



**KENDAL ON HUDSON  
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2023**

*1010 Kendal Way  
Sleepy Hollow, NY 10591*

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## CHAIR'S REPORT 2023

**Executive Committee:** Chair: Gene (Eugene) DuBow  
Vice Chair: Hildegarde Gray  
Treasurer: Hank (Henry) Schacht  
Secretary: Chris (Christopher) Mitchell

**Members:** Lynn Clague, Jennifer Gardy, Maria Harris, Aubrey Hawes, Bob Kutscher, Jon Masters, Bob Root, Peter Seldin and Hanan Watson. Carol Roussel served as the non-voting Adirondack representative.

The 2023 Council was fortunate to take on the task of governing made easier by the prior set of officers and members who had brought the resident community through the worst of the Covid epidemic.

After getting to know the new 2023 officers, it was obvious that this was an exceedingly competent and gifted group. The Chair saw his most effective role was to set the tone for the officers and committee chairs to carry out their various responsibilities and not to meddle if possible. The Chair, at several open (formal) meetings, stressed the need for residents to have “trust and patience” in dealing with both the resident and management teams.

During the year, two major issues emerged that took much of the time and energy of the resident officer group. In January, at a meeting with the Council Executive Committee CEO Pamela Klapproth acknowledged a great deal of concern about what she saw as a lack of appreciation by the residents of her professional efforts. In February, she resigned her post. The Board of Directors Chair wisely recruited Steve Fishler, a former interim CEO, to return to KoH, thereby not allowing for any “dead time” between the two long-term administrations.

Though Mr. Fishler was well-known to many at Kendal because of his former interim term, he and the residents were confronted by the Refresh plan for major construction at KoH. The planning process for all involved a promise that the residents would have many opportunities to comment on the Refresh plan, which was shown by the architects for review.

Needless to say, there were many criticisms and heated discussions about the proposal. The Executive Committee was successful in having a broader number of residents appointed to the various groups, providing input for the Board and the planners. The process was ongoing throughout the year and was still active as 2023 came to an end.

Steve Fishler remained as Interim CEO into the summer but then left to return home to North Carolina. The Board then appointed Jean Eccleston, KoH's CFO, as the new interim director, letting it be known that the search for a permanent CEO would continue. They did so during the summer and fall and, in the end, made the wise and popular decision that Jean was their choice for the permanent position. The announcement made at an open residents' meeting drew great applause and even cheers. During both the interim and permanent periods, Jean did a truly excellent job and kept KoH on an even keel.

When 2023 got underway, it was clear that several internal issues other than the executive search and Refresh had to be confronted. To deal with a lack of communication with the community, the Chair undertook to write a regular information letter (*A Note from Gene DuBow*) prior to each open meeting, noting the issues that would be discussed.

The outward communication proved to be helpful but did not deal with the problem of upward communication from the residents to the leaders. However, a focus on the strengthening of the committee structure helped as it became clearer that the Council was interested in all levels of resident activity and feedback.

The Chair had made it known early on that the Kendal committee system was the difference between a Quaker values Kendal and just being "an old age home." Vice Chair Hildegard Gray "took the bit in her teeth" (an old Kentucky saying) and formed a Leadership Circle of committee chairs to help them in their leadership roles. A budgeting system devised with the assistance of Bob Root for the first time made financial management a stable and permanent part of committee leadership. In addition, Hildegard worked on a statement outlining how complaints can be handled when help is needed at a higher level.

During the year, some of the long-term residents felt that the bylaws of KoH were not being adhered to, particularly as to the frequency and structure of the open (formal) meetings of the Residents' Council. It appeared to the Chair that there were just too many meetings, some of them on top of one another. Notes and even a legal-like document were received. It became obvious that the matter had to be dealt with. Secretary Chris Mitchell on his own, with assistance from Bob Kutscher, handled it in a prime diplomatic fashion, brought the Council into line, established an accepted set of dates, and put the subject to rest.

The finances and fund raising by the Residents' Association are more complicated than one might expect. The fact that the Board of Directors has its own system, which is separate from that of the RA, and that the collection of voluntary funds for each is not coordinated makes for some confusion. The RC is very thankful that its former Chair, Hank Schacht, was willing to take on the responsibility of being the Treasurer. His experience both in business and as the former Chair of the Council was exceedingly helpful. It should also be noted that without his advice and counsel the Chair could not have served as well as he did.

The subject arose of how much the Council should recommend to residents as their appropriate contribution to the Staff Appreciation Fund and the February Annual Fund. The current recommendation per resident has been in effect for several years. A rise was discussed by the Council. The decision was made not to make any changes before the new year.

On the subject of funds, Bob Kutscher, a long-term Wall Streeter, served as the Chair of the Investment Committee, which helped the RA investments survive the ups and downs of the stock market.

During the early part of the year, Marian Dunn, with some help from Ellen Ottstadt, started both monthly birthday celebrations, adding them to the twice-weekly Sip & Snack pre-dinner social gatherings. In an attempt to increase the number of social gatherings, a Bingo night was planned and announced. Quite a few residents thought that Bingo was not a socially acceptable gathering for KoH. There were some ill feelings about it, but it was held and then, at least for the time being, receded into KoH history. Other game nights are being held to the delight of those who like to participate in them.

Both the Chair & Vice Chair participated in three brief orientation seminars for new residents. Perhaps more important to draw residents (new & old) into committee work and participation, the Welcoming Committee, with the leadership of Iris Sampliner held a successful Sunday

afternoon session for committee signups. With the cooperation of many of the committee chairs, residents got a chance to hear what the committees were doing and meet the leaders.

The long-dormant Advocacy Committee, with its new Chair, Jon Masters, undertook to hold meetings on the issues that KoH should be involved in and made connections to important local politicians and leaders. It was an important step forward.

In October, the Chair announced that he would step down from his position at the end of the year. Therefore, in accordance with the bylaws, Hank Schacht was appointed as Chair, and Jennifer Gardy and Maria Harris as members of the Nominating Committee to recommend new officers for the 2024 Residents' Council. Their recommendations and final approval of new officers will be made on January 8<sup>th</sup> at the first Council meeting of the new year.

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **ASSOCIATION BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**Chair:** Bob Root  
**Member:** Hank Schacht, ex officio

**Purpose/Scope:** The Bylaws of the Association require that upon receipt of budget requests from Chairs of each of the Activity Committees, the Association Budget Committee prepare an annual budget to be approved by Residents Council. The Association Budget Committee, along with the Treasurer, monitors expenditures by each Activity Committee to assure that funds are spent in accordance with the budget.

In 2023, several changes were introduced having to do with the Association Budget Committee.

1. The KoH Controller began to maintain records of expenditures and revenues, and provided quarterly reports to the treasurers of each of the Activity Committees. These records, retained by the Controller, will be available for future audits as required.
2. As in previous years, the 2023 proposed budget was funded through the February Annual Appeal, revenues from Committees, and a draw from investment income. Special attention was given to conserving a modest draw (4% range) from the investment funds of the Residents Association.
3. 2023 marked the first time that a new Resident Council term began in January so as to coincide with the calendar year. The 2023 Budget was submitted and approved by Resident Council on March 13, 2023. This discontinuity between beginning of term and approval of budget was addressed by requiring Chairs to submit proposals for 2024 budgets by December 2023, and preparing the 2024 budget to be submitted to Residents Council for approval at their first meeting in January 2024.

### **BUDGET ADVISORY TO KoH COMMITTEE**

**Chair:** Hank Schacht (Treasurer)

**Members:** Jon Masters (Vice Chair), Bob Root (Chair Residents Association Budget Committee), Janet Schloat, Tom Wolzien.

**Ex-Officio:** Hildegarde Gray (Vice Chair Residents Association), Bob Kutscher (Chair Residents Association Investment Committee), John Sorice (Resident Member of Kendal on Hudson Board & Member of the Kendal on Hudson Finance and Audit Committee).

**Purpose/Scope:** The members of the Committee shall engage in quarterly discussions with the Kendal on Hudson Executive Director and/or the Chief Financial Officer (or their Budget Director) regarding Kendal on Hudson's finances and may suggest modifications and/or additions to the Capital and Operating Budgets.

**2022 Activities:** The Committee met five times with the Chief Financial Officer/Budget Director throughout 2023. The Committee received reports on both the 2023 financial performance and the proposed 2024 budget and made suggestions and comments on both. Topics covered included: 2023 variances to date, status of inflation pressures on KoH, projections of 2023 year-end results, assumptions for the 2024 budget (particularly on inflation conjectures), the Monthly Fee increase, capital budget expectations and priorities, and cash flow issues. In addition the Committee advised on the format for the Annual Report to the resident body.

## CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

**Chair:** Hanan Watson

**Members:** Margaret Aspinwall, Jennifer Gardy, Roberta Waddell, Mary Alice Walker.

The Residents Consultation Committee is a standing committee, the existence of which is set out in the Kendal on Hudson Residents Association Bylaws.

Quoting the Bylaws:

*The Residents Consultation Committee shall be responsible for receiving and handling in a timely manner recommendations, proposals and expressions of concern from members of the Association who might not wish to express these publicly and for resolving these appropriately. Issues that the Residents Consultation Committee considers of general relevance to the community should be brought to the Council for discussion and disposition, preserving appropriate confidentiality.*

During 2023, we handled a total of 12 cases, ranging from issues affecting individual residents (4 cases) to matters of concern that applied to a small group of residents (2 cases) as well as to the whole community (6 cases).

The Residents Consultation Committee and the Residents Council agreed that there was a need to clarify the "issue resolution process." A small committee formed by the Council, with input from the Consultation Committee, created a document to explain the process for

residents, members of the Council, and the Administration. Hildegard Gray, Vice Chair of the Council, led the effort to produce a living document that will be reviewed and modified as needed over coming years.

## ELECTION COMMITTEE

**Chair:** Janet Schloat

**Members:** Fran Kelly (Co-chair), Annette Leyden, Harry Bloomfeld, Valerie Wallace, Joe Bruno, Deb Wood (Secretary)

**Purpose:** The Election Committee manages the recruitment and election of candidates running for the six open seats or the seven open seats on the Residents Council in that year. The Committee ensures that a fair election and fair count of ballots is held each year.

**Activities in 2023:** To prepare for the 2023 Election, the Committee met on June 15 to review our purposes and role. We welcomed Harry Bloomfeld who replaced Dennis Mallach, a long-time Committee member, to whom we owe many thanks. In 2023, there were 6 seats open for election with 5 current Council members eligible to run for a second term. The Committee's goal was to recruit 10-12 candidates. Committee members began active recruitment in June and July.

In 2023, 10 candidates, including 3 incumbents, filed Intent to Run forms. Their biographical information was distributed to residents in mid-September. Before the Election one candidate withdrew, leaving 9 candidates running for 6 seats. Throughout the entire Election process, timely notices and reminders were placed in *Spotlight* and periodic reports were given to the Residents Council.

Late in the year, a beloved member of the Committee, Susan Lichten, died. Valerie Wallace agreed to step in at our busiest time of the year and is now a member of the Committee.

