collected	7,320 gallons of sap collected
Yield: 108 gallons of syrup	Yield: 155 gallons of syrup	Yield: 130 gallons of syrup

We boil the sap we've collected in our sugar house, the construction of which was made possible by donors who gave to our last capital campaign in 2015. Rita Folger gave an especially large donation, and our Estate Crew passes a wooden plaque acknowledging her charitable gift each time they enter—to boil sap, stack firewood for our boiler, or bottle fresh maple syrup.

For decades we boiled and bottled in a much smaller space next to our Co-op. We had greater goals for our syrup production to expand, and also to be able to work in a more comfortable, accessible space.

Now, our beloved sugar house is a solid, timber frame structure equipped with a system designed to remove water from the sap and boil it more efficiently. It enables us to continuously collect sap and boil when it's as fresh as possible. It also saves a great deal of time, and better serves our full schedules.

As the sap begins to flow, the energy in Camphill Village begins to shift. Silver collection buckets bejewel our forests, receiving drops of sap, while snow begins to melt around the emerging skunk cabbages that line our stream beds. Squirrels scramble and leaves crunch beneath our feet as we trek toward our sugar maples, which are maintained and made accessible by our dedicated Estate crew. A fragrant plume of smoke rising above our sugar house tells us the Estate is boiling sap today.

These first warm afternoons can't be squandered; the sap may continue to flow after the trees bud out, but the flavor won't be pleasant. So, together, we'll spend the next few weeks catching lightning in a bottle. And to celebrate a productive maple season, we'll all enjoy a community pancake breakfast, courtesy of the Estate.



Bobby Freed enjoys hanging out in our sugar house.



Ting Yeh transfers sap to our holding tank.



Testing a batch for quality.



Matthew Holtz stacks firewood for the boiler.



Roy Tau assists a timber framer during construction of our sugar house.



We hold a community breakfast each year to mark a successful maple season.

Courtesy of Luciana Vila Funes

Camphill Movement

Joining our friends in Camphill Ghent

**“I love painting
and I love poetry.”**

-Gail Mortman



Gail Mortman draws a happy rainbow during a painting workshop in Camphill Ghent, where she lives.

Photo by LeeAnn Brignull.

Many of our friends know just how much Camphill Ghent means to our community members here in Copake. Ghent is the first of its kind: a Camphill community that was created for elders of all abilities to socialize, continue to grow, and enjoy the arts and a meaningful spiritual life all within the context of Camphill traditions.

Camphill Ghent was established 12 years ago on a beautiful 110-acre dairy farm so elders could enjoy independent living, as well as assisted living opportunities—many moving from Camphill Village Copake. Our friends in Ghent spend their time socializing, attending many live music concerts in their community hall throughout the year, and spending the seasons strolling the grounds and enjoying the many acres that have been maintained for birds and pollinators.

In Copake, we like to think of Ghent as a place where our community members can retire one day. We love when our friends reunite in Ghent after spending decades here in Copake and creating strong bonds throughout their adulthood. We believe meaningful relationships, homemade meals, and active days are strong contributors to the health and longevity of Camphill community members. And we know our friends continue to benefit from these values as they age.

Because so many of us are now in Ghent—and hoping to one day be in Ghent—the boards of directors of our communities have officially merged into a unitary entity, considering both

of our communities in their planning. What's more, our fundraising and communications departments are also joining forces to ensure both of our communities remain strong and capable of serving our wonderful community members as they age.

Our community was built by creative thinkers who were supported by generous donors. The families of the early generation of Camphill Copake knew their loved ones would be most fulfilled here with us, and together they funded the construction of new homes and workspaces where their family members could thrive in a supportive environment.

Our community members are some of the 76 million baby boomers who will transition into senior living arrangements in the coming years. We're looking forward to meeting the needs of our dear friends, and ensuring they have access to everything they need to live a fulfilling Camphill life.

Gail in the early weavery in Camphill Village Copake in 1973. She lived here for 46 years.



