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Letter from the President

Dear Friends of the Care Center-

As we make our slow way toward the conclusion of this strange winter that hasn't yet managed to be a real winter, I find myself thinking about resilience – and preparedness.

I'm also aware that it's probably folly to write something about how the weather hasn't behaved normally, when the words I write won't see the light of day until a few weeks from now. That's plenty of time for this unpredictable winter to make me look foolish by dumping a great load of late-season snow on the roof and grounds of the Care Center.

But I do know this; if this happens, we'll figure out how to deal with it. We'll do so because the community that is the Care Center has shaped itself into a place that both lives its life day to day, and remembers that we need to be prepared for whatever comes our way. Not only weather, but all kinds of possibilities that might occur.

Everyone who reads this newsletter deserves to take a full measure of pride in the extraordinary enterprise that the Care Center has become. To be sure, it was a brilliant notion when first conceived and in its earliest days, even as it struggled to attract residents and work out the fine points of how to manage a safe, dignified, stimulating place for people to live. From the earliest days of being, the staff, board, volunteers, and a host of supporters worked thoughtfully and tirelessly to confront financial and organizational challenges.

Today, thanks to those early efforts, and continuing passion and diligence, this community is on a solid financial and organizational footing. The people who live here can sense this strength, as they take part in countless activities, enjoy the warm and comfortable spaces the Center offers, and grow in their sense of community with each other. Resilience is part of the fabric of the management of this place, and of the community itself. And skilled, deeply caring staff is prepared to face whatever issues arise in the growth and development of the Center's very life.

As I write this, a few inches of snow have fallen. Before it turns to rain, which seems to be the way of things in this strange winter, I have no doubt that someone is stockpiling the precious fresh snow for our annual Sugar on Snow Party. We hope you'll join us for this great tradition, which will take place on Saturday, April 2. There's more information about the event elsewhere in this newsletter.

We are so grateful for your part in and support of this community we call the Care Center. And we really hope you'll join in the festivities on April 2, or come and visit anytime it's convenient for you. You are part of this community, just as are those who live here.

And we're prepared to welcome you, no matter what the weather throws our way.

Gratefully,
Alan Parker, for the Board of Directors

Craftsbury Community Care Center, Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization and Equal Housing Opportunity Facility.

Our mission is to provide a caring, homelike affordable residence for seniors, in a setting that encourages independence, activities and involvement with families, friends and the larger community.

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Resident Highlight — Ruth Lawrence

When I arrived for our interview, Ruth welcomed me into her room, decorated in peaceful shades of blue, with photos of family, paintings of a favorite view from her home in Greensboro and of her beloved Jack Russell terrier. I spotted her Kindle right away and soon came to know that reading is her favorite pastime. She especially enjoys medieval historical fiction, but also said she had read many of the mysteries in the Greensboro Free Library and also enjoys the writing of Doris Kearns Goodwin.

Ruth grew up in Cape Elizabeth, Maine, and attended Connecticut College where she majored in English. After college she was hired by the Providence Public Library in Rhode Island as a children's librarian and earned her Masters in Library Science. She continued her profession as a librarian throughout her working life, living mostly in Rhode Island.



Her husband was a minister who loved Vermont and gardening. They bought some land in Pawlet, Vermont, and had a one room cabin built there. They soon added a second room and began to spend two months every summer there, which continued for 20 years. They loved the peaceful life there, where for about 5 miles in every direction there were no other buildings. They grew a lot of their own food, cooked on a 2-burner Coleman stove, hauled water and used kerosene lanterns.

They retired to Greensboro in 2000. Before then, for two years, they spent most Saturdays driving up to Vermont looking at houses and finally found the right one in Greensboro. Ruth's husband died in 2002, and she lived by herself until a serious eye emergency left her with impaired vision. She was very familiar with the Craftsbury Community Care Center because her mother had lived here for seven years, from 2003 to 2010. She visited her mother every day; they really enjoyed driving around the countryside, even when they got lost, which (Ruth said with a smile) happened fairly often. Ruth said she would call the Care Center and tell them not to expect her mom back until after supper, they'd eat out somewhere and then get directions home. Ruth knew that the Care Center is where she wanted to live when she could no longer live independently. She spoke of the friendly and caring staff and the "good feeling" atmosphere. She likes the fact that it is small enough so everyone can know everyone else and that the entire staff pitches in whenever and wherever needed.

—Submitted by Doreen Noyes

A Multitude of Thanks

The 2015 Annual Appeal has been one of the most successful in years. The Board, residents and staff are eternally grateful to the many friends who contributed to CCCC so very generously. We depend on your continued support to maintain our excellent quality of care, to keep the residence in good condition and to provide nourishing home cooked meals and plenty of entertainment for the residents.

THANK YOU!

Valentine Celebration

A Valentine celebration was held on February 12th. Skip Sedore and 6 friends started the celebration with music and singing. This was followed by sweet treats and socializing. Homemade valentines were presented to the residents by staff member Alene, her daughter and grandchildren. The residents were also treated to Valentines made by the Knit Wits (Lynda Scott and Marj Morrill). The 5th and 6th graders from Craftsbury Academy also made valentines and personally presented each resident with the treat. The Walden Home Demonstration Group greeted the residents with Valentines at their breakfast seating.

Thank you to all involved for making the holiday special for our residents. They truly enjoyed it.