In preparation for Election Week, a large poster with photographs of the candidates was displayed on Main Street. Candidates' Night was held in the Gathering Room on Monday, October 30 with Janet Schloat as moderator. Each candidate was given up to 4 minutes to speak, monitored by Joe Bruno as timekeeper. The program was broadcast live on Channel 970 and replayed during the week.

On November 1 and 2 voting took place in the Residents' Lounge from 5-7 PM. Ballots were counted on November 3, after which the results were shared with the CEO of Kendal on Hudson and the Chair of the Residents Council. The names of those elected were announced via bulletin board posters and on the large candidates' poster on Main Street. Newly elected members are Llyn Clague, Muriel Fox, Jon Masters, Jeff O'Donnell, Roberta Poupon, and Carlisle Spivey.

The Committee completed its 2023 work with a meeting on November 16, at which the Election process was reviewed and critiqued. The Chair of the Committee will maintain the voting results and ballots for one year. The Chair of the Council will also keep the vote count for one year. Those newly elected will take their seats in January 2024, at the first regular meeting of the Residents Council in the new year.

## FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE – ANNUAL APPEAL

**Chair:** Bob Root

**Members:** Suzanne Adel, Marian Dunn, Maria Harris

**Purpose/Scope:** The Annual Appeal Fundraising Committee will solicit funds from the residents to support the activities of the Council, Standing Committees, and the various Activity Committees. A portion of the funds raised to support the activities of the Council and Activity Committees is also reserved for charitable giving to the neighboring community in accordance with Kendal values and practices.

As in previous years, the Appeal ran through the month of February. The Appeal was broadly publicized with notices in *Spotlight*, residents' website, notices in cubbies, and announcements at meetings of Residents Council. Two weeks into the Appeal, committee members followed up with calls to those who had not yet made their donation.

By the end of the month 245 individuals had sent their checks - over 86% of Independent Living Residents. This strong response plus that from several very generous donors, yielded the most ever collected in support of the Residents Association budget. It was a strong show of support for the 29 activity committees and evidence of an emergence from the restrictions and limitations of Covid.

## FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE – STAFF APPRECIATION FUND

**Chair:** Maria Harris

**Members:** Jacky Cummings, Jane Hart, Stella Pence, Ann Marie & Richard Schneeman

Since the regulations at Kendal require strictly no tipping, twice a year the residents reward Kendal's employees through two Staff Appreciation Fund appeals. Proceeds are divided among the staff by a formula based on the number of hours worked during the preceding six months.

The suggested contribution in 2023 continued per individual resident and for couples. During the spring and fall appeals in 2023, over 95 percent of residents donated. A few contributions came with notes and cards noting the importance of staff to residents at Kendal. Some of the residents gave more than the suggested amount, showing their eagerness to support the staff, and many residents showed their appreciation by writing emails to the Human Resources Department. All contributions add to a feeling of a community that is rooted in Quaker Values.

During the 13-month period beginning December 2022 and ending in December 2023, the staff shared from the spring appeal and from the fall appeal. (Both distributions included limited sums from the Residents Council reserve.)

We are deeply indebted to Kendal's Financial Department, specifically Olga Linetski and her staff, for identifying eligible staff and calculating the number of hours worked. A special shoutout to Cynthia Ferguson, Resident Council's Assistant Treasurer, for picking up the



checks, keeping track of the contributions, making out the deposit sheets, transferring the checks and deposit forms to Olga, as well as keeping us informed.

A celebratory gathering for each appeal is held on the day checks are distributed. The Staff Appreciation Fund is a meaningful way to assure staff members know how much they are truly appreciated by Kendal residents.

**Significant Decision and Plan for 2024:**

Since the suggested contribution has not been changed since 2005, the Resident Council will address the issue in 2024 to determine whether an adjustment in contribution is warranted.

## **INVESTMENT COMMITTEE**

**Chair:** Bob Kutscher

**Members:** Hank Schacht, Tom Wolzien, Peter Roggemann, Majorie Gilbert, William Bahary, Bob Root

**Investment Results 2023:** All the activity during the period fell within the Investment Policy and Guidelines established for the KoH Residents Investment Fund.

**Purpose/ Scope:** The Investment Committee invests the Residents Association funds that are not required for current operations as determined by the Treasurer. The Investment Committee has the authority to select and make investments in accordance with the Investment Policy and Guidelines approved by the Council. The Committee establishes the policy guidelines and risk/return parameters that in its judgment will provide the optimal return for the fund and still allow it to meet the annual cash requirements arising out of the Residents Association annual budgets. The Investment Manager selects the individual investments, manages the day-to-day activity in the portfolio and generates a variety of reports allowing the Investment Committee to monitor and assess the Fund's performance constantly.

**Current Status:** 2023 marks the first full year implementing the Fund's current strategy of investing 50% of its balance in equity securities and 50% in fixed income securities. It is also the first full year using Haverford Trust as our Investment Manager. Although it is early days, at this point the Committee feels the 50-50 mix of securities in the account continues to be a strategy that appropriately balances the liquidity requirements necessary to support the Residents Association's short term cash needs and allows the Fund grow at a pace to enhance significantly its contribution to any future activities the Association may undertake.

**Conclusion:** Given the current budget discipline exercised by the Residents Association and the existing investment opportunities available to it, the Investment Committee feels the Fund is in a good position to fulfill its current goals.

## LOCAL CHARITIES COMMITTEE

**Chairperson:** Barbara Bruno

**Members:** Harriet Barnett, Marilyn Bottjer, Sally Kellock, Nancy Schacht, Teddy Pulerwitz

**Mission:** To recommend to the Residents Council worthy tax-exempt organizations serving the residents of Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow and nearby, and allocating to each a portion of funds raised through the Council's Annual Appeal.

Barbara Bruno took over as chairperson this past spring, with much guidance from Harriet Barnett. The committee reached out to worthy tax-exempt local charities and invited them to submit a proposal for a specific project with which we could help financially. The groups are roughly divided into two categories: those that serve us directly, and those that serve other residents of the Sleepy Hollow/Tarrytown area. As you may know, Sleepy Hollow is a very diverse community with many of its citizens needing financial and other help.

We met first to decide which organizations we would approach, based on their missions and eligibility and sent letters in January inviting them to submit proposals. Responses were received from 14 organizations. Their projects were all worthwhile. The committee met and decided which projects we would support. Speakers from three of the organizations came to the Gathering Room to talk about their organizations and projects.

In 2023, the Council gave us an amount from the Annual Appeal to divide among the chosen charities. We thank our residents for their contributions since the more they give, the more we can share with our Sleepy Hollow/Tarrytown community. The recipient organizations greatly appreciate our generosity and hold Kendal on Hudson in high regard.

The recipients are now in the process of reporting back on how the grants were actually used. Once these reports are received, the Committee will meet again to read the reports and select those organizations to whom we plan to send an invitation to submit a proposal for 2024. The invitations will be sent out. We will meet once again as a Committee to determine the amounts for each organization when we have received the proposals, and when the Council has decided the total amount it will give us for the year 2024.

The 14 organizations and the projects selected for 2023 and the amounts were as follows:

**Community Food Pantry of Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown**

Helped feed nearly 1,500 neighbors, mostly Hispanic immigrants, and including 21 homebound seniors monthly.

**Foundation for the Public Schools of the Tarrytowns**

Funded "The Spooky School Project" created by third and fifth graders at Washington Irving Intermediate School, performed for the entire school, to promote educational equity.

**Gullotta House, Inc.**

Provided food vouchers, gas cards, and clothing to those in immediate need, and provided more than 3,000 hot meals to seniors and residents one Thursday a month in front of Morse School.

**The Historical Society**

Continued high-resolution digitizing of images on several external hard drives, one set kept at the Society and one set kept offsite.

**Kids' Club of Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow, Inc.**

Funding for Community Food Pantry of Sleepy Hollow & Tarrytown and TaSH Food Market, especially for children from birth through age 18.

**Natural Heritage Trust (Rockefeller State Parks)**

Archival-grade herbarium cabinet for species found in the parks.

**The Neighborhood House**

Fitness programming at no cost for seniors.

**Open Door Family Medical Centers**

Prepared "Baby Bundles" with necessities for newborns, as well as information and resources for each family.

**Rivertowns Village Green (TaSH Farmers Market)**

Funded community programs including music, children's activities, Pollinator Program.

**RSHM Life Center**

Funded Learning Labs program, especially for low-income immigrant children from kindergarten through fifth grade.

**Sleepy Hollow Recreation**

Halloween activities, including Truck or Treat.

**Sleepy Hollow Volunteer Ambulance Corps**

Community outreach through public education, including not fearing calling 911.

**Sleepy Hollow Fire Department**

Replacing fire boat, plus Witches Paddle, triathlon, and polar plunge

**Unified School District of the Tarrytowns**

Dual language early literacy program for families with young children, organized by the *Asociación de Familias Hispánicas de los Tarrytowns* (Association of Hispanic Families in the Tarrytowns): supplies and field trip transportation.

(There were no requests this year from Warner Library or Sleepy Hollow PBA.)

## **RESIDENTS ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **ADVOCACY COMMITTEE**

**Chair:** Jon Masters

**Vice Chair:** Bob Root

**Members:** Harriet Barnett, Llyn Clague, Muriel Fox, Ed Hanin, Fran Kelly, Annette Leyden, Nick Robinson.

**Mission:** The Advocacy Committee (sometimes called the Government Relations Committee) promotes the goals of Kendal on Hudson through ongoing communication and relationship-building with federal, state, county and local government officials, including sponsoring talks by them to the residents. The Committee also acts as a repository of information and guidance for those residents who are otherwise engaging with such officials.

**Membership:** Since the Advocacy Committee has been dormant for the past few years, our first challenge was to recruit members with knowledge of Kendal and experience in dealing with government officials. Hopefully those residents with similar knowledge and experience will join the committee or otherwise volunteer their connections.

**Activities:** The Committee's focus is on building relationships with political leaders so that we can have a voice on issues that directly impact Kendal on Hudson such as those that affect its programs or financial health. Otherwise, as a not-for-profit, Kendal is not allowed to be involved in partisan politics, though the residents can be as long as they do not claim to represent Kendal.

After getting input from various members of the Administration, we decided to follow their lead in taking positions on regulatory issues. We also started developing relationships with organizations already advocating on such issues such as Leading Age, AARP, and other continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs) in NY State.

Next, we began to develop relationships with political leaders and regulators.

We have sponsored or co-sponsored talks by the Westchester County Executive, our New York Assembly representative, and the newly elected Mayor of Sleepy Hollow.

We are also using our contacts to develop relationships with others and are asking them also to address all residents. Specifically, we are reaching out to Chuck Schumer, our U.S. Senator; Mike Lawler, our Congressman; Andrea Stewart Cousins, our State Senator and leader of the NY State Senate; Mark Furnish, Chairman of the NY State Council on CCRCs; and Amy Paulin, Chair of the NY State Assembly's Health Committee.