Gail Mortman lives in the Adult Home in Camphill Ghent, where she and many friends she's known for decades see each other every day.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jw397QM9PEU>



MAKERS Fiber Arts

“I always go to the Coffee Shop and hang out on my favorite couch and knit.” - Marian Scharr

Marian Scharr displays her love of bright colors and mixing patterns daily, and continues her knitting projects in just about every social space in Camphill Village. She has spent many relaxing afternoons with her needles and yarn on the sofa in the Coffee Shop, and quietly works away during community gatherings in Fountain Hall. Marian finds knitting comforting, and says she's appreciative that she's able to give scarves and other creations to loved ones.

**Visit the link below to see Marian's interview about what motivates her to knit.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UwjZSkL1r1Y>

Max is Enriching Life in White Oak, One Stitch at a Time

Max Lösing in White Oak House only began crocheting in December, but his innate talent has brought so much joy to the people around him.

“I am crocheting everything you can imagine: from clothing items to key chains, cuddle toys and table decorations (etc.), I have tried out everything,” he writes.



A large bumble bee Max finished in the spring.

“Personally, I find it really relaxing, especially after coming home from work or whenever I want to be productive—instead of just being on the phone or in front of a screen. Moreover, the purpose of my crocheting is to give it to others as presents, so when I see that people are happy because of these gifts, I am also happy.”

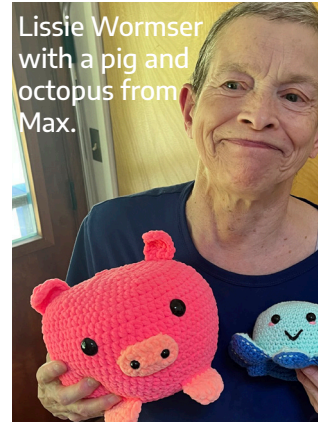
Max’s crochet “career” started around Christmas when he made a Grinch doll for Susan Freedman, octopuses for Lissie Wormser and his girlfriend Franzi, and a pineapple for Scott Ballinger—Scott’s favorite.

“After that I started to crochet bigger projects such as Pokémons or a big flower,” says Max. “Then, I wanted to experiment some more and decided to crochet clothing items for my girlfriend.”

He says the people around him appreciate his hobby because he’s able to give them decorations for their rooms, but also because people like just being with him while he’s crocheting.

“We often just watch a movie or chat while I do it... Our villagers are very curious and intrigued by my craft,” he says. “Susie, for example, often joins me and brings down her own knitting stuff.”

Sarah Bomba has asked Max to teach her some of the patterns he’s made, and now, he and Franzi spend time crocheting together—a new skill she picked up recently. Luckily, she lives with a dedicated instructor.



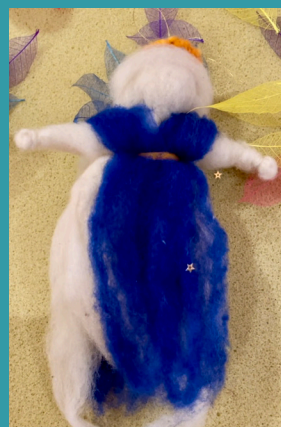
Lissie Wormser with a pig and octopus from Max.



Max and Franzi (and friends!)



A basket of yarn made by Lia Babitch, who dyed the skeins using plants and spun them at home.



Camphill Academy students chipped in to create felted angels to sell at our Yule Fair in 2021.



More beautiful felt creations from our Yule Fair. Felting is a very popular art form using wool and needles, and is practiced in Camphill communities, as well as Waldorf schools.



Brooke

“I always love to knit. I always want to do something.”

Brooke Hogan, who especially likes using multicolored yarn skeins on her projects, rummages through her tote bags, considering which colors to add to the scarf she’s working on.



Left to right: Natalia Posso, Alexandria Laskaris, Nora Nickle, Elijah Kent. Rochelle Sternthal in front.

