



Camphill Village
C O P A K E

Village View

Winter Review 2023



Artwork by Ernesto Martinez

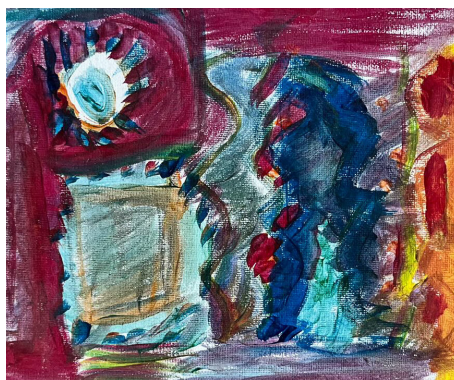


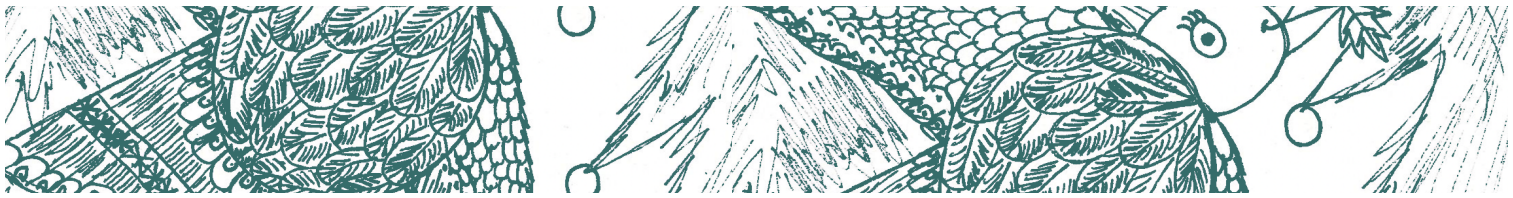
Introductions

Elizabeth Chalakani



We're so glad to have been joined by Elizabeth Chalakani over the winter. She is spirited and creative, and enjoys reading and painting. Welcome, Elizabeth!





Welcome,

Henderson-Gitt Family!

Over the summer, our community was joined by Meg Henderson, husband Martin Gitt, and two of their children, Cecilia and Fabian. As a family, they are running Ita Wegman, which is one of three care houses here in Camphill Village. This is no small responsibility, as our care houses are occupied by those community members who are retired from daily work and who require some additional attention.

Thank you, Meg, for telling us all a bit more about your lovely family and how you came to make your home at Camphill Village Copake!

Q: Is this your first Camphill community?

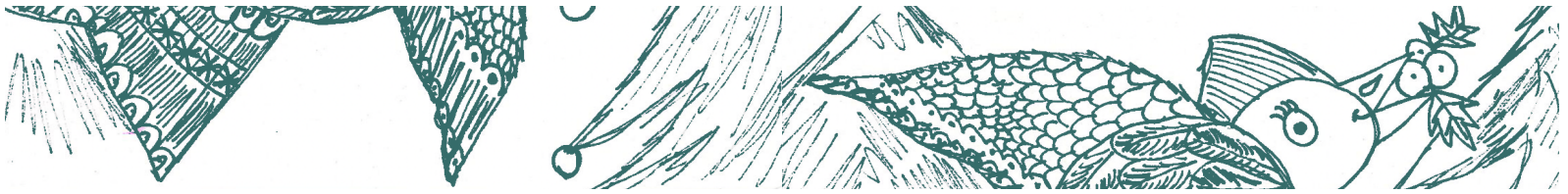
A: Martin and I met in Triform Camphill Community in 1991 as young coworkers and married 10 months later in Denmark. After having our two oldest children (Iona and Magnus) and Martin completed his studies (social pedagogy) while I worked as a high school teacher, we decided to return to Camphill. We had also had a short but wonderful stint in Camphill in South Africa, where I grew up, for six months during one of Martin's practicums and my maternity leave.

We returned to Triform in 1998 and had three more children, Emily, Cecilia (Cici) and Fabian. Camphill allows you to do many different things and Martin was gardener, farmer and day program coordinator as well as co-running a large household with me. I also had many roles including human resources director, development director, teacher, coworker admissions director and president.



Q: Why did you return to the Hudson Valley, specifically to Camphill Village Copake?

A: In 2019 we left Triform looking to be near Martin's family in Denmark. We experienced, as many people did the world over, that the pandemic forced us to reflect on our values and lifestyle. When destiny offered us a chance to explore coming back to Camphill, we listened. And when we heard that Ita Wegman house needed house leaders, we came to visit in May. We were struck by the elders living here and were inspired to learn about this phase of life and to do care work in a larger community like Camphill Village.



