

Heartbeet Lifesharing

- A Camphill Community -

Newsletter

www.heartbeet.org

FALL 2015 • Heartbeet Lifesharing • A Camphill Community • 218 Town Farm Rd • Hardwick, VT 05843

~ Breaking Ground! ~

Dear Friends of Heartbeet,

The Equinox arrived with a blast of warm weather, sunshine, and our last dips in the pond. It is amazing that there has been no frost yet—the trees are still green. The hints of brown and tips of red are our only reminder that the season change is truly upon us.



Jon and Parker at Friends & Family Day

This summer was packed with excitement—a wedding, a commitment ceremony, an Open House that was attended by over two hundred local friends and family members, beautiful and productive vegetable gardens, and the estate crew hard at work finishing the upper neighborhood landscaping. We even managed to put in a new fenced yard that is welcoming and safe for the toddlers in our community. Alden gave up the honor of youngest community member on September 15, when Linden Sol Morse was born to Marcianna and Dan.

There have also been significant changes on our board. We warmly welcome Warren Gleicher as president. He has big shoes to fill—Jed Williamson, our past president, was on the front lines with us in our pioneering



Anna and Sequoya during the harvest

years and has offered his expertise, warmth of heart, and hands-on support throughout the arc of his leadership. We also said farewell to board members Sherry Wildfeuer and Rachel Schwartz Knauf, who were with us since the beginning, and will of course maintain close connections to Heartbeet. We feel blessed that such gifted individuals are part of the forming



Actualizing the vision!



Above: Marcianna, Dan, & baby Linden
(inset); Annie & Chris celebrate!
Below: Eric & Max; A great team!
Suzannah, Victoria, & Kei making pesto;
Trampoline Sams!

and supporting of the Heartbeet Community—thank you! We also want to acknowledge Clare Collinson, a coworker that many of you know as a fun-filled member of the community. This fall she left Heartbeet after five years of service; she will be missed, but I am sure life will find its way of keeping us connected.

This is an abundant apple year in the Northeast Kingdom. Along the roadsides as well as on the cultivated trees the branches are full of fruit ready to be gathered; applesauce, apple butter and cider will bless our tables this year! The plans for our Community