Combining Craft and Self-discovery in the Camphill Academy

Years ago, Diego Rodriguez taught Zach Gastman how to shoot a bow and arrow. Matthias Poynder-Meares and Bill McIlroy baked together. And this year, Natalia Posso taught us how to knit for her third-year student project—part of her coursework as a student of the Camphill Academy.

“I chose knitting because it’s a big part of my life that I love and appreciate. We have amazing knitters and crafters in Camphill who would benefit from it or enjoy it as much as I do,” Natalia wrote. “So, I took the challenge to teach it, even though it was my first time.”

Natalia fondly remembers being educated in many types of crafts in her Waldorf school as a child. One teacher in particular—Yolanda—showed patience in teaching knitting and crochet to her students. Natalia was able to draw upon those lessons when working with Nora Nickle, Danny Miller, Elijah Kent, Rochelle Sternthal, and Alexandria Lasakaris.

And while some members of the group—namely Rochelle and Elijah—had previous experience with knitting and crochet, the opportunity to gather and create together was very welcome.

“I have some experience with knitting, so it wasn’t my first time engaging in this activity,” Elijah wrote. “The class was a valuable learning experience and a wonderful opportunity for socializing and connecting with others.”

Students of the Camphill Academy have opportunities to teach new skills to our community members throughout their coursework. They can follow a number of different educational paths, including curative education, social agriculture & biodynamics, and inclusive social development with an optional concentration in social therapy.



Elijah and Alexandria show off their handmade head warmers during a Village Forum meeting in June.



Danny Miller uses a lap loom to create a potholder.



Camphill Village Copake is one of several official Academy campuses, and we welcome students from all over to study in our immersive setting, where they can put lessons to practice in their households and in our workspaces.

“I found our first class to be quite challenging because I was trying to figure things out and get to know each student’s skills,” Natalia said. “Getting everyone started was difficult initially, but after the first class, everybody got into the rhythm, and we had a lot of fun!”

The Camphill Academy offers three levels of certification, as well as options to apply credits to a number of bachelors and masters degree programs. Campuses and core faculty of the Academy are located in a few communities in North America: Camphill Communities of California near Monterey Bay; the Camphill School in Glenmore, Pa.; Camphill Village Kimberton Hills in Phoenixville, Pa.; Heartbeet Lifesharing in Hardwick, Vt.; Plowshare Farm in Greenfield, N.H.; and here at Camphill Village Copake.

Because we’re one of several Camphill communities in Columbia County, we’re also able to welcome students living in Triform Camphill Community and Camphill Hudson, as well as bring students on field trips to learn about Camphill Ghent.

The students of the Camphill Academy enter the professional world with an invaluable set of skills and familiarity with working with people with special needs in inclusive settings.

While some go into social work, therapy, and other human services, many choose to work in fields that are *not* traditionally or directly related

to disabilities. In those settings—be it law, retail, or medicine—they’re able to use their experience to better understand colleagues, clients, and others and have a positive impact.

“They worked hard on finishing their project, which gave them discipline,” Natalia said. “It is important that they know the concept that if you start something, it is important to finish it. Now, they have the skills and abilities to work on any project that they want by themselves.”



Natalia helps Rochelle with her handmade headband during her presentation at the Village Forum.



Visit camphill.edu to learn more about enrolling in the Camphill Academy.

Robbie Haynes

January 7, 1970—November 21, 2023

When Robbie was born on January 7th, 1970, his mother and father lived in Manhattan New York, and they had two children – Schuyler and Sophy Jr. Robbie’s mother had a babysitter named Tere who had been helping her with the two children. Before long, Tere was asked to take care of Robbie full-time, and she joined the family in their apartment. She was to remain with Robbie for the next 53 years through thick and thin.