Q: What are the ways running a care house is unique compared to other lifesharing households?

A: Running a Care House involves the day to day scheduling and often stepping in to cover the roles of the many wonderful people who support our household. This includes night aides, cleaning support, nursing, cooking and direct care providers. I think about 12 people support Ita Wegman house directly.

Q: Do you find there are benefits to raising your own children among people of many different ages and abilities?

A: Our family has been blessed and enriched by having so many different people to live

with. Our teens and visiting adult children are touched and often amused by the very unique things our housemates say and do. It's still quite different from being with younger adults in Triform and we are still settling in as a family.

Q: Are there any hobbies you and your family enjoy?

A: We have many artists in the family and often our free time involves going to museums and creating artwork, but also just going thrifting in Hudson and going to the Dollar Store! We like to be in Columbia County with all the Camphills and feel very happy to be back in the US.

Welcome, New Co-workers!

We welcome the young people who joined us over the winter, whether to volunteer here in our community or to study with their peers in the classrooms of the Camphill Academy. Thank you for joining us in Copake!

Emma Krasky from the United States

Annie Meharg from the United Kingdom

Giulia Rettel from Germany

Nathalia Rodovahlo Gomes from Brazil

Bonnie Rodriguez from the United States

Wilian Santos Valadao from Brazil

Benjamin Whitten from the United States



Wilian Santos Valadao exits the milk room in the dairy barn after pouring a fresh bucket.

A man wearing a bright neon green beanie and a purple scarf is looking towards a Christmas tree. The tree is in the foreground, and in the background, there is a dark wooden building with a sign that says "BALSAM". The scene is set outdoors in winter, with snow on the roof and bare trees in the distance.

Estate Crew Tree Deliveries

In Camphill Village, we erect and decorate our trees on Christmas Eve and enjoy them through the Holy Nights. Each year the Estate Crew brings conifers from a local tree farm back to the Village and delivers them to our households. It's a fun seasonal tradition in our community, and one of many ways smaller groups come together to make the seasonal festivals special.



Diego Rodriguez loads a snowy tree onto the Village's hay wagon.



Cap Bielenberg, full of excitement, takes stock of the trees before joining the crew on the next run.




Luciana Vila Funes and Tony Bacon carry a tree to the doorstep of Juniper House.



Shady Shafik works to organize trees in order of households receiving them.



Our friend SaraMae Kline helped for the day!



Andrea Baring and Danny Miller examine Orchestra of St. Luke's Violist David Cerutti's viola, which Andrea named Olivia.

A Winter of Music

With the winter season comes more time to practice our instruments and attend cultural events in the Village. Our Bell Ensemble, directed by Monica Talaya, performed two inspiring concerts during the Holy Nights. We also heard from members of the Bard College Conservatory and TÖN Graduate Training Orchestra, who performed a beautiful concert for us—Bach and Dohnányi's Sextet in C Major, Op.37—as part of our Advent festivities! We ended our musical performance season with a very special highlight: musicians from the Orchestra of St. Luke's, joined by Gili Melamed-Lev on piano, performed Latin duos for violin and double-bass, as well as Schubert's Trout Quintet. Cellist Myron Lutzke said that our crowd's reactions were a welcome change, and were more consistent with the emotive audiences of the early 1800s when Schubert wrote the Trout Quintet at the age of 22!



Asha Elhassan attended the concert by members of the Orchestra of St. Luke's, who were joined by Gili Melamed-Lev on piano.



David Wallace plays the Chrotta during the Bell Ensemble's winter concert. Performing beside him are Joan Hill and Sonni Chamberland on recorder, and Magdalena Szewczykowska on Lyre.



Cathy Fleming and Bill McIlroy practice for their big concert during Bell Ensemble rehearsal.



Ben Bruschke and Emma Baiada play the bowed psaltery during their winter Bell Ensemble concert, conducted by Monica Talaya.



A joyful Advent concert performed by members of the Bard College Conservatory and TON training orchestra: Laura Perez-Rangel, violin; Marka Gustavsson, viola; Nathan Francisco, cello; Vikto Tóth, clarinet; Liri Ronen, French horn; Yilin Li, piano. Liri lived in Hickory House with his family until moving on to study the French horn at Bard College.



Krista Bennion Feeney and John Feeney from the Orchestra of St. Luke's perform Latin duos for bass and violin.