With Ed Hanin and Nick Robinson in the lead, we developed a colorful handout to be used as an introduction or as a "leave behind" when visiting politicians and regulators.

## **ARCHIVES COMMITTEE**

**Chair:** Edward Kasinec

**Members:** Gretchen Engler, Fran Kelly, Nicholas Robinson

**Advisor:** Peter Roggemann

Founded in 2005, the mission of the KoH Residents Archives Committee is to collect, preserve and make accessible documents and other materials concerning the founding, history, ongoing resident activities, and resident biographies of Kendal on Hudson.

In September 2022, the Residents Council approved our becoming a full Corporate Patron of the Westchester County Historical Society (WCHS). To date, ten boxes of Kendal founding/historical documents and a large map cabinet of KOH architectural drawings have been transferred to WCHS where they are properly stored and available in the Reading Room to qualified researchers.

File cabinets formerly housed in the Hudson Room are now located in the Residents Office. They contain residents' biographical files along with materials from the Association committees and copies of all issues of *Spotlight* and the *Kendal View*.

Activities during 2023 included the preparation of a binder notebook, housed in the KoH Library, containing copies of all published *Residents Association Annual Reports*, along with a summary of major KoH historical highlights.

Several committee discussions have taken place regarding commemorating Kendal on Hudson's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary (May, 2025).

## ART

**Chair and vice-chair:** Carolyn Reiss, Dianne Schlair  
**Secretary:** Gerry Mahoney  
**Treasurer:** Emil Bahary  
**Curators:** Peter Sibley (lead), Birgitta Hockstader  
**Education Coordinator:** Lynn Brady (lead)  
**Mentors:** Peter Sibley (lead), Jane Hart  
**Legacy Member:** Ann Lasusa

**Members at Large:** Marylou Alpert, Emil Bahary, Judy Baker, Sheila Benedis, Virginia Bender, Harry Bloomfeld, Marianne Bloomfeld, Marilyn Bottjer, Lynn Brady, Barbara Bruno, Jo Cameron, Cathie Campbell, Mona Dukess, Marian Dunn, Gretchen Engler, Nancy Frieden, Barbara Gochman, Hildegard Gray, Ann Holloway, Priscilla Holmgren, Maggie Limburg, Jerry Litner, Geraldine Mahoney, Linda Mahoney, Jon Masters, Sondra Miller, Dianne Morris, Betty Morefield, Haruko Ogasawara, Caroline Persell, Marge Phillips, Sarah Plimpton, Shelley Robinson, Bobbie Roggemann, Ann Marie Schneeman, Richard Schneeman, Bix Smethurst, Martin Smolin, Jody Spellun, Carlisle Spivey, Meera Srinivasan, Catherine Trapasso, Mariet Van Der Heide, Britt Vecchiotti, Florence Walker, Jackie Wilke

**Mission:** The Art Committee's mission is to facilitate and inspire creative expression for personal enjoyment and community enrichment.

**Finances:** Expenses are incurred for the show reception, outside instructors and supplies for classes and beginners. The revenue comes from the sale of note cards produced by Art Committee members, fees collected for workshops given by outside teachers, and rental shelves to store art works and personal art supplies. Expenses were supplemented by the Residents Association.

2023 was a transitional year, with shifting leadership. With the assistance of Hildegard Gray, the Art Committee re-started with a new Chair and some new officers, introduced with an initial Advisory Art Committee planning meeting on November 8.

**Activities:** We use a well-equipped Art Studio, open 24/7. We held a resident art exhibition earlier this year, with another in planning for January. Classes are taught by residents and outside teachers. Our Saturday Open Studio has offered an opportunity to work with others and with a resident mentor. Art Talk, a show-and-tell for those seeking constructive feedback,

was held several times. An informal drop-in Art Salon is offered for those resident artists who wish to work together without an advisor.

**Accomplishments in 2023:**

- Art Show: The theme was “Legacy” honoring the artist residents who founded the art program at Kendal on Hudson. 43 artists were represented, and 83 works were displayed; others participated in curating, signage, and installation. A Winter show is planned for January.
- Watercolor/mixed media class offered by outside artist Paul Jeffries (6 sessions)
- Figure Drawing class offered by outside artist Erin Carney with live models (4 sessions)
- Resident-run instruction included: pottery workshops (3 multi-session workshops), beading workshops (2), collage workshops (3 multi-session classes), finger painting with oil (1)
- Art room cleanup/inventory event

In 2024, the Art Committee is looking forward to another productive year of workshops, art shows and other events related to art, with a new slate of officers and new ideas. We hope to attract more people interested in creating art as well as new people who will help with the running of our programs.

## **AUDIO-VISUAL COMMITTEE**

**Chair:** Arthur Brady

**Co-Chair:** Marcia Sprules

**Members:** Joe Bruno, Sheila Darnborough, Fran Kelly, Bob Kutscher, Jack Miller, Eugene DuBow, Jeffrey O’Donnell

**Mission:** To provide and maintain the operation of Audio-Visual equipment in support of the Resident Activities Committees, primarily in the Gathering Room, although not limited to such. Normally a trained member of the committee is present at each event and assists by setting up and operating the A-V equipment.

Before the pandemic shut-down, the A-V Committee assisted a number of other Kendal committees, including: Education, which sponsors weekly lectures and classes as well as the Great Decisions and National Topics discussions; Loss, which assists families with memorials; Social Events, which sponsors the Fourth of July and New Year’s Eve Programs.

The A-V Committee works with the Channel 970 Committee during these events. Most events are recorded on one of the two Sony video cameras. Videographers include Sheila Darnborough, Eugene DuBow, Jack Miller, and Bob Kutscher. The videos are then copied to DVDs and are telecast on Channel 970. We look forward to welcoming additional resident volunteers to assist us in our mission.

A “new” ceiling camera was installed in the Gathering Room during Project Renew. It is operated by a dedicated iPad, which is stored in the 970 room. Eventually, this camera may replace the Sony video cameras which currently record events in the Gathering Room. This new video technology is not only for the Gathering Room but also for the PDR and for the

Clearwater Dining Room. Our total AV system needs to be updated. One problem was solved in 2023 when a new projection screen was installed in the Gathering Room.

Another problem with our A-V equipment is the projector. The projector bulb blows out at least once a year. This usually happens during a program. We have no spare bulbs; nobody here seems to know how to replace the bulb. A newer projector can tell us before a bulb is about to blow out.

Both Kendal's administration and activity committees rely heavily on the A-V system in the Gathering Room. We hope that it can continue to function properly to meet all our needs.

## **BELL RINGERS**

**Co-chairs:** Cynthia Ferguson and Deb Wood

**Ringers:** Susan Bahary, Jane Beers, Virginia Bender, Rita Benzer, Barbara Bettigole, Dot Bone, Alice Clague, Cynthia Ferguson, Keiko Hirano, Liz Laite, Sharry Lukach, Peggy Pennell, Shelley Robinson, Jody Spellun, Deb Wood

**Director:** Eiko Cornelius

**Mission:** To provide an opportunity for amateur ringers to play hand bells, using a variety of techniques and to enjoy making music in this unique way. We provide two regular recitals for the community, one in December and one in May.

Eiko Cornelius, our conductor, is introducing us to new techniques that vary the sounds of the bells as well as to new music. We meet weekly on Wednesdays at 11 AM from mid-September to early June. One member, Dot Bone, has retired; and one member, Peggy Pennell, has passed away. Both longtime members are greatly missed.

We have three new members this year, two of whom joined us at the activities fair in October. When new members come, Eiko goes over the music and the procedure on handling and ringing the bells. As they start, she actually stands right next to them to assist. We encourage all to come and listen to a rehearsal and, of course, to join us in ringing!

## **COMMON AREAS FURNISHINGS AND ART (CAFA)**

**Chair:** Marilyn Bottjer

**Secretary:** Marianne Bloomfeld

**Treasurer:** Barbara Bettigole

**Other members:** Barbara Gochman, Lynn Brady, Maggie Limburg, Geraldine Mahoney, Dianne Morris. Adjunct members: Robert Kutscher, Harry Bloomfeld

**Mission:** The CAFA Committee's mission is to help provide as welcoming, attractive, interesting and comfortable surroundings as possible in our many shared-use spaces. To this end, we place resident-donated or loaned pictures, furniture and decorative accessories, as well as art bought with funds from the Residents Association, in lobbies, corridors, and

functional rooms throughout the four buildings, including Adirondack, Clearwater and Sunnyside. The committee meets on the third Thursday of the month at 4PM in the Residents Association Office on C level in Mary Powell. All residents are welcome to attend.

During 2023 the committee, with the help of the adjunct members (residents who are able to do the physical work of hanging pictures but don't want to be on a committee) hung approximately 100 pieces which had been loaned or donated by residents or families of deceased residents. About 30 pieces which were considered no longer appropriate because of condition of the art or the frame were removed from the walls and put on the Give and Take table. The CAFA storage closet in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Clermont was cleaned out because it was an Electric Closet and was needed for that purpose. Remaining art from there was moved to a new, more spacious closet on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of Robert Fulton. This will also provide space for storing art which may be taken down during the upcoming Project Refresh. Our most ambitious accomplishment was the enlargement to 3ft X 5ft of two photographs of the Hudson River taken by Art Brady which were mounted and hung on the new wall which enclosed the Private Dining Room. We are grateful to the Residents Council for providing the funds to accomplish this and also funding for framing unframed art gifts from residents.

## CHORALE

**Chair:** Bob Singleton

**Members:** Sylvia Hawes, Norman Sissman, Jody Spellun, Deb Wood

**Singers:** Jane Beers, Ginny Bender, Dot Bone, Barbara Doss, Marian Dunn, Naomi Gross, Sylvia Hawes, Priscilla Holmgren, Keiko Hirano, Barbara Kornfield, Liz Laite, Bonnie Nelson, Rema Sessler, Marcy Shover, Jody Spellun, Hanan Watson, Sofia Wentz, Deb Wood; Mike Kornfield, Art Lukach, Charlie Persell, Nick Robinson, Bob Singleton, Norman Sissman, Don Stever

**Director:** Nell Macdonald

**Mission:** The mission of the Kendal Chorale is to make the joy of choral music available to everyone, and thus to enrich the life of the community.

There are two opportunities for Kendalites who like to sing: first, a traditional chorus for those who can read music, carry a tune, and attend weekly rehearsals to prepare for the semi-annual concerts; and second, the Sing-alongs, for anyone who wishes to sing in a more informal way. Because of Sue Anderson's unavailability for medical reasons, in 2023 we had only one Summer Sing-along – in August, led by Deb Wood on her guitar. We expect, in 2024, to restore the June and July Sing-alongs, probably with Sue Anderson at the piano in the Residents Lounge.

We are rehearsing – no longer with masks – for our next concert on Monday, February 19, 2024. We traditionally give two concerts a year. Our two concerts in 2023 were performed to full houses on February 27 and June 23. Why do we singers and our audiences enjoy these concerts so much? A large part of our success is the program of musical selections, chosen



by our director Nell. We are always very curious to see our new music when we begin rehearsals in the fall, and Nell does not disappoint: at first we are puzzled by the variety and diversity of the music, but as we learn the music, sometimes bit by bit, we are delighted. There is diversity in the style, the languages, and the familiarity of the music. Nell is familiar with a great variety of choral music, from Broadway to opera to religious, and she is effective in mixing these varieties. Rehearsals are challenging, but fun.