Robbie was a good little baby, and everybody grew to love him. As he got older, his mother made sure that he could have speech therapy and she found a school where Robbie could go from an early age. As Robbie’s siblings grew older they went to boarding schools and his mother began to look for a good boarding school for Robbie. Before long she had discovered a school in Pennsylvania called Beaver Run, which was a Camphill boarding school for children. Robbie went to Beaver Run as a student when he was about 12 years old, and he stayed there until he completed his high school education, coming home for vacations just like his siblings.

During the summer vacations, Robbie would go to Southampton where his family owned a beach house. He continued going there his whole life, and became well known by many people in the Southampton community—enjoying visits to the library, the beach club, and concerts in the park. When he was older, he was offered a job helping in the library, which he loved to do. Many of his parents’ friends got to know and appreciate Robbie. During other vacation times, Robbie’s mother would often take him to Broadway shows. He saw “Annie,” “The Sound of Music,” “The Lion King,” “Cats,” and many other musicals, as well as concerts and performances in Alice Tully Hall or the Lincoln Center. He also went to the Radio City Christmas Spectacular during the Christmas vacation.

When Robbie graduated from Beaver Run, his mother began to look for a suitable place for Robbie to go where he could continue to grow and learn. She made a surprise visit to Triform Camphill Community one day, and walked into Orenda House where she met Anne, and in a very short time a trial visit for Robbie was set up. Robbie came for his trial visit, meeting many other newcomers to the community at that time, such as Karsten Rau, Matthew Holtz, Caroline Rhodes and David Keane. Everyone was happy to welcome Robbie to join the Triform community, and he did just that—



Robbie was a member of the Turtle Tree Seed crew for many years.

spending the next 25 years there. Triform became his second home, and Robbie learned many new skills, from farming to gardening to weaving, baking and cooking. He made many, many friends and everybody liked him. He was always calm and patient, and a very good example to newer, younger students.

Robbie’s family underwent many changes over the years. His mother and father got divorced in 1985, and Robbie and his siblings became adults. His brother joined the military, and his sister eventually got married. Two people were always there for Robbie: his mother and his beloved Tere. In 2006 Robbie’s brother Schuyler was killed in the Iraq war. It was a very sad time for the family.

In the years that Robbie spent in Triform, he did several exchanges. The first exchange was to a Camphill community in Bristol, England. A couple of years later Robbie did a four-week exchange to Mourne Grange in Ireland, and later he went to Camphill Ontario in Canada. In Canada Robbie stayed with the Ballahs who had been his first house parents in Beaver Run! Robbie was a seasoned traveler; his first trip having been to Italy with his family when he was nine years old. Robbie’s grandfather was Italian, and worked as a noble Swiss Guard at the Vatican.

Later when Robbie was older, he heard about an attempt on the life of Pope John Paul in 1981. He began writing letters to the pope, and sometimes he got a letter in return. A couple of years later, his mother arranged for Robbie to go with her to Italy to see the pope. Through her family connections she was able to organize an audience with the pope, and this became a highlight of Robbie's life.

As the years went on, there were many trips. Robbie went to England again with his mother and Tere, where they did a road trip. At one point they stayed with a friend of Robbie's mother who lived in a castle in Scotland! (Tere said it was very, very cold!). On another occasion they visited Berlin and then Budapest. Robbie also took a trip with his mother and friends to Austria, where they visited the place where the von Trappe family had lived. (Robbie was a great fan of "The Sound of Music").

Robbie moved to Camphill Village Copake in 2015, and soon became a hard worker, and loved and appreciated by many. A couple of years later, he was very fortunate to be invited to join a group of people on a trip to Japan with Roy Tau. Robbie was a good traveler, and had a wonderful time!

Robbie's mom fell ill in 2018 at the age of 90, and died in 2019. At that time, Robbie had needed to undergo a brain surgery, and it was a hard time for him and also for Tere. Luckily Robbie was very strong, and he pulled through. He was able to go back to Copake, but he was not able to do all the things he could do before, and he needed a little more care.



Robbie with his mom, Sophy, and lifelong friend Tere—his "Tay-Tay," who continues to be a cherished member of our community.