Artwork by Zile Sahta



Festivals



Chiaramar Mang and Oliver Dawdy fill loaf pans with batter for our delicious holiday fruit cakes.



Randy Simon tidies up her workspace in the Woodshop.

Yuletide Season

Advent is a special time when we look forward to celebrating the Holy Nights and enjoying each other's company amid the warmth of the season.



Friends gather around the Christmas Tree in the living room of Capella House. Photo by Destiny Saturria.



Finot Selassie takes part in a group drawing event that studied the architectural elements of the Goetheanum. This year marked the 100th anniversary of the New Year's Eve evening that it burned down in Dornach.



Shady Shafik stirs the Three Kings Day land preparation—a mixture of water, frankincense, gold, and myrrh.



Kizuna Shintani and Frances Manley walk home together after an evening of drawing.



Stephen Boothroyd places two ice luminaries made by the farmers in preparation for our celebration.



Laura Meza lights a row of luminaries with a beeswax candle.

Candlemas

Sparkling ice luminaries, choir music, and poetry provided much warmth during our Candlemas Day celebration. Each year, we turn our focus and energy inward during the darker weeks of fall and winter. And we gather on February 2nd to appreciate the increasing light and the meaningful ways we'll apply our energy in the coming seasons.



Ernesto Martinez and Elisabeth Cooper enjoy the gathering.



Finot Selassie and Bill Spillman warm themselves by the fire, prepared by members of the Estate Crew.

*It's no accident that Candlemas, Groundhog Day, and Imbulc (also known as Saint Brigid's Day) all occur on February 2nd. Many who celebrate Candlemas regard the duration of the candlelight to be an indication of the remaining time left in winter. In Germany, hibernating hedgehogs were eventually incorporated into these fun celebrations, and Germans who emigrated to Pennsylvania substituted native groundhogs for hedgehogs.



Randy Simon and Aaron Burstein head home after our Valentine's Day play.



Anne Gordon and Sara Bella Wolff pose together after a nice lunch in the Café.



Tijen Wilson, all dressed in red, and completely in love with Valentine's Day.



A pretty card receives a gold ribbon in the Bookbindery.

Valentine's Day

After a day of all things sweet and lovely, we gathered in Fountain Hall to behold the dramatic and tragic tale of Saint Valentine, who many believe was martyred for conducting marriage ceremonies in Rome in defiance of Emperor Claudius II.



Actors from left to right: Chiaramar Mang, Ernesto Martinez, Finnja Hammer, Ben Brusckke, and Antonio Colarusso.



Sarit Ronen finishes Andrea Baring's glamorous face paint before our gathering in the Hall.



Elizabeth Chalakani stands outside of Fountain Hall, greeting everyone who enters for the party.



Great friends Oliver Dawdy and Ellen Hunt pose together before neighborhood skits begin.



Chiaramar Mang and Myriam Bucher pose in their awesome storybook costumes.



Carnival
Clad in our costumes, we all gathered in Fountain Hall to act out creative skits with our neighborhoods before dancing the night away in true Mardi Gras fashion. A fun celebration to mark the beginning of the Lenten season!

From left to right: Tijen Wilson, Wilian Santos Valadao, Sara Bella Wolff, and Brandon LeMay embrace on stage.



Susie Taube, a sweet fairy godmother, casts a kindly spell.



Grandma Elijah Kent and creative creature Mishka Zuckerman pose on the dance floor.



Tom Miano awaits the right moment to lead our cows out of the Village Coffee Shop.

Upcoming Events



SAVE THE DATE

**CAMPHILL VILLAGE
5K TRAIL & FUN RUN
FOR ALL ABILITIES**

**10 a.m.
SATURDAY, MAY 13**
AT Camphill Village Copake

#Prizes
CamphillVillage5K.org



Register

The Camphill Village **5K Trail & Fun Run for All Abilities** will return on Mother's Day weekend!

Join us at 10 a.m. on **Saturday, May 13th** to participate in the Fun Run option around Ring Road in the Village or the more arduous track through our scenic forests and pastures!



**SIBLINGS DAY
SATURDAY, JUNE 3
10:30 A.M.**

Siblings Day is just around the corner! Family members should join us in the Village on **Saturday, June 3**, ready for our program to begin at 10:30 a.m. as usual. See you then!