Our efforts after every concert to invite new members to join us are generally quite successful. We are happy to have four new members – Ginny Bender, Mike and Barbara Kornfield, and Bonnie Nelson – and we will strive for more.

## COMPUTER COMMITTEE

**Chair:** Joe Bruno

**Members:** Stan Amberg, Amelia Augustus, Emil Bahary, Ginny Bender, Arthur Brady, Laura Burkhardt, Sheila Darnborough, Eugene DuBow, Cynthia Ferguson, Hildegard Gray, Aubrey Hawes, Lillian Hess, Jeff O'Donnell, Peggy Pennell (d. June 26, 2023), Caroline Persell, Roberta Poupon, Ann Marie Schneeman, Frances Slote, Carlisle Spivey, Marcia Sprules, Catherine Trapasso, Tom Wolzien.

**Mission:** The Computer Committee has been in operation since the opening of Kendal in 2005. Its mission is to help residents solve their issues with information technologies or start on the road to digital literacy, with workshops and one-to-one coaching.

### Activities for 2023:

- Continued to offer digital assistance to residents, primarily when Anthony Bradford is not working, does not have the time, or cannot fix the issue
- Continued workshops for residents. We held one workshop on September 15 on updating iPhones
- Participated in the Activities Fair on October 15
- Maintained the resident computers and printers at KoH. The Mac no longer gets any updates, and the PC is getting slow. However, because of the uncertainty about the Computer Room in the current Project Refresh planning, no new equipment has been ordered
- Recycling print cartridges: Peggy Pennell previously did this; other members do not know where she sent them. Since her passing in June, this activity is on pause while we search for a facility to accept the cartridges
- Continued to wipe old hard drives and recycle old computers to non-profits or staff
- Supported those working on the Resident Website
- Supported the Website and Channel 970 committees
- Zoom neighbors: The Zoom neighbors program has had no calls this year, but the group leaves the list on the residents website, just in case

- In response to a request from the Residents' Council, members agreed that Stan Amberg will be vice-chair and that the chair will serve a term of two to three years with an extension possible if current committee members agree

**Plans for 2024:**

- Work with Project Refresh to ensure that residents will have access to a shared computer facility in the new plans
- Continue regular activities such as maintaining the current equipment, workshops, and technical support to neighbors
- Resume taking used cartridges downstairs to the photocopy room for recycling

## CO-PILOTS PROGRAM

**General Coordinator:** Gretchen Engler  
**Day Coordinator:** Lillian Hess  
**Night Coordinator:** Jane Hart

**Co-Pilots:** Emil Bahary, Sue Bahary, Rita Benzer, Laura Burkhardt, Alice Clague, Marian Dunn, Cynthia Ferguson, Hildegard Gray, Maria Harris, Hubert Herring, Carolyn Klinger, Jane Kratovil, Bob Kutscher, Liz Laite, Helen Lowenstein, Linda Mahoney, Jon Masters, Pam Mitchell, Elise Monroe, Aruna Raghavan, Carolyn Reiss, Shelley Robinson, Bob Root, Suzanne Sadler, David Shover, Carlisle Spivey, Marcia Sprules, Betsy Ungar, Florence Walker, Barbara Williams

**Mission/Purpose:** Provide a companion service to Independent Living residents going to Phelps Emergency Room, around the clock, day and night.

**About the Program:** Co-Pilots, originally established in 2007, was inactive from 2019-2021 due to the COVID pandemic. It was reactivated on June 1, 2022, under current leadership.

Co-Pilots is an exceptional group of residents who serve the KoH community in a unique and valuable way, according to their mission. Nimble and flexible, they cooperate seamlessly to ensure continuous coverage and a timely response to unpredictable situations.

**Staffing and Activity:** With thirty-two volunteers on duty, the Program answered twenty-two calls in 2023 (as of 11/30). Because of the limited pool of volunteers, most Co-Pilots are on call for two eight-hour shifts each month. One Co-Pilot was called twice in one day; two Co-Pilots have been called six times this year, while many were never called. During July and August, a shortage of volunteers necessitated curtailing Sunday service.

**Highlights:**

- Co-Pilots held quarterly pizza lunches / business meetings to provide an opportunity for volunteers to meet each other and share experience, concerns, and solutions.
- A succession & term limits plan for leadership was developed.

- Gretchen gave a presentation about Co-Pilots at the July 10 Residents Association meeting and at the November 9 orientation for new residents.
- Co-Pilots participated in the October 15 Activities Fair and gained one new member.

The Co-Pilots Programs is grateful to Kim Carpentier, Resident Care Manager and Ellen Ottstadt, Director of Resident Services, for their cooperation and support throughout the year. Also greatly appreciated are those who staff the lobby desk, playing an essential role in the successful operation of the Program, especially Karla Flores, Manuela Ochoa, and Briana Giuliano.

## **DINING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Chair:** Margo Berger

**Members:** Betty Albertson, Cynthia Amberg, Stan Amberg, Amelia Augustus, Sirkka Barbour, Hank Berger, Alice Clague, Cynthia Ferguson, Muriel Fox, Maria Harris, Annette Leyden, Peter Limburg, Jan Myers, Barbara Roggemann, Barbara Schainman, Bix Smethurst, Simone Thornber, Barbara Wallach

**Mission:** The Committee interfaces with Dining Services to achieve optimum food and food service preferences for Kendal residents.

### **Highlights of 2023:**

- Added to traditional KoH holiday theme dinners: Burns Night, The Lobster Dinner, The 3-Sauce Pasta Dinner and special service days: Hot Cocoa for Valentine's Day, an Ice Cream Fête in July and Holiday Gelato in December
- The Committee prepared monthly summaries of resident comments on food service to review with Dining Services, focusing constructively on residents' requests and suggestions
- As the committee requested in 2022, the 'away credit' was increased. The required number of 'away days' remains 14 days
- Birthday celebrations were added at mid-month to the Wednesday Happy Hour
- The committee received a first briefing on the 2024 'Declining Points Menu Plan'
- During the February Open Meeting, Executive Chef Cliff Saladin discussed healthy cooking oils and benefits of the "super foods" to be included in KoH Menus
- The addition of super food garnishes (beets, sweet potatoes, avocados, lentils, cranberries and blueberries) increased the popularity of KoH salads
- The committee met with Mary Opfer, MS, RD, CDN in September for an intensive Q&A session on how to achieve personal nutritional goals
- À la carte menu prices were featured on CATIE and on the Bistro menu chart
- The DAC participated in the October 15<sup>th</sup> Committee Fair/Reception.
- The committee referred two issues to administration concerning the Bistro & FDR: guidelines for parking walkers & rollators, and emergency evacuation procedures in cases of smoke and/or fire

**Project Commons Refresh (PCR), scheduled to commence in November 2024**, was a major committee focus throughout 2023. It will include the redesign and renovation of the Bistro, FDR, PDR and the main kitchen:

The committee viewed an encore presentation of the 2022 marketing study which identified the competitive rationale for modified dining features at KoH. We also met repeatedly with the project architects and with Dining Director Fred Coppola to review plans for Refresh. The decision to phase the renovation of the main kitchen will make resident dining easier during construction – the FDR and PDR will be used as temporary kitchens. After construction, cafeteria-style service in the Bistro will be replaced with Panera-style service, including self-seating during luncheon and host-seating with staffed table service at dinner. The Bistro dinner menu will feature 20-25 choices, plus weekly specials. The Formal Dining Room will provide reserved seating, with a different menu. The current PDR space will become a lounge and pub after 4 PM each day; earlier it will serve as a meeting space. Early in 2024, a decision will be made on whether wine and beer, or those plus spirits, will be offered. A briefing in November 2023 presented the newest proposed schematic designs: the redesigned Bistro features stations for “grab ‘n go,” beverages, ice cream and coffee, and graphics depicted seated dining in the Bistro, transitional area and FDR.

At open meetings held in May, July and November, Fred Coppola described the major features and benefits of the Refresh plan for dining, and responded to residents’ questions and major concerns to retain the casual informality of the Bistro. Fred assured residents that the greater menu choices, with staffed table service, would provide a far superior dining experience.

**Plans for 2024:** The committee intends to update the “always available” menu, and to add the à la carte price list and catch-of-the-day to the CATIE dining page. As part of an overall concern with sustainability, we will explore ways to reduce the use of plastic take-out containers and flatware. Goals related to menus and nutrition include hard-boiled eggs and cottage cheese, yogurt without added sugars, more vegetarian choices, posting protein and cholesterol counts, reducing dietary sodium, and adding a vinaigrette choice using extra virgin olive oil. With Pace University, we hope to explore the joint development of a culinary and nutritional program for seniors, that could be used at KoH. Mary Opfer might serve as program advisor for that undertaking. All aspects of Project Commons Refresh will also engage the committee, including adaptations as construction begins.

**In appreciation:** The Committee extends special appreciation to Fred Coppola for keeping the Committee engaged in the plans and details of Project Commons Refresh, and the entire Dining Services team’s responsiveness to KoH residents’ food service needs and requests. We congratulate Eddy Dias on his appointment as Executive Chef, and welcome Christie Barette as KoH’s Dining Room & Catering Manager.

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**Chair:** Fran Kelly

**Members:** Barbara Bettigole, Llyn Clague, Nancy Frieden, Mike Kornfield, Priscilla Liebowitz, Edith Litt, Gerry Mahoney, Michael Rapaport, Nick Robinson, Robert Root, Martin Smolin, John Sorice, Carlisle Spivey

**Mission:** To provide opportunity for residents' intellectual stimulation through lectures, short-term courses, seminars, and discussion programs.

In 2023 the committee welcomed Gerry Mahoney, Mike Kornfield, and Martin Smolin and accepted, with regret, the resignations of Ellen Lagemann, Harry Phillips, Peter Seldin, and Jim Wood. The committee discussed the need for leadership succession planning. To help balance the workload, Gerry Mahoney is serving as Co-Chair for Programming; Nick Robinson and John Sorice are Co-Directors of the Great Decisions Program.

**Pace University Partnership:** In July 2023 a new agreement with Pace University allows Kendal residents to audit one course per semester with no tuition charge. Six residents enrolled for the fall semester; plans are underway for spring semester 2024.

**Lecture Program:** Since 2005, the Education Committee has sponsored more than 690 presentations, generally held on Monday nights. Our 2023 programs were:

Marvin Krislov: *Challenges Facing Higher Education*; Jonathan Henkin: *Bagpipes in Peace and War*; Nick Robinson: *Robert Burns Night*; Brooke Masters: *Is ESG investing more than a feel-good movement?*; Tom Ruller: *The true story of Sojourner Truth's case to free her son from enslavement*; Jeff Frieden: *The Future of the Global Order*; Nathaniel Knight/Edward Kasinec: *Ukraine's Peoples Revealed*; Brent D. Glass, *Sing Sing Prison Museum*.