After a couple of years, the decision was made to allow Robbie to move into a Care House—Ita Wegman House. Imagine his great surprise, when new house-leaders arrived—Meg and Martin! He had known Meg and Martin for years in Triform, and he was very happy to see them again.

Robbie's health continued to decline, and Tere spent a lot of time with him, helping him in the Village. She remained with Robbie until the very end, staying by his side to give him comfort. On Tuesday, the 21st of November, Robbie crossed the threshold into the spiritual world. He had lived a rich, life full of interesting experiences and many encounters. He was a gentle and noble soul who was loved by many people.

**Biography prepared by Anne Sproll and Tere Salinas.*



Robert Walker

September 19, 1953—January 15, 2024

Bobby was born on Michaelmas Day, the 19th of September, 1953 in Pittsburgh, PA. His parents were Kendrick and Frances, born 1916 and 1915. His brother Ed would be born around two years later. Bobby started walking in his 21st month and speaking at the age of two-and-a-half. At around 20 months, a doctor discovered a heart murmur (which would later be discovered as being a larger issue to do with his heart). Bobby was also an affectionate child, and enjoyed running away. Bobby comes from a family that was hard working and helped in several initiatives that support people with special needs. He had a good start in life in a supportive environment.

Bobby's father, Kendrick, worked in his own car supply company in Kittanning, PA. The business would later supply Beaver Run, the Camphill boarding school for children in Pennsylvania, with cars. Bobby's mother, Frances, became very active in creating a day program for people with special needs. She was a graduate of Temple University in Philadelphia.

As a child, Bobby attended the Downingtown Special School, where he met Andrew Hoy—a longtime Camphiller who still resides in Camphill Village Copake—for the first time. They both arrived in Downingtown on the same day, Andrew Hoy having come from overseas. Soon, they would live together at Donegal Springs in an 18th-century building that couldn't be updated due to its historic nature; the roof collapsed twice.

“He will run out and sit in the sun.”

Andrew experienced Bobby as a “charming fellow,” and Bobby remained in the company of the adults around him as Downingtown Special School was established, out of which Beaver Run eventually emerged. Bobby moved to Beaver Run in 1967 at the age of 14. There, he would meet more of the people that would be around him for the rest of his life, including Peter Richards, Kipp Deyo, and Camilla Feer. (Camilla predeceased Bobby in Camphill Village in March 2018). While at Beaver Run, his friend Andrew taught Bobby to knit, read, perform plays, and many other things. A school report from 1968 reads, “Robert has been a member of this class for many years and is a firm support of it. His interests lie much more in the historical field than in the scientific. He has participated in many activities with great joy.” The report mentions his improvement in reading, as well as some of his art. “He has not really begun to be an adults, but wants to stay as a child. However, scholastically, he has shown this year that there is much he can still learn and is willing to learn.” Bobby enjoyed physical education, and performed well in the folk dancing group.

“Robert is very well liked and though language is consistently mostly of single words, he has word understanding and usually gets the point. He repeats words, especially when anticipating an event. He has a sense of humor and enjoys life in the group. Playing games and activities, especially folk dancing, [and] sports... Robert can do a job perfectly, though he needs encouragement to finish. He likes cooking, especially bread baking... Robert is an exceptionally warm and

cheerful young man. He is quite well able to dress himself, keep his clothing tidy, etc. and will even object strenuously to inartistic color combinations in his clothes. He needs still the group's influence however to see that he dresses warmly enough. He seems to want to believe that it is always hot weather... He is considerate, helpful, and at times, noble.”

The curriculum ended in 1970 when Bobby was 17. In the time between his graduation from Beaver Run and his move to Camphill Village Copake, Bobby attended the Wake Forest University, from which he graduated. After that, Bobby attended the progressive day programs at the Evergreen Homes, Inc., which Bobby's mother Frances helped to set up, and is still running today.