**FAMILY DAY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7
10:30 A.M.**

We'll gather again in the fall on **Saturday, October 7** to present updates on Village life. We'll email updates about the program as we get closer to the date. If you're a family member who doesn't receive email communications, but you'd like to, write to: cpizzuti@camphillvillage.org.

Artwork by Ernesto Martinez



Camphill Movement

Turtle Tree Seed's Contributions to a Greater Root System

So many of us know Turtle Tree Seed for growing and selling open-pollinated biodynamic seeds with an amazing crew of many different abilities.

They care for crops throughout the growing season, choose the best examples of the plants for propagation, and spend many

Matthias Poynder-Meares, a Turtle Tree Seed crew member since 2019, says donations are hefty packages every time, whether they're going to an institution that requests them or to an individual in need. Turtle Tree is delighted to feed people while conveying a special message about their biodynamic seeds.

“It makes me feel nice to know that some of our seeds are being sent to places where they're really needed.” - Bill McIlroy

hours preparing the seeds for sale, as well as for growing food in our gardens at Camphill Village. But the seed growers' passions for providing the potential for fresh, wholesome produce extend far beyond these outlets.

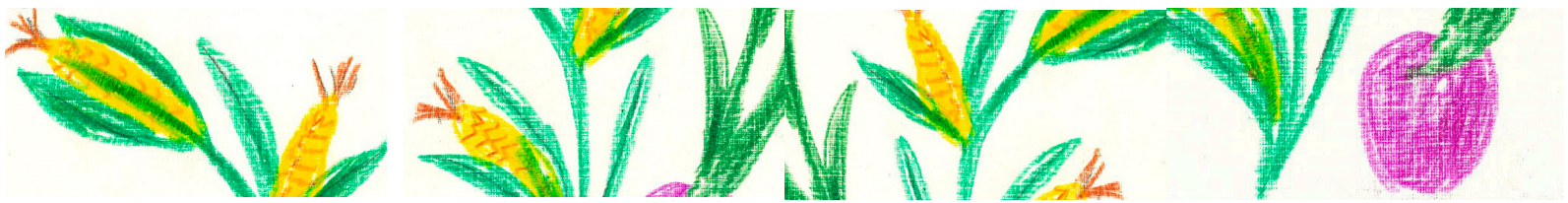
The donations of seed they provide to different institutions and organizations produce fresh food in communities where vegetables are scarce. And in many cases, the seeds they donate create avenues for gardening education among children and adults. The Lower Columbia School Gardens in Washington State recently sent a letter expressing appreciation for a recent donation, and letting Turtle Tree know the ways their donations, among donations from other seeds growers, are impacting the Longview, WA community.

“By our estimation, we were able to share just less than 6,000 lbs of fresh produce directly to hungry community members,” the organization wrote. “Not included in those 6,000 lbs is the hundreds of lbs of produce shared directly with our students during garden programs, in the form of prepared snacks, tasting tables, or sending them home with whatever fresh foods they and their family can use.”

“We are constantly in the process of meeting people and spreading the word, trying to put out a positive message, and introduce people to the reality of open pollinated seed. It's quite a learning experience as well for a lot of people,” Matthias said. “We have people that have never gardened before that reach out to us, especially in these recent times, like ‘all I have is my house and my backyard and what do I do to utilize this lovely space that's just grass?’”



A young student tends to one of several gardens under the care of the Lower Columbia School Gardens in Longview, WA. (Photo courtesy of LCSG)



Many requests are broad, and ask for any seeds that Turtle Tree is able to spare.

“And some are very specific, like this one is from the Rudolf Steiner School in Ann Arbor. They have a school garden there, and they’re looking for popping corn, pole beans, and pie pumpkins,” he said. “And they have a medicinal garden.”

Locally, Turtle Tree recently helped to stock the seed exchange display at the Philmont Public Library. The seed exchange is part of a larger program called Library of Locals, which is a collaboration between Partners for Climate Action in the Hudson Valley and the Mid-Hudson Library System. Philmont was one of five pilot libraries in the program, which now includes 16 participating libraries just a year in. In addition to seeds, participating locations also lend out gardening equipment and tools, AV equipment, books, and other resources to help communities combat the localized impacts of climate change.

Tobi Farley, the Philmont Public Library’s director, described a snowball effect, where Libraries of Local started them out with some seeds, and then Turtle Tree added to the collection. Now there were enough seeds for the library to publicize the seed exchange program, which caused the Agway in Claverack to donate seeds, too.

“I think there were 60 patrons who benefited from the seed exchange, some multiple times,” Tobi said. “And then we had patrons bring in seeds. We had someone donate a whole bin of milkweed pods. And we received a lot of flowers—a lot of zinnias—at the end of the season.”