Noah Chesnin: *Hudson Canyon*; Lisa Anderson: *The Arab Uprisings a Decade On*; George Latimer: *Westchester County Update*; Jack Viertel: *Broadway—What's Next?*; Bobby Sand: *What is Justice?*; Barbara Davis: *Leading Men and Leading Ladies of Westchester*; Steve Liesman: *US Economy*; Chris Borsari: *Reflections on My Superintendency*; Narinder Kakar: *On a Quest for a Sustainable World*; Linde E. T. Ostro, *Riverkeeper in 2023 – Challenges for the Hudson*.

Tom Tarnowsky: *How The Old Croton Aqueduct Made NY The Empire City*; Marc Cheshire: *Building the New Croton Dam*; Dr. Tom Frieden: *Covid and Other Pandemics: How to Stop Them*; Anne Swaim: *Diversity of Westchester Birds*; Mary Jo Ziezel: *Jacob Burns Film Center*; Tom Laurenson: *Frank Sprague, Inventor*; Waddell Stillman/Margaret Phelan: *Historic Hudson Valley*; Yasha Klots: *Tamizdat Project*; Anthony Czarnecki: *Copland in Cortlandt*; Nicholas Wapshott: *We're in the second year of World War Three*; Adam Liptak: *A Transformed Supreme Court*.

Ed Peducci: *A Virtual Tour of Lyndhurst Mansion*; Steve Tilly/Jonathan Walko: *Tarrytown Lighthouse Restoration*; Llyn Clague: *Coming of Age at Kendal*; Michele Beckerman: *The Rockefeller Archives Center*; Edward Berenson, *Levittown International*; Nancy Gibbs: *The 2024 Election: What Will Be Different This Time?*; James Ketterer: *Egypt, the Middle East and the US*; Pace Documentary, *For the Love of Food*; Nadine Strossen, *Current Free Speech Controversies*; Karin Limburg: *Exploring Environmental Impacts and Life History from Fish Chemistry*.

**2023 Courses in the Gathering Room:**

<i>Four People Who Shaped History</i> (Edward Berenson)	January
<i>The Iliad</i> (Maude Meisel)	February
<i>The Bauhaus Movement</i> (Morgan Ridler – new instructor)	March

<i>American Musicals/Pulitzer Prize</i> (Meg Bussert)	April
<i>Music Appreciation</i> (Michael Boriskin)	May
<i>Hollywood Director Frank Capra</i> (Michael Cramer)	June
<i>Shakespeare in the Contemporary World</i> (Kate Farrington)	July
<i>Paleo-Astronomy</i> (Paul Olsen)	September
<i>The Mystery Genre</i> (Joanne Dobson – new instructor)	October
<i>Criminal Law Reform</i> (David N. Dorfman – new instructor)	Nov/Dec

**Resident-led Small-Group Seminars:** Llyn Clague led a 4-week poetry seminar in February. Nancy Frieden led Russian literature seminars in April and in October.

**Resident-led Discussion Programs:** Topics for the 9th Great Decisions Program were: *Climate Migration* (Nick Robinson); *War Crimes* (Jon Masters/Nick Robinson); *Energy Geopolitics* (Robert Root); *Iran at a Crossroads* (Llyn Clague); *Politics in Latin America* (Christopher Mitchell); *China and the U. S.* (Hank Schacht); *Economic Warfare* (Stan Amberg). Plans for the 2024 Great Decisions program are underway.

## ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

**Chair:** Marian Dunn

**Members:** Rita Benzer, Cynthia Ferguson, Meera Srinivasan, John Vacher

**Mission:** to increase sociability by engaging residents in enjoyable activities.

Our new committee sponsors weekly Game Nights, hosts Sip and Savors and organizes Birthday Parties every other month. In collaboration with Residents Services, we organize and offer special events such as Trivia contests, Bingo, Charades etc. We also set up a photo contest so residents could try to identify friends from their high school yearbooks.

**Future plans:** To increase the number of special once-a-month events.

## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

**Chair:** Ursula Hahn

**Members:** Jane Beers, Barbara Bettigole, Laura Burkhardt, Maria Harris, Annette Leyden, Norman Sissman, Martin Smolin, Anne White, Deborah Wood

**Mission:** The Environmental Stewardship Committee is committed to furthering Kendal on Hudson's engagement in conservation, sustainability and leadership as outlined in the brochure *Kendal Values and Practices*. The committee continues to promote "reduce-reuse-recycle" by residents and encourage staff to commit to recycling. The committee urges reduction in the use of plastics and of energy and supports the use of renewable energy sources and measures to lower interior and exterior pollution.

**Activities:** Press articles about the growing environmental dangers throughout the world and emerging novel commercial recycling efforts were distributed frequently. To lay the ground for the pilot organics collection program and prepare for the Activities Fair in October, five meetings were held. Cathie Campbell and Bob Abramovitz created visuals for the fair. The organics collection program (see below) attracted much attention, and an uptick in the number of “composters” was noted. Anne White also met informally with residents to promote the collection program.

**Collecting Organics as a Pilot Program:** Inspired by a visit last November to the composting demonstration site at the Westchester County Recycling Center in Valhalla, Anne White established a core group of residents to collect organics in support of an existing composting program of the Village of Sleepy Hollow. Through the Village she purchased collection bins at half price for residents’ use and obtained a free supply of compostable bags. As the co-chair of Sleepy Hollow’s environmental advisory committee, Anne succeeded in getting Sleepy Hollow Mayor Martin Rutyna to provide dumpsters for our organics program and having them emptied by Public Works employees. With Bob Michael and Betsy Ungar, she worked out all logistics and engaged Fred Coppola to purchase compostable bags at discounts.

**Collection of Clothing, Shoes, etc.:** After a hiatus, GreenDrop resumed its pick-up service to benefit the Purple Heart Service Foundation. Residents also contributed clothing to the Hilltop Thrift Shop of the Zion Episcopal Church in Dobbs Ferry. Due to the physical requirements of large-scale donation drives, we have switched to collection on demand.

**SSAFE (Senior Stewards Acting for the Environment):** This 501(c)(3) organization was founded in 2020 by volunteer residents of other Kendals to advise residents of the Kendal community on environmental matters. The organization also provides guidance on how to reduce carbon emissions and achieve carbon neutrality through education, greening and advocacy. In the meantime, SSAFE has established a vast collection of resource materials which are shared with its members.

Anne White made several presentations before the Residents Council and recommended that Kendal on Hudson join SSAFE. She also urged individual residents to become members. Committee members and resident “composters” expressed their unanimous support of KoH joining SSAFE as an affiliate and being represented on SSAFE’s board of directors by Betsy, with Anne as an alternate. That possibility would have to be approved by the KoH Board. In all other respects, SSAFE is not part of this committee’s program.

**Future Activities:** The committee aims to roll out the organics collection program to the residents at large in 2024, and to continue to focus on the program’s expansion through education and by example. In addition, we plan to schedule trips to the Westchester County composting demonstration site, explore financially viable alternatives to plastic and throw-away containers, and continue to monitor the sustainability portion of the Refresh project for maximum effectiveness. Deb Wood will step in as chairperson in January 2024; Ursula agreed to continue as secretary.

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE

**Chair:** Jennifer Gardy

**Members:** Cynthia Amberg, Stan Amberg, Rita Benzer, Barbara Bettigole, Dorothea Bone, Llyn Clague, Eugene DuBow, Ann Root, Barbara Schainman, Catherine Trapasso, Mary Alice Walker, Valerie Wallace, Barbara Wallach, Hanan Watson, Susan Yao

**Health Service Liaison:** Lisa Wacht

**Mission:** To support our residents' physical, emotional, social, spiritual and intellectual well-being. To this end, we establish programs designed to support and enhance the quality of life of independent living, assisted living and nursing care residents, and arrange educational programs and lectures on related subjects of interest to them. Working in close coordination with the Health Services Department, we provide conduits for mutual assistance and support during times of need.

**Activities:** This year under Committee sponsorship, Melissa Eisele-Kaplan, Director of the Patient Experience Department of Phelps Hospital, spoke about how her group operates and how it responds to patients' concerns regarding their hospital experience. Jessica La Corte, Supervisor of Audiology at Phelps Hospital, discussed the social and cognitive effects of hearing loss, the importance of testing, types of hearing devices, and strategies one can use to manage hearing loss. Our new massage therapist, Elizabeth Lalumia, talked about the health benefits of her massage therapy. Joseph Salvadore, Director of Rehabilitation, continued the Discovery Series of lectures with talks on "Safety in Your Home," and Parkinson's & Movement Disorders.

The Committee has continued its effort to integrate the Adirondack (ADK) residents with Independent Living (IL) social and cultural activities. Rather than setting up a formal "buddy" system we elected to encourage informal get-togethers. These included a combined breakfast and an ice cream hour. ADK residents now join IL residents in the twice-a-week Sip and Snack social hours. IL residents were treated to an impressive show of beautiful artwork by ADK artists.

In early 2024 we are planning a talk by Sandra Sindaco, Director of Therapeutic Recreation & Community Volunteers. Sandra will give her overview of the social and cultural needs of the Health Services residents and discuss opportunities for volunteering that are available for IL residents.

**Transitions:** As Covid settles into its niche among the annual endemics we shall face, we can take pride in our excellent statistics this year, proving that, as our Kendal values remind us, in taking care of ourselves we are caring for one another.

## HORTICULTURE COMMITTEE

**OFFICERS:** Peter Limburg, Chair; Anna Mae O'Leary, Vice-Chair and Treasurer; Janet Schloat, Secretary. Peter Limburg is stepping



down as chairman as of the end of 2023, to be succeeded by co-chairs Peter Seldin and Ellen Lagemann.

**MEMBERS:** Sirkka Barbour, Barbara Bettigole, Hank Berger, Alice Clague, Selma Clark, Nancy Frieden, Maria Harris, Ellen Lagemann, Annette Leyden, Teddy Pulerwitz, Peter Roggemann, Iris Sampliner, Dianne Schlair, Uriel Schlair, Janet Schloat, Peter Seldin, Marcy Shover, Fran Slote, Meera Srinivasan, Mary Alice Walker, Valerie Wolzien, Susan Yao

During the past year several members resigned due to non-gardening injuries or illness; a number of residents have indicated interest in joining, and one new member has joined.

**MISSION:** To promote knowledge and love of gardening. Our goals are to enhance the environment of the Healing Garden, located on C level; to support residents in cultivating the ten raised planters on the Terrace overlooking the Hudson; and to care for the plantings at the north end of the cul-de-sac. We work with the landscape contractor in a consultative capacity, in close collaboration with KoH Management. We are also happy to advise residents on their plantings on their balconies and patios.