Bobby first visited Camphill Village Copake with his parents on August 3, 1970. There were no available spaces in Camphill Village until Bobby was admitted on August 5, 1973, and first lived in Tamarack House. His house leader at the time wrote that, “his antics are just too funny and it is hard not to spoil him. He has settled down somewhat, he is full of mischief, going on strike, leaving and hiding. Life for him is one big joke.” Bobby would spend the next 11 years working in Omaskos House in the mornings, and in the Woodshop in the afternoons. The man who ran the Woodshop at the time wrote that Bobby showed “tremendous immaturity. He will run out and sit in the sun,” also noting that Bobby's pockets are always full of candy.

From 1981 until 1987, Bobby lived in Rock Maple House with Sonni and George, his house leaders. Bobby didn't have many friendships back then, but that all changed when his “soulmate” Nico came to the Village in 1984 when Bobby was 31. Nico was outgoing and helped Bobby to express himself, and was an anchor for Bobby. Later, Bobby and Nico would work in our Bakery together for many years; it was fitting for Bobby, who had enjoyed baking those breads as a child. During that time, there were no dishwashers in the Bakery, and Bobby really enjoyed being a member of the dishwashing crew. He would help with breakfast preparation and swept the floor, as well. He went to his parents' house every summer for vacation, and was able to see a lot of the country.

When he was 34, Bobby moved to Argo House, where he joined Karen and Jean-David Derreumaux. Karen said Bobby's mother was always very supportive of Bobby and the Village. Bobby was always close with Karen's sons, and they called him Uncle Bob. He was happy with who he was, confident, and loved by everyone.



Bobby with his friend Frances Manley, who now lives in Camphill Ghent. Photo by Ariel Turner, Holy Week 2016.

He enjoyed looking at wrestling magazines at night under his blanket with a torch; he had become interested in wrestling through his brother, with whom he attended several wrestling matches. When Bobby later lived with Jos and Anke Smeele in Juniper House, they wrote that Bobby showed interest in other people living with him in Juniper, and communicated in his own way with facial expressions, but very few words. He enjoyed attending Bible Evenings, as well as going out to the movies with his friends Nico, Adam, and Oliver. He kept close contact with his family, calling his father every Sunday, and visiting his parents twice a year with his brother.

Bobby moved to Undina House—one of three care houses in Camphill Village—with Irena Valujeva and Dries Van Beusichem the following year, and into a second care house—Ita Wegman—seven years later. Bobby was beginning to show signs of his Alzheimer's disease, and in 2014, and was fortunate to move to Argo House with Joseph and Emilie Papas. Joseph knew Bobby well, as he had been running the Bakery, where Bobby worked, for some time.

Joseph described Bobby and his best friend Nico as essential members of the Bakery: the “alpha and omega.” Nico would initiate a task, like standing at the kneading table, and Bobby would complete the task by putting the bread in a mold.

As Bobby was approaching retirement age, the Papas family and the household benefited from Bobby's peaceful presence. There were moments when Joseph and Emilie's infant son Isaac would be in the way of Bobby's sweeping, and Bobby would pick him up and gently carry him to a spot where he had already swept. But Bobby was already slowing down, and had to be reminded during meal times to take another sip of water. His health continued to decline, and he moved to Ita Wegman—his third care house and final home—in 2016. Bobby retired from the Bakery and spent more time with his fellow elders and long-time peers in Ita Wegman. For a while, Bobby was still able to walk through the Village as long as someone was holding his hand.

A new team of coworkers would find themselves running Ita Wegman from 2017 through 2019. They were Mali, Kim, Keumbi, Andreas, Anjali, Jan, Remy, Zile, and Xiaolin. This group was very busy, as Ita Wegman House had many care needs. Camphill Village hired a nurse, Chelsea, to support the household five days a week. Chelsea would spend a great deal of time with Bobby, and cared deeply for her people in Ita Wegman, as she still does. With the help of Chelsea, other nurses, direct support professionals, and volunteers, Bobby received excellent care and was able to take strolls through the Village in his wheelchair. Eventually, Bobby spent his days in his bed, which also had wheels, and was able to transport him to different places in the Village so he could continue to see his friends and attend our festivals and functions. Bobby was with us all the time, warm under his blankets, for many gatherings and picnics.