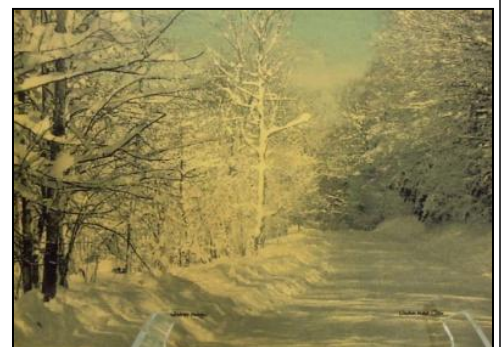
— Submitted by Barb Flint

Sugar on Snow Party

Saturday, April 2nd from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Mark your calendars for this year's CCCC Sugar on Snow fundraising event. While we can be assured of wonderful Craftsbury maple syrup, we should be crossing our fingers that there will be some fresh snow to accompany it. Of course, there will be the traditional donuts and pickles. All we need is for you to come and make it a truly festive gathering.

Included in the very popular Chinese auction will be quiches and dinner casseroles in addition to the regular array of baked goods - coffee cakes, muffins, fresh breads for breakfast; pies and fancy cakes for a decadent dessert treat. Come and see how lucky you may be!

We have four outstanding prizes for this year's raffle. Linda Mae Clow, a Hardwick artist, has given us an intriguing "Winter Magic" photograph on a wooden backing. Bill Rowley has hand turned a beautiful and useful maple salad bowl. There is a cuddly blue and white children's quilt, hand stitched by Vaughn Rinaldi who has been so generous with other quilts in the past. Once again High Mowing Seeds has offered us a sampling of their vegetable seed packets to begin your summer garden. Raffle tickets (\$1 apiece or 6 for \$5) are now on sale at CCCC.



Come join us on Saturday, April 2nd!



Volunteer Spotlight — Making History Come Alive

Dave Linck, the noteworthy Craftsbury historian, has a knack for entertaining CCCC residents while giving them a fascinating perspective on history. He comes by his interest in history through growing up in West Point, New York when his father taught at the Military Academy. As a young man he was exposed to early Americana associated with the Hudson River as well as all manner of outdoor activity.

He began his own career in 1969 teaching science at the Sterling School, then a boy's boarding school. As Sterling evolved becoming Sterling College so did Dave's curriculum. He continued to teach the sciences, biology in particular, but expanded to forestry, woodlot, camping and canoeing courses. He initiated a boulder program similar to those sponsored by Outward Bound.



When the Craftsbury Historical Society was formed in 1977, he was one of the founding members and is still actively involved. After retiring from full time teaching at Sterling, Dave continued to be an occasional guest speaker, participated in the Craftsbury Library summer programs and volunteered at CCCC.

About ten years ago he developed a new hobby – metal detecting. His partner and mentor was Lance Comfort who was the CCCC administrator in the early 2000s. Together they explored the territory around Craftsbury and Greensboro gathering a wealth of historical memorabilia. Much of what they uncovered provides the basis for Dave's interaction when he gives his talks. The pieces are both visual and tactile and often have a compelling history to go with them. In addition, Dave has a unique collection of animal skulls and teeth and is versed in beaver ecology.

Frequently, he draws material from the Craftsbury Historical Society's exhibits. In 1884, at the age of 70, a local farmer named George F. Sprague wrote a diary, page after page for a year. Reading from the diary and discussing his life captivates an audience. Also kept in the Historical Society is Mary Jean Simpson's medicine cabinet. Its contents can easily jump start a lively discussion prompted by the look and smells of all the old bottles.

On one visit to CCCC, Dave came dressed as a Revolutionary soldier. The period costume garnered plenty of attention and initiated intriguing stories. In 2002 he, his son and daughter sailed a revolutionary period 19 foot boat which they crafted from historical plans. They began at the Champlain Bridge, traveled through the canal, out onto the Hudson River and journeyed down to West Point. They existed on period food including jerky and syrup, camping out in a tent overnight. The 20 mile trip took 10 days, fortunately most of them in good weather. Along the way they stopped at various schools, visiting fourth grade classes to explain their reenactment. Their final stop was at the West Point grade school which Dave attended as a child.

Dave thoroughly enjoys his historical adventures and as long as he can come up with interesting material he will continue to share his passion with the CCCC residents. How very lucky they are!!! Thank you, Dave.

—Submitted by Anne Cassidy

Building a Future by Leaving a legacy

CCCC invites your continuing support to ensure a vibrant and dependable future for this home and for its many community outreach programs. Let your legacy be one of caring for our current and future residents. When thinking about estate planning, please consider naming the Craftsbury Community Care Center in your will. Donations can be made in a variety of ways tailored to suit your particular circumstances. They include bequests, memorial gifts, stock contributions, and real estate gifts. For more information about naming CCCC as a beneficiary, please contact our Executive Director, Kim Roberge, at 802-586-2414.

—Submitted by Kim Roberge

Craftsbury Community Care Center's Photo Gallery



Upcoming Events

- Friday, March 11 at 2 PM
Sing a long with Skip Sedore and Friends
- Monday, March 14 at 3 PM
Dorian Sarris on square grand piano
- Tuesday, March 15 10:30 AM
Community Poetry Reading
- Saturday, March 19 at 9:30 AM
Northern Lights Singing Group
- Sunday, March 20 at 3:30 PM
Bill Eisner on harp
- Monday, March 28 at 3 PM
Dorian Sarris on square grand piano
- Wednesday, March 30 at 10:30 AM
Winter Wildlife with Dave Linck



Board of Directors:

- Alan Parker, President
- Anne Cassidy, Vice President
- Jenny Stoner, Secretary
- Carolyn Ryan, Treasurer
- Cilla Bonney-Smith
- Dan Hill
- Scott Inglis
- Jim Jones
- Jeanne Joslin
- Janet Long, honorary member
- Jane Marlin
- Mark McAndrew
- Doreen Noyes
- Julian Sharp
- Rebecca Tatel
- Bob Twiss, honorary member

Executive Director:

Kimberly Roberge

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