**MEETINGS:** Meetings were held in March, April, May, June, September, and October, usually with Bob Michael participating. At these meetings Bob reported on the work done by Facilities on the campus and plans for future projects, and received questions and comments from members. We also discussed purchases and other expenditures and the work on the Healing Garden and the planters on the Terrace.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:**

**THE HEALING GARDEN:** Our volunteers weeded, watered, and deadheaded the plants, keeping the Healing Garden at its best. The professional horticulturist who provided consultation and performed heavy work was engaged again this year. The inoperative irrigation system was replaced. A lawnmower was acquired for the use of BrightView, our landscaper. The Committee sponsored a garden party with the aid of Fred Coppola, which drew many visitors until it was rained out.

**THE WALKAROUNDS:** Monthly walks around the campus were conducted for interested members by Bob Michael and a representative from BrightView. The walkarounds were conducted from April through October.

**DONATIONS:** Donations were received. We do not anticipate future donations.

**THE TERRACE:** The ten planters are assigned to individuals who grow flowers, vegetables, and herbs. They provide pleasure for many residents, who often stop to admire them and chat. The original "Refresh" plans for reconstruction were unsuitable in our opinion; we continue to discuss ameliorations with the architects. We expect to have the use of the Terrace over the summer and fall of 2024.

**TRIPS:** We visited the herb garden at the John Jay mansion in Katonah.

**OTHER:** We consulted with BrightView on trimming the trees and shrubbery on the campus and on the replacement of overgrown *Cotoneaster* at the S.E. corner of Fulton and the west side of Clermont with native, pollinator-friendly shrubs and perennials. We participated in the No-Mow May program to help pollinators, and a small pollinator garden was created on the south end of Fulton. A new site for the dumping of plant waste was created on the far side of the berm at the south end of the perimeter drive. Substantial trimming was done on the trees on campus. The trellised English ivy in front of the generator made a good recovery from a hard winter and next year should form an effective screen.

## KENDAL VIEW

**Editors:** Llyn Clague, Pat Taylor

**Managing Editor:** Hubert B. Herring

**Members:** Emil Bahary, Harry Bloomfeld, Arthur Brady, Gene DuBow, Doris Eder, Muriel Fox, Fran Kelly, Carolyn Klinger, Edith Litt, Caroline Persell, Peter Roggemann, Richard Schneeman, Norman J. Sissman, Valerie Wolzien

*Kendal View* starts its 19<sup>th</sup> year of publishing in the best possible way: with an announcement of the promotion of two members of its existing staff and the joining of that staff by four new volunteers. Llyn Clague has joined Pat Taylor as Editor of the magazine. Pat and Lynn will continue editing alternating issues. Hubert Herring, formerly an editor at *The New York Times*, has been named Managing Editor, and Valerie Wolzien has become a staff member. 24 of Valerie's mystery novels were published during her career.

Harry Bloomfeld has joined Arthur Brady, Caroline Persell and Richard Schneeman as a Photography Editor. Each works on an alternating issue to produce the superb covers that have become a hallmark of *Kendal View*. (In addition, Art handles the photographs that appear in the inside pages.) Succeeding Advertising Director Peter McCuen, Emil Bahary and Peter Roggemann have become Co-Ad Directors. With the help of Coordinator Carolyn Klinger, Emil and Peter got renewals of the advertising contracts of 19 local businesses and services for the 8-page ad section in all six issues of 2024. The income from these ads covers all printing and production costs. Every year has also seen a surplus donated to the Residents Association.

Two years ago, Caroline Persell, co-chair with Jeff O'Donnell of the Kendal Website Committee, came up with the idea of including a copy of *Kendal View* in the Website. The idea has gone over very well with advertisers.

Each issue of *Kendal View*, which is printed locally, has a print run of 350 copies. The magazine is distributed to Independent Living and Adirondack residents, to senior administrators, and to members of Kendal's Board of Directors. Copies are also left in the staff recreation room and given to the Kendal Archives, the Library and the Wellness Center. In addition, the Marketing Department has a standing order for 25 copies of each issue for use as a selling tool to prospective residents.

## KOH TV CHANNEL 970

<b>Chair:</b>	Sheila Darnborough
<b>Technical expert:</b>	Tom Wolzien
<b>Technicians:</b>	Emil Bahary, Laura Burkhardt, Sheila Darnborough, Sally Kellock, Robert Kutscher
<b>Technical input:</b>	Joe Bruno and the Computer Committee
<b>Film and Great Courses Selection:</b>	The Film Committee and Education Committee
<b>Filming and Editing:</b>	Sheila Darnborough, Eugene DuBow, Robert Kutscher and Jack Miller
<b>Photography Editor:</b>	Arthur Brady

**Mission:** KOH TV is Kendal on Hudson's internal TV channel that transmits on a public TV Channel, 970. Its mission continues to be ensuring that Kendal residents, irrespective of their level of independence, have access to Kendal events in their own homes.

The regular program service remains essentially the same as last year:

- An evening movie shown only on Channel 970
- Recordings of two KoH events each afternoon, generally a lecture shown on weekdays and a Kendal concert shown during the whole week
- Two lectures of a Great Courses series shown on weekend afternoons
- Round-the-clock still photos of Rue des Artistes exhibitions
- Occasional live broadcasts of key management and resident events to residents' TVs.

The welcome news this year is that a new resident, Tom Wolzien, has applied his technology expertise to building a new system to replace that in use since the Channel opened in 2005. The initial goal is to replicate current programming but with improved quality and ease of use. New features include the ability to schedule for days/weeks ahead instead of for each day; easier playback of previously recorded programs; and the ability to schedule programming from volunteers' devices.

Once achieved, the intent is to capitalize on the new system's radical range of opportunities such as the programming of various inbound streaming sources (music, live cameras); improved delivery of programming to residents' TVs; multi-split-screen presentations of, for example, resident art; information crawls/trackers that provide information of interest, perhaps sustainability progress; interactivity potential; and the ability to control other devices. An additional benefit will be the ability to access a new program library system which will contain Channel 970 recordings and other content of interest. This could eventually form the basis of an on-demand streaming system for residents. The new system has been live-tested successfully, and current volunteers are being trained. Switching to the new system for current Channel 970 programming is anticipated early in 2024.

Not only will the number of volunteers involved with Channel 970 need to increase to capitalize fully on the new system's perceived opportunities, but the range of skills required will expand. This, too, will be tackled early in 2024.

Meanwhile, thank you to the Channel 970 team listed above, a dedicated and reliable group of volunteers. They not only continue to serve day-in, day-out and cope with the vagaries of

the old system, but are also facing the challenge of learning the new system with gusto. And a special thank you to Tom Wolzien for his time and involvement in enabling Channel 970 to adapt to the future.

## LIBRARY COMMITTEE

**Co-Chairs:** Suzanne Adel and Sally Kellock

**Secretary:** Gretchen Engler

**Carousel Chair:** Valerie Wallace

**Carousel Assistants:** Rita Benzer, Ann Root, Suzanne Sadler, Meera Srinivasan, Mary Alice Walker

**Desk Volunteers and Floaters:** Barbara Bettigole, Priscilla Blakemore, Lynn Brady, Jo Cameron, Jacky Cummings, Nancy Frieden, Jennifer Gardy, Ed Hanin, Lillian Hess, Keiko Hirano, Maggie Limburg, Helen Lowenstein, Shirley Miller, Chris Mitchell, Pam Mitchell, Elise Monroe, Chao Pan, Marge Phillips, Roberta Poupon, Aruna Raghavan, Ann Root, Suzanne Sadler, Frances Slote, Marcy Shover, Betty Smith, Valerie Wallace, Barbara Williams.

We mourn the passing of three of our colleagues: Peggy Pennell was instrumental in the creation of the original library and also contributed to the design and layout of the current one; Susan Lichten and Ruth Singleton were both longtime, staunch library supporters and workers.

**Mission:** The library is always open, and residents can borrow books by filling out yellow slips. From Monday to Friday, 10 am to 12 noon and 2 pm to 4 pm, a volunteer is available to provide information and assistance. Through an arrangement with the Warner Library, residents can also borrow items from the Westchester County system. Our goal: to maintain an excellent collection that is useful and up to date with a simple circulation system that all residents can use with ease.

### Accomplishments in 2023

1. Added more than 200 new books through donations and purchases, including 37 large-print volumes
2. Added some 15 new mysteries/thrillers to the Special Collection
3. Maintained association with Warner Library (access to the Westchester County Library System). During 2023, Kendal residents borrowed more than 1250 books and DVDs through Warner
4. Screened donated books; visited residents' apartments on request to select books for the library
5. Periodically weeded the collection to keep it fresh and make shelf space, and donated books we could not use to Better World Books, a secondhand book dealer which supports worldwide libraries and literacy
6. Updated the catalog to remove missing or culled books
7. Culled the carousels and added new donated paperbacks

8. Started a new large-print paperback collection on a Mary Powell carousel
9. Provided books for a small mobile library in Clearwater; these will be refreshed periodically
10. Welcomed and trained four new desk volunteers
11. Continued to offer duplicate and other donated books to residents at \$1 each. Proceeds have been used toward purchase of books and essential office supplies
12. Welcomed young children and their families from Sleepy Hollow to listen to resident Harriet Barnett read Halloween stories in Spanish and enjoy milk and cookies

### **Plans for 2024**

Continue to provide a fresh, accessible collection, tailored to the preferences of the KoH reading community.

## **LOSS COMMITTEE**

**Chair:** Jeff O'Donnell  
**Members:** Stan Amberg, Jane Kratovil, Gloria Lewit  
Administration: Ellen Ottstadt

**Mission:** The Loss Committee organizes an Annual Memorial Service for residents who have passed away in the preceding year and assists families to plan appropriate memorial services for their loved ones. It distributes informative materials to families of deceased residents.

The Loss Committee organizes the Annual Memorial Service for residents who have died in the preceding year. We invite all residents to attend the Annual Memorial Service on Monday, February 5 at 7:30 in the Gathering Room. We also assist families to plan appropriate memorial services for their loved ones and provide ushers if needed. We distribute informative materials to families of deceased residents and are currently revising our brochure in conjunction with Ellen Ottstadt.

Last year the Loss Committee with Ellen created a document to help residents plan for their passing, help their family understand their wishes, assist them in dealing with the deceased resident's affairs, and help provide access to their technology. To receive a copy, please contact Ellen. We work with surviving spouses or families to assist in the donation of clothing to appropriate not-for-profit organizations.

**WE NEED YOU!** Our committee has experienced some significant attrition over the last few years. We hope that you would consider joining us. We meet once a month on the first Thursday at 1:30 in the Residents Association Office. It usually requires less than five hours of your time a month. We strive to create short uplifting obit biographies for the Memorial Service. Please come give us a try!

The Loss Committee thanks Joe Costa, Ed Hanin, Mariet van der Heide, and Jim Wood for their years of service to the Loss Committee.

## **LOW VISION HELP COMMITTEE (LVHC)**

**Chair:** Amelia Augustus

**Formation and Mission:** Thanks to the perseverance of Dot Bone of the Health and Wellness Committee, the LVHC was formed in April 2018 to help residents with vision concerns and challenges. All of our meetings, programs, and events are open to everyone at Kendal.

**Activities:**

- Discussing particular challenges of specific interest to our members, the group, and the community at-large;
- Seeking most current information from organizations, experts, the media, specialized literature, and other available resources;
- Presenting information and examples of the latest seeing aids and devices; as well as
- Viewing relevant videos about specific topics.

**Special Accessibility Accommodations provided:**

- Thanks to Ellen Ottstadt, notices from the administration are now in 14 point print and are distributed to residents who give Ellen their email addresses.
- Dining Services distributes enlarged weekly lunch and dinner menus placed in the cubbies of those requesting them.
- Special Cards, Games, and Puzzles: Thanks to the support of the Residents Association, we were able to purchase the games and the puzzle “Monet’s Garden,” to add to our inventory of specially designed sets for the visually challenged.

**Special Community Service Project:**

The Kendal on Hudson Community is especially proud of reaching the Low Vision Help Committee goal of donating more than 4,000 pairs of glasses to the needy. Residents can help us reach our new goal of 5,000 by donating to our campaign. A box for this purpose is located in the area opposite the computer room on the shelf at the extreme right.

**Campus Accommodation:**

Thanks to Bob Michael and Hildegard Gray, bright new ceiling lighting was added in the Residents Lounge, and the floor lamps with their dangerous floor wires were removed.

**Program:**

Because several Kendal residents experience Macular Degeneration, a special program was held in the Gathering Room to discuss the causes, treatment, and latest research in this field. A YouTube video presentation and discussion were held. This included information about Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) as well as the current and emerging therapies being developed for this particular area of research. After the video, Sara Cook described her new glasses that help some low vision people view TV.

**Future KoH Building Plans:**

The chair continues to repeat the Committee's request that residents with disabilities as well as professional accessibility experts be represented and/or consulted whenever building remodeling, restructuring, or any other building "ings" are planned that impact residents' sight, hearing and/or mobility.

## MOVIE COMMITTEE

**Co-chairs:** Annette Leyden and Roberta Poupon

**Members:** Bob Abramovitz, Jo Cameron, Sara Cook, Hubert Herring, Lailani Moody, Richard Schneeman (emeritus), David Shover

**Mission:** To choose and schedule movies to be shown to Kendal residents on a regular basis

Movies are shown on Tuesday through Sunday evenings at 8:00 on our in-house TV Channel 970, and in the Gathering Room on Thursday evenings at 7:30, plus once a month on Sunday afternoons at 3:00. On these Thursdays and Sundays, other films are shown at 8:00 on 970. 2023 was the year we began to stream in the Gathering Room. Despite technical problems, we are confident that we will be able to augment our DVD showings with streaming. The committee meets regularly to schedule two weeks of movies. The schedule is provided weekly for the front page of *Spotlight* and is also given to CATIE.

2023 was an especially challenging year because our major DVD supplier, Netflix, cancelled its DVD program. However, we soon found a Netflix replacement (CafeDVD) and continue to show DVDs from residents' personal collections, plus others from our Library, from Warner Library and other Westchester libraries, and from the Leonore Meyer Collection, given to us at Leonore's death by her children. We also arrange the showing of movies to support Education Committee courses.

After the success of our first movie survey in 2022, we used the Kendal activities fair to gather more suggestions. We are working diligently to demonstrate that we heard their voices and will continue to respond to residents' suggestions.

## MUSIC COMMITTEE

**Co-Chairs:** Fran Kelly/Janet Schloat

**Members:** Arthur Brady, Sheila Darnborough, Eugene DuBow, Ed Hanin, Liz Laite, Linda Mahoney, Bert Pepper, Michael Rapaport, Bob Singleton, Jody Spellun, Uriel Schlair

**Mission:** To organize, coordinate, and provide musical programs for Kendal Independent Living residents, while also welcoming friends from other residential parts of the Kendal Community. The Music Committee maintains the Steinway piano and the harpsichord housed on the Mary Powell balcony.

A resident's anonymous gift underwrote the first two chamber music concerts in the fall of 2006, leading to the formation of the Music Committee in January 2007. Our annual concert program is financed primarily through residents' gifts to the KoH Residents Association.

Additional programming is made possible by concert sponsorships from individual residents or their families.

This year, we welcomed Liz Laite to the committee. Janet Schloat and Fran Kelly now serve as co-chairs. Event manager duties for each concert have been assumed by Liz Laite and Linda Mahoney.

Through 2023, the committee has coordinated almost 280 musical programs. In 2023, we welcomed seven new performers and groups: The New Camerata Opera, New York String Quartet; Trio Confero; pianist Seth Farber with vocalist Liz Queler; the Momenta quartet; the Harlem Chamber Players; pianist Irena Portenko; and three young musicians: Yosef Kogan, violin; and sisters Nickita and Philina Zhang, violin and piano respectively.

### **Sleepy Hollow High School Student Award:**

In 2019, the Committee initiated a Music Award for a Sleepy Hollow High School student who plans to pursue postsecondary study in some area of music. To date, 10 students have been recognized through this program with small grants. In 2023 the recipient was Alexander Maxwell Louis, who is pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre with a Voice minor.

### **2023 Concert Series:**

Sun., Jan. 15	Soheil Nasser, piano
Sun., Jan. 29	Tommy Mesa, cello; Ilya Yakushev, piano
Sun., Feb. 12	Cuatro Puntos Ensemble (Steve Larson)
Sun., Feb. 26	New Camerata Opera
Sat., Mar. 11	REBEL Early Music
Sun., Mar. 26	New York String Sextet
Sun., Apr. 2	Luzerne Music Center Students/Elizabeth Pitcairn, violin
Sun., Apr. 16	Christopher Gibbs/Bard College music students
Sun., May 7	David Shenton Trio – music of Josh Groban
Sun., May 21	Trio Confero
Sun., June 4	SHHS Jazz Group with Jazz Forum All Stars
Sun., June 18	Ciaran Sheehan and Elizabeth Maxwell
Sun., July 16	Jazz Forum All-Stars
Sun., Aug. 27	Seth Farber/Liz Queler
Sun., Sept. 17	Momenta Quartet
Sun., Oct. 1	Cris Groenendaal and Sue Anderson, Broadway Cabaret
Sun., Oct. 22	Chamber Players of Greenwich Symphony Orchestra
Sun., Oct. 29	Harlem Chamber Players
Sun., Nov. 5	Music from Copland House
Sun., Nov. 19	Irena Portenko, piano
Sun., Dec. 3	SUNY Purchase Conservatory Students
Sun., Dec. 10	Yosef Kogan, violin; Nickita Zhang, violin; Philina Zhang, piano

Programming for 2024 has begun with a number of concerts already scheduled.

Thanks to our dedicated committee members who critique concerts, offer suggestions for future programming, approach potential individual artists or groups, and assist as ushers for Sunday afternoon concerts.



## OPERA COMMITTEE

**Chair:** Ursula Hahn  
**Vice Chair:** Marcia Sprules  
**Members:** Barbara App, Doris Eder, Muriel Fox, Ed Hanin, Frank Neuwirth,  
Barbara Rachlin, Jody Spellun

**Mission:**

- 1) Offer Kendal residents opportunities to hear and see quality opera on DVD on the large Gathering Room screen, of particular importance to those who can no longer travel to New York City to attend a performance in person.
- 2) Awaken curiosity and interest in opera among residents, in whose lives the art form may not have played a role prior to coming to Kendal.

**Background:** Muriel Fox and Amelia Augustus were instrumental in establishing an opera group with several of the members listed above. Operas on DVD began to be shown in the Gathering Room on Saturday afternoons in February 2019 under the leadership of Barbara App, by drawing on her and Muriel's large collections.

**Administration/Management:** Ursula has continued to head the committee. In response to the Residents Council's request to establish guidelines for the appointment of officers, a succession plan and recruitment goals, it is her opinion that imposing an administrative structure on this small group is not realistic. Some members see their responsibility only in selecting the operas and take no further part in arranging the screenings. Because of the substantial investment in time, Ursula requested that the screenings pause in August and before important holidays. The committee agreed to this request. Marcia Sprules agreed to become vice chair and was voted into office unanimously on June 2. The committee welcomed Doris Eder as a new member following the Activities Fair in October. Dorothy Muller donated 12 opera DVDs from a relative's estate. Although the works are already in members' collections, hers are of different productions with different casts and thus enrich our inventory.

**Activities:** The committee meets quarterly to select the presentations for the following three months. All DVDs must have English subtitles. Occasionally, popular operas are shown more than once during the year. During the year, Ursula began to build her own collection with numerous contemporary (20<sup>th</sup> century) works among them. They will improve our ability to show new works or innovative productions. This year, 47 operas will have been presented (none in August and on Dec. 23/Dec. 30). Among them were five shown on two days because of their length and one double bill. Of the works shown, two were repeated during the year. Ursula continues to present brief overviews of less known works.

Attendance varies between 15 and 25 persons, with occasional spikes to 30 or more, possibly depending on the opera, the weather and on weekends with fewer or more residents' family members visiting. We have noticed an encouraging increase in attendance by Adirondack residents and occasional attendance by Clearwater and Sunnyside residents with their aides. The committee continues to coordinate presentations with the Movie Committee and Nancy

Frieden/Marcia Sprules (Russian literature) when the occasion arises, and changes its program if needed.

All Saturday Opera programs are announced in KoH's monthly calendar of events, the weekly *Spotlight*, posted on six bulletin boards (including in Adirondack); and a monthly calendar prepared by Sandra Sindaco, Director of Therapeutic Recreation. The committee is grateful for the support of the Residents Council and welcomes all opera lovers to Kendal's Saturday Opera.

## RESIDENTS WEBSITE COMMITTEE

**Chairs:** Caroline Persell and Jeff O'Donnell (Co-chairs until 12/31/23) then Carlisle Spivey, Chair, starting 1/1/24

**Members:** Amelia Augustus, Joe Bruno, Laura Burkhardt, Sheila Darnborough, Eugene DuBow, Jennifer Gardy, Jeff O'Donnell, Caroline Persell, Jo-Ann Rapaport, Marcia Sprules, Margaret Ann Roth

**Web Roles:** Carlisle Spivey, Webmaster and Content Editor; Laura Burkhardt, Margaret Ann Roth, Marcia Sprules, Content Editors; Margaret Ann Roth, Marcia Sprules, Visual Directory Editors; Arthur Brady, Visual Directory Photographer; Joe Bruno, Staff Updates

**Mission:** Having started the Residents Website in 2015, the Website Committee's purpose is to maintain and improve the Website with two goals:

- a) providing current residents with timely and important information in a single place; and
- b) sharing with residents, families, prospective residents, and others outside of Kendal on Hudson written, visual, and video examples of the vital and creative resident life here.