**Biography prepared by former Camphill Academy student Andreas Fontein while Bobby lived in Ita Wegman. (Adapted)*



Bobby with friends David Cochrane (left) and Nico Dobbs (middle). Photo by Jurgen Boese.

Kipp Deyo

January 28, 1954—May 14, 2024

Kipp Farrington Deyo was born on January 28, 1954 in Poughkeepsie, NY at Vassar Brothers Hospital. His mother, Arlene Deyo and father Jerome (Jerry) Deyo were married in the middle of World War II. When Kipp was born, the world was still in chaos.

His brother Eric, who is 2 1/2 years older, would lay in the same crib as his brother. Kipp took great fascination, smiling and reaching out to be close to Eric every time they were together.

After Kipp's grandmother passed away in 1956, Kipp's family inherited her television set, and Kipp fell in love with baseball and western shows. Kipp also enjoyed sports. He played on a local little league baseball team, and once hit the ball just right; it went up and over the some nearby buildings. His brother taught him how to pitch a baseball.

At around 14 years old, Kipp went on a big adventure to Colorado to visit his uncle Bill. Kipp and his father went by plane, and the rest of his family drove the 2,000 miles. While in Denver, they saw all the Rocky Mountains, and they went on an all-day trip to "Frontier Days" in Cheyenne, Wyo. This was possibly the highlight of his lifelong affinity for his cowboy heroes.

One of Kipp's other heroes was President John F. Kennedy. Kipp could pick him out of a crowd, would watch his speeches on TV, and even received a signed photograph.

Kipp's mother, who was a major advocate for Kipp's future, struggled to find a suitable and willing place to welcome her son; the family had received many rejections due to Kipp's epilepsy. Jerry was working in the FDR library in Hyde Park at the time, and met many important individuals like First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. He learned the first lady wrote a column in the Poughkeepsie Journal, and described Camphill Village Copake Sunny Valley Farm. Arlene knew this was the place she was looking for. The family scheduled an interview with Camphill Village Copake's founder, Carlo Pietzner, in 1962.



Kipp enjoyed dressing up as Rifle Man—one of his favorite programs—every Halloween. Photo by Ariel Turner, 2021.

Carlo referred them to Kipp's first Camphill experience in Donegal Springs Pennsylvania, where he lived at Mt. Joy House. Kipp was part of the second batch of individuals to join Donegal Springs following the completion of a new house.

Kipp stayed at Mt. Joy for four years and then moved over to Beaver Run Special School, where he met one of his teachers—Andrew Hoy. Andrew said Kipp was one of the more well-behaved children. And while he was never able to learn to read or write, Kipp was a very lively child. He once went missing, and a group who went searching found him relaxing in the grass with the cows just before dark. Kipp stayed in Beaver Run until 1972, and moved to Camphill Village Copake a year later. His family was overjoyed.

Over the next 50 years, Kipp lived in a number of houses starting, with the farmhouse (now called Orchard) when the Village was only 10 years old. He stayed in the farmhouse for 17 years before moving to the bungalow (now called Ailinn) with the Briggs Family. He lived in Omaskos with Micheal Balcome, to whom he was very close; Columbine, Rock Maple, Aspen

with Monica Talaya; Arbutus with Sara White and her two young children; and most recently living in Undina with Seeya, Nico and their young child. The many younger coworkers who came to stay in the Village grew very fond of Kipp.

Although Kipp wasn't able to verbalize his needs, he's always been able to use gestures and other forms of communication in the community. Kipp thrived in this community setting, and always participated in just about every gathering, event, or concert—especially if dancing was involved. He attended our Sunday Festival of Offering every week and enjoyed dressing up for it. Hanging out in the coffee shop with his many friends. Kipp benefited from the rhythm of Camphill Village.