Bill McIlroy, who has performed many different jobs at Turtle Tree Seed since joining the crew in 2019, says he enjoys his work. There’s variety

in his day, but he also likes the predictability of his week “so that I know exactly what I’m doing and where I’m doing it,” he said.

In addition to the personal benefit Bill experiences working with Turtle Tree, he appreciates the additional good his contribution provides.

“It makes me feel nice to know that some of our seeds are being sent to places where they’re really needed,” he said.



Members of the Turtle Tree Seed crew in a biodynamic corn patch. From left to right: Lia Babitch, Ian Robb, Lissie Wormser, Christopher Duffy, Matthias Poynder-Meares, and Robbie Haynes.

Visit turtletreeseed.org to learn more about the crew and find biodynamic seeds.





Want to introduce
kids to gardening
this year? Try Turtle
Tree Seed's special kids'
collections!

The **Storybook Garden Mini pack** contains five glassines each with seeds of the following varieties: Snow White Cherry Tomato, Ali Baba Watermelon, Cinderella Pumpkin (Musque De Provence), Rapunzel (aka corn salad), and Black Beauty Eggplant.

The **Animal Kingdom Multi-pack** contains five glassines each with seeds of the following varieties: Orca bean, Lucky Tiger cherry tomato, Green Zebra slicing tomato, Purple Foxglove flower, and Golden Gopher melon.

The **Butterfly Garden Seed Pack** is designed to bring in lots of butterflies all season long. It contains one small packet each of their five most butterfly-attracting flowers: State Fair Zinnias, Mauritanian Mallow, Anise Hyssop, Purpletop Vervain, and Nicotiana.

Photo of Ali Baba Watermelon
from turtletreeseed.org





Temperature

It goes up and down without us knowing it.

Until suddenly we might need a sweater or a bathing suit.

I like the cold weather that brings on the winter season.

The heat flashes and cold spells, people can't decide if they enjoy one or the other.

Spring is awesome until it makes me sneeze.

Brooke likes one thing for each season: spring/flowers, summer/family, fall/colors of the leaves, and winter/Christmas snow on the ground and blue sky.

**By Dominic Garofolo, Sarah Krenicki,
Bobby Freed, and Brooke Hogan for
the Poetry Group**

Window star art courtesy of Juniper House.



Marian Scharr relaxes with a knitting project in the Coffee Shop.



Tyler Dornsife fills buckets of fresh stream water for the sheep.



Music instructor Monica Talaya turns the page for Danny Morse during group lyre practice in Kaspar House.



Hunter Avis and Kumar Mal clean herbs together in the Healing Plant Garden studio.



Jeff Mill carries milk cans to the dairy barn.



Gianluca Rettel and Alex Franzak retrieve fresh sourdough loaves from the oven.



Emma Schmidt and Amanda Balducci gather maple sap together.



Ernesto Martinez stacks firewood for sap boiling.



Michael Desmond and Diego Rodriguez prepare sap collection buckets for our sugar maples.



Alexandria Laskaris celebrates her birthday with Bill Spillman in White Oak House.

Calendula flowers growing in
our tea gardens in Copake.

Announcements



The Healing Plant Garden and Harney & Sons Tea Blends are back in stock!

Thanks to all of you who purchased the Harney & Sons and Camphill Village co-branded delicious tea blends with CBD—Zitröne with its caffeine and lemony boost; Vive, sweet and indulgent with hibiscus; and soothing Küss, providing a gentle unwind or a “kiss” goodnight.

Healing Plant Garden tea blends are back in stock and can be purchased directly from **Harney.com** (search for “Camphill Village Collection”). You can also visit **Healingplantgarden.com** to learn more about Camphill Village’s biodynamic and organic gardens that inspired this partnership with master tea blenders, Harney & Sons Fine Teas.

You can also purchase them by selecting “Shop” under “Our Teas” at **Healingplantgarden.com**.



Please help us get the word out about our Tea Blends with a Social Impact:

- Leave reviews for these enchanting tea blends on the Harney & Sons website — **Harney.com**. Once you’re a Harney & Sons certified customer you can leave reviews of these delicious blends that are designed to accompany you through your day;
- Tell your tea-drinking friends and relatives about these Teas with a Social Impact that support the adults with developmental differences who make the Village their home; and
- Simply share **Healingplantgarden.com** with everyone you know.