### HIGHLIGHTS IN 2023

- Carlisle Spivey took over as Webmaster on October 30, 2022
- Some new people joined the website committee including Joe Bruno, Jennifer Gardy (*Spotlight*), Margaret Ann Roth, and Carlisle Spivey. Marcia Sprules continues as the Yellow Rose page editor and has added the posting of *Kendal View* electronically on ISSUU with a link from the Website. The posting of video clips of concerts or shows on Vimeo is currently open.
- Usage: from Jan. 1, 2023 – Dec. 11, 2023 there were 16,197 visitors, down 34% from last year; a total of 7,900 unique visitors, down 40% from last year; and 31,000 page visits, down 37% from last year.
- On Jan. 1, we transitioned to a new password for "Residents Only" for 2023.
- The new Webmaster continues to write the weekly Residents Website News describing what's new on the Residents Website and distributes it electronically to all current residents with email accounts.
- The Calendar and News pages lay fallow in 2023.

### PLANS FOR 2024:

- To expand Content Editors assigned to discrete beats, such as health and calendar

- To explore ways to make Res Web even more useful to residents in both content and design
- Eugene DuBow has agreed to take on the News section of the website in 2024.

## **SOCIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE**

**Chair:** Muriel Fox

**Members:** Bob Singleton, Marianne Bloomfield, Bobbie Roggemann, Marian Dunn

Our mission is to produce two major social events: for New Year's Eve and the Fourth of July, and to assist the Residents Council with other social events as needed. Muriel Fox is chair of the Social Events Committee. Bob Singleton directs the Kendal Singers; Marianne Bloomfield headed the New Year's Eve party committee, while New Year's Eve co-producers were Bobbie Roggemann and Marian Dunn. In the spirit of neighbors entertaining neighbors, both events were greatly enjoyed by a full audience. An ushers committee headed by Bob Kutscher created a smooth flow of audience members for both events.

On New Year's Eve 2022, as in the past, we lowered our Glittering Ball at Kendal Midnight, which is 9 PM, and shouted "Happy New Year!" Then we all joined hands and sang "Auld Lang Syne." For the champagne and caviar reception, the Residents Lounge was festively decorated. The food was exceptional, thanks to Fred Coppola and his crew. Marianne Bloomfield organized an enthusiastic, hard-working group of volunteers to produce the reception. Each volunteer had specific responsibilities, which included production of an illustrated brochure. Cynthia Ferguson kept accurate count of the finances. Once again, Bob Singleton led the Kendal Singers in songs for the show, and Linda Mahoney Herring accompanied them. Bob also played piano for a singalong of old-time songs in the PDR after the reception. Grateful residents donated on New Year's Eve and subsequent days. The Residents Council has deemed our budget for events in 2023.

Special thanks are given to Marinela Marku, who supervised the many demands on Facilities with great efficiency and good humor. Our Fourth of July celebration was held once again in the Gathering Room, which is preferable to the Terrace. Since the audience votes of previous years' Fourth of July shows had been enthusiastically received, we decided to feature a vote again this year. The new question was "What I'd Do If I Were the American President." Maria Harris, Gene DuBow, and Jon Masters presented proposals. All three speakers received numerous votes, but Maria won with her pledge to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment and install universal health care.

Plans are well under way for the 2023-24 New Year's Eve celebration. Once again, Muriel Fox will produce a show to commence in the Gathering Room at 8 PM on December 31 and Marianne Bloomfield will lead a very active party committee to stage the reception after the show. Bobbie Roggemann and Marian Dunn are hard at work as associate producers.

## **SPOTLIGHT**

**Chair:** Sally Kellock

**Editors:** Jennifer Gardy, Ursula Hahn, Sally Kellock, Carlisle Spivey

**Inputters and Reviewers:** Marianne Bloomfeld, Sheila Darnborough, Fran Kelly, David Shover

**Mission:** To publish *Spotlight* weekly as a source of information for residents about current KoH news and forthcoming events. We hope to keep it clear, interesting, as brief as possible and, above all, accurate.

The editors take turns assembling the copy supplied by residents and the Administration into a newsletter, which is usually 4-5 pages long and traditionally printed on yellow paper. One of the editors prepares a monthly calendar of events, with assistance from Fran Kelly. At the request of the Low Vision Help Committee, efforts have been made to increase the font size of *Spotlight* and use a sans serif typeface. While the first two pages follow a standard format, editors vary the layout of the other pages depending on the material, and often add clipart.

Since the introduction of CATIE, *Spotlight* has been posted there in the News Corner and is no longer distributed to cubbies. Ellen Ottstadt's office still produces print copies for Adirondack, Clearwater, Sunnyside, and the Front Desk, and provides extra-large copies for residents who request them. The week's editor posts copies on bulletin boards in all buildings. *Spotlight* is also posted on the Residents Website, in a redacted format on the public side, and in a full format in the Residents Only section.

## **TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Chair:** Gretchen Engler

**Members:** Harriet Barnett, Muriel Hahn, Ed Hanin, Carolyn Klinger, Jack Miller, Lee Oakes, Barbara Rachlin, Anne White

**Mission:** The Transportation Advisory Committee functions as a bridge between residents and management. Its mission is to support the Kendal on Hudson Transportation Services Department by providing input and feedback on current transportation options, ideas for potential additional services, and suggestions for improving current services. The committee gathers information primarily using existing Transportation Services statistics and dialogue with residents. Throughout the year, the Committee met with Ellen Ottstadt, Director of Resident Services, to learn about plans for updating the fleet, driver status, and other transportation matters. We reviewed transportation statistics, shared observations about current services, and considered possibilities for changes and additions.

The Committee added a member from Adirondack to improve representation of that neighborhood. More trips for Adirondack residents were added to the schedule during 2023. Another member of the Committee is also a member of the Trips Committee, providing insight into areas where the committees might work together to make sure that regular Trips (to museums and other cultural locations) will not be reduced. The Committee will continue its regular exchange with Management to ensure that resident transportation services remain responsive to the needs of the community.

Because we seldom get an opportunity, we herewith formally extend our warmest thanks and appreciation to our exceptional drivers: Richard Shields, Alfredo Diaz, and Frank Occhipinti.

## TRIPS COMMITTEE

**Chair:** Marianne Bloomfeld; Bobbie Roggemann (assistant chair)

**Members:** Lynn Brady, Jacky Cummings, Hildegarde Gray, Ursula Hahn, Lillian Hess, Carolyn Klinger, Pat Taylor, Barbara Wallach, Donn Williams

**Mission:** The Trips Committee seeks to provide Independent Living residents access to the beauty, heritage, and rich cultural life of the region surrounding Kendal on Hudson. We plan, arrange, and lead day trips in New York City, the Tri-State Metro Area, and Westchester and nearby Counties in the Hudson River Valley.

**Meetings:** The committee meets on the third Monday of each month, except in December.

**Activities:** The trips go to destinations of interest, such as museums, historic sites, and formal gardens. A cruise on the Hudson River and local theater performances are also included, as well as Met Opera HD Live performances. Trips designated as “Do Your Own Thing” (DYOT) allow individual exploration at a destination; participants return to the van at the drop-off point at a specified time. Up to 12 passengers are transported by van to venues within an hour-and-a-half of Kendal.

Trip leaders make all trip arrangements prior to the trip, including lunch reservations and ticket purchase if done in advance. The leader contacts the venue to plan the logistics and timing of the trip. The leader manages the sign-up procedure for the trip and fills out required forms to document the names of the participants. Sign-up sheets are submitted to the Resident Care Center to screen the names of residents who signed up for the trip, to assess their ability to physically manage the trip.

Prior to the trip, the leader contacts the participants to provide specific instructions pertinent to the trip. The leader collects payments for van transportation and, when needed, reimbursement for advance purchase tickets. The treasurer handles check requests for payments to the Residents Association or the trip venue, or reimbursement to committee members.

**Finances:** Participants pay individually for their own lunch, admission tickets, and fees. (Some venues have no charge for admission and half-day trips do not usually include lunch.) Additionally, each participant pays a transportation charge of \$7 per trip.

The actual transportation costs payable to Kendal on Hudson from the committee budget for each participant are: \$10 for trips up to 15 miles and \$20 for trips over 15 miles.

**Summary of Trips:** Although many of the venues are repeated, we seek out special exhibitions in museums and new destinations. We have half-day trips and full-day trips. We

plan trips that appeal to a variety of interests and activity levels, being mindful of accessibility at the sites. Most trips are accessible for residents with walkers or canes.

Trips conducted in 2023 have included:

American Folk Art Museum	Met Museum, DYOT (three visits)
Bartow-Pell Mansion Gardens Tour	Met Opera Live in HD: <i>Dead Man</i>
Bruce Museum	<i>Walking, Don Giovanni, Falstaff</i>
Cooper Hewitt Museum (two visits)	“Miss Saigon” musical
Culinary Institute of America	Museum of Natural History, DYOT
David Rockefeller Creative Art Center (three visits)	Neuberger Museum
Dreyfus Foundation	Noguchi Museum and Socrates Sculpture Park
Edward Hopper House	Philipse Manor Hall
FDR Museum and Library	<i>Pride of the Hudson</i> Cruise
Frick Museum	Samuel Dorsky Museum
Guggenheim Museum	Ukrainian Museum
Hudson River Museum	Untermeyer Gardens (two visits)
Irvington tour	Walkway over the Hudson
Katonah Museum	

The total number of trips that will have been completed from January through December 2023 will be 31. We plan to continue to provide new and interesting experiences to Kendal residents.

## WELCOMING TEAM

**Co-Chairs:** Cynthia Ferguson, Jo-Ann Rapaport, Iris Sampliner

**Welcoming Neighbors:** Judy Baker, Rita Benzer, Marianne Bloomfeld, Alice Clague, Sylvia Hawes, Barbara Kornfield, Aruna Raghavan, Bobbie Roggemann

**Specialists:** Editor, Support Materials: Fran Kelly  
Biographies posted on Main Street: Janet Schloat, Marianne Bloomfeld, Rema Sessler  
Campus Tours: Bob Kutscher, Pam Mitchell

**Photographer:** Arthur Brady

**Volunteers:** Jean MacIntosh, Jane Kratovil

**Mission:** To ease residents’ move to Independent Living at Kendal by providing support and information. This is accomplished through personal contact before, during and after the move-in date. Printed information, campus tours as well as social events and invitations to dinner are also provided.

### Activities 2023

- During the period from January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, 26 new residents moved into 19 apartments. Note: Five residents are expected to move into four apartments during December 2023.
- The *Newcomer Guide* was revised. It contains basic information about appliances, TV/Internet, CATIE, dining, package delivery, emergencies, and activities.
- A Kendal on Hudson Activity Fair was held on October 15 in the Dining Rooms. 40 groups and committees participated with one representative from each seated at tables; each committee and group prepared visuals, handouts, and signup sheets and answered residents' questions. It is estimated that 120 residents attended. The fair was well received. Iris Sampliner spoke about the fair at a Residents Council meeting. A comprehensive report on the Activity Fair is on file with Welcoming.
- Residents have declined individual tours as they say they're busy unpacking. Tour Guides suggested that group tours may work better and offer an opportunity to meet other residents.
- Residents Council holds a quarterly meeting to brief new residents.

#### **Proposed Activities 2024**

- We plan to conduct brief surveys of new residents to assess additional needs and obtain more in-depth information on the move-in experience.
- Group tours will be offered to recently arriving residents to determine response.