Kipp has worked in many different places in Camphill Village, but has spent the longest amount of time in our Woodshop. People around him said he was a consistent worker, and work was the highlight of his day.

In the home, tasks were not his strong suite, but his presence alone has always been the glue many have said have held the whole house together—even with many changes happening around him. He loved helping in the kitchen and would sometimes take the cooking utensils away from the cook and stir whatever was in the pot for the rest of the morning. He was very good with taking dishes and eating utensils from the table to the kitchen to be washed, and then helped very consistently for many years putting them in the dishwasher. He would clap his hands proudly after contributing.

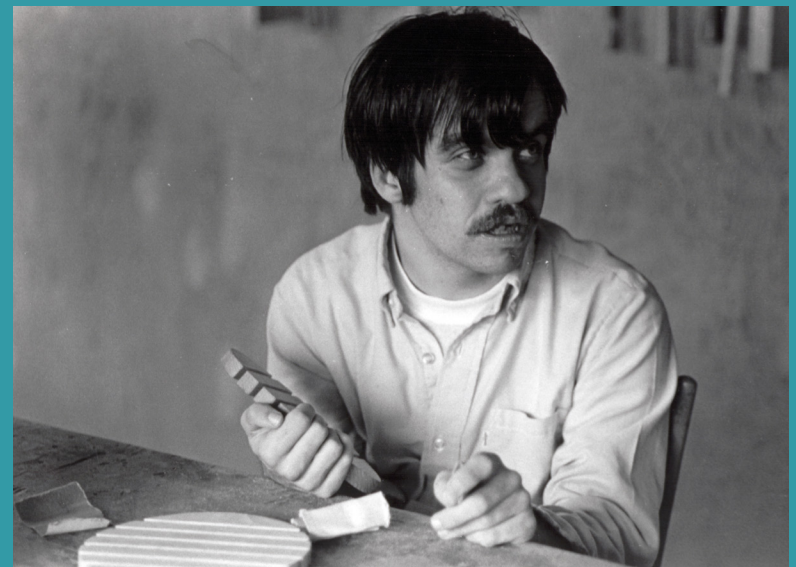
Kipp also enjoyed fun therapies like horseback riding. He was very fond of animals, and combined with his interest in westerns, it was a wonderful match for him. Kipp also enjoyed therapeutic massages and music therapy lessons when he was able to pluck the lyre strings. And while he thoroughly enjoyed dancing to live music during our gatherings, he also liked peacefully listening to classical music in his house, as he had done with his father as a child.

Kipp loved hikes, playing games, singing and any type of outing or adventure. Arbutus House once took a vacation to Cooperstown to bring Kipp to the Baseball Hall of Fame. He's been on bowling trips, aquarium trips, golfing,

and also on house vacation to Cape Cod, Mass. He never went swimming in the ocean, but enjoyed dipping his feet in and laughing when waves hit him on the shore.

Sara, his house leader, would also take Kipp to her children's soccer practices and games. Sometimes after appointments, the two would sit at the local Dunkin' Donuts so Kipp could watch the trucks pass by.

**This summary of Kipp's life is an edited version of the one prepared by Sara White, who was very close to Kipp.*



Sanding a trivet in the Woodshop.



Kipp cooks in Rock Maple House in 1976 with Karen Jane Hayden, who now lives in Camphill Ghent.

Camphill Village Copake

Camphill Village Copake
84 Camp Hill Road
Copake, NY 12516

**Moon covered in clouds
Like in a warm blanket
The geese in the pond.**

- Paul Marcuse

**It has a sweet red juicy flavor
full of ripeness**

People love to pick them

**In the village house leaders make their
villagers happy for fruit**

**But mostly for canning purposes for the
winter season and for baking!**

Let's enjoy the fruit of our labors.

- Brooke Hogan

June Strawberry Moon watercolor by
Miss Maria Charlotte Logan.



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