We also hope you’ll continue to support Harney & Sons Fine Teas, a local, family-run company right down the street in Millerton, NY. We are so grateful for their commitment to supporting Camphill Village and all that they have done to find creative ways to further support Camphill Village Copake’s work.

Nancy O’Leary,
Director of Development



A visit to the Harney & Sons factory in Millerton. From left to right: Harney & Sons Vice President Paul Harney, Camphill community member Jos Smeele, former Camphill Village Board President Gabriella Sperry, Camphill Village Development Director Nancy O’Leary, and Harney & Sons Vice President Mike Harney. Photo courtesy of Nancy O’Leary.

Places We Go

A Keystone State Vacation

We're so glad to be able to travel again. Our vacations provide a change of pace, exposure to new things and exciting experiences. They're also a great way to bond and build new relationships within a small traveling group. We've been all over the world together, including Scotland, Japan, and Iceland, with so many destinations in between.

But we needn't travel so far necessarily when there are so many beautiful things to see here in the northeast. In October, a group from Camphill Village descended upon the Poconos of Pennsylvania for pampered spa treatments, scenic train rides, and popular water parks.

"It was relaxing, and we did a lot of things. I went to two water parks, we went out to lunch, we had dance parties and we went to karaoke," says Cathy Fleming, who works in White Oak House. "I sang Mama Mia with Eileen."



Waiting for an exciting hibachi dinner. From left to right: Tammy Berman, Sarah Bomba, Alexandria Laskaris, Susie Freedman, and Cathy Fleming.

“It’s just a group of friends... We see each other in a different light.”

- Eileen Tau

Eileen Tau, a house leader in White Oak, who also directs our Coworker Development department, was delighted to travel with the group, which comprised Tammy Berman, who also works in White Oak with Cathy; and White Oak House residents Sarah Bomba, Alexandria Laskaris, Susie Freedman, and Myriam Bucher.

"It was really beautiful," said Eileen. "I think that's when Susie and Alexandria got really close. They had been living together in White Oak House since April, and finally when we went away is when they started to connect. I think it's their love for music that triggered that. Both of them love music and both of them love dancing."

Nighttime dance parties in the house were a crowd favorite on the trip. They were the perfect way to conclude days of eating in cool restaurants—including hibachi—and of course, the trips to the Kalahari and Camelback resort indoor water parks.

“It was very nice,” said Eileen. “We took a scenic train ride through the mountains, and we arrived at a place where they had different games, pumpkins, apple cider, and cider doughnuts.”

The comedy of traveling mishaps, sleepy mornings with cold cereal and planning the day ahead are the small vacation details we might tend to overlook. But the casual tone of a vacation with friends can amount to so much more.

“And you know the nice thing about it is, when you’re out there, there’s no house

leader, there’s no coworker, it’s just a group of friends,” said Eileen. “We see each other in a different light.”

The group had a full week of fun in the Poconos before heading home and getting back on track with regular schedules and sleeping in their own beds. And after returning, the group has these special memories and elevated relationships that will keep them close for many years.

“I love Eileen,” Cathy said. “She’s my buddy.”



Tammy Berman, Susie Freedman, Cathy Fleming, Alexandria Laskaris, Sarah Bomba, and Eileen Tau leaving one of the destinations on the scenic train ride.



Our friends went to some great restaurants throughout the week.



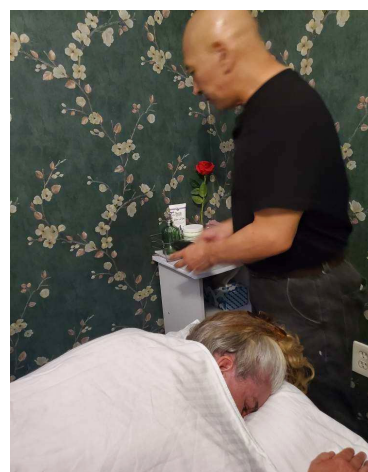
Tammy enjoyed the wet bar at one of the water parks.



Myriam takes a train selfie with Alexandria, Cathy, Eileen, and Tammy.



The water parks were a great escape from the autumn chill.



Cathy enjoying some resort spa treatments.



Meeting the locals at the Kalahari Resort.

Camphill Village Copake

Camphill Village Copake

84 Camp Hill Road

Copake, NY 12516

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Front cover: **Kim Warga**
walks home on a snowy
afternoon.

Back cover: **An ice**
luminary held by **Diego**
Rodriguez captures the
late winter sunset.



Please recycle.