

The Ridgeleaf NOTES

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I remember only one sermon title from all the sermons I have given.

And I remembered it most vividly this spring. It was an Easter sermon titled, "I am on the side of the Daffodils." I was living in West Seneca, NY at the time, a suburb of Buffalo and we had been through one of the longest winters of my life. You get the point. Much like this winter or any winter in our lives when it gets really bad any sign of spring or relief wakes our souls, revives our spirits and calls us to the place where we see hope. Daffodils have always done that for me, when I see their little yellow faces smiling at me. Oh my, what a joy it is!

I finish my two terms, six years, on the Board of Kirkridge this May--four of those as Board chair. Part of me is just smiling. Kirkridge is just blooming all over the place. The spirit is light and the joy is seen everywhere as programs like the Courage work is growing stronger and the School at Kirkridge is taking shape to start in September of 2015. Our hospitality work is drawing more groups and new programs like the wonderful Poetry Festival taking place this September are waking the soul of Kirkridge. The Together It's Possible (TIP) program invites intellectually challenged adults and their families to Kirkridge and has drawn us into the local community where we are now beginning to connect in wonderful ways.

Kirkridge has such a strong history and I am excited to be are part of all that has been and all that is now springing forth. It is said that Kirkridge gets into your bones and draws you back to the mountain even as it sends you out to bring justice, equality and peace into the world. I am particularly drawn these days as I have announced my retirement from my work as CEO of Homeless Solution, Inc. in Morristown, NJ. Jean and the Board have invited me and my spouse, Pam Palumbo, to join the community at Kirkridge this September. As Kirkridge associates, we will be volunteering on some mighty fun projects Jean and the Board are working on.

Kirkridge has such a bright future and I am delighted to be a part of its growing. I really am on the side of the daffodils. They come up to remind me what is happening even when I can't see it.

— Betsey Hall, May 1, 2015



TIP Gets a Loom !

TIP purchased a loom from the funds that it raised selling glass products. The loom is another step in the creation of an arts studio serving the needs of young adults living with differences in the Slate Belt area surrounding Kirkridge.

Thank you to Retiring Board Members:

It takes commitment, time and energy to serve on the Kikridge Governing Board. I want to thank Betsey Hall, Pat Mosunic, Anne Quinn and Kathleen Roney for their service. Each has brought unique gifts and have moved us forward in our mission and vision ! THANK YOU ALL !

Kirkridge needs a van!

Looking for an excuse to let go of your old van and buy a sports car? Kirkridge would give it a great home! Contact Jean Richardson. 610-599-4604. THANKS!



Believing in the birthright gifts and sacredness born of every child, The Governing Board of Kirkridge is pleased to announce *The New School at Kirkridge*.

The School at Kirkridge: A Good Fit

What is the reason that the Kirkridge Board is committed to this school and sees it as a good fit for the Kirkridge Retreat and Study Center and its mission? Our mission states that Kirkridge is a place to be, and to become a people of hope, compassion, justice and service. We believe deeply, as Jean Vanier, humanist, philosopher, theologian and author, says "that in children and young people a light is present. We must listen to children. We must hear what they have to say. They are people in whom that light of God exists. They will never be able to trust themselves unless someone trusts them." We know that all children come into the world with birthright gifts – and that we, the adults in their lives, must create the space, for the children to be, and to become that next generation of hope, compassion, justice, and service. The school is not only a good fit: it is our way of ensuring the sustainability of all that Kirkridge stands for, of creating the world in which we want to live. — Sally Hare (Kirkridge Governing Board, newly elected chair)

Kirkridge to Five Oaks: Pilgrims for Peace and Eco-Justice

Today's pilgrims are on the move, joining spiritual practices to creative action. Centres such as Kirkridge in the U.S., and Five Oaks in Canada, have always been places of nourishment for those who "picket and pray," as long-time Kirkridge participants say - and we support one another. Also supporting the World Council of Churches' Pilgrimage for Justice and Peace theme, and Five Oaks' emphasis on connecting Spirit, Self, One another and Nature, we are planning a 2016 week-long pilgrimage, to begin at Kirkridge Retreat Center on May 9th and end at Five Oaks, located in Paris Ontario, on May 15th. Stay tuned for opportunities to join us for the week, or part of it! — Mardi Tindal (Governing Board Member from Toronto, ON)

Plans For Upcoming Pilgrimage To Turkey! We are hoping to have a pilgrimage to Turkey April 2016. We are presently looking for people who might wish to join this great adventure. Please contact Kathleen Roney at ravenbeads122@hotmail.com or Tillie Chase at magchase49@gmail.com if you are interested.



These students will be joining us in the Fall at The School at Kirkridge ...



In memory of our cook and naturalist, Laura Greenspan

Announcing the Kirkridge Blog:

We are inviting all to participate in the new blog entitled The Voices of Kirkridge. It is our hope that through one another's writings you be engaged with the passions, hopes and visions of one another. In this writing community our dream is that you just might encounter the Holy in your own voice and the voices of others. This is all truly an experiment in formation. True to Kirkridge, all are invited and there are very few rules.

Blog entries should be about 350 words and are to be submitted along with a short bio to Nancy by email please at Nancys@kirkridge.org, as a Microsoft word attachment. Nancy will ready the entries for posting by proofreading each entry. We will send out one blog per week and reserve the right when to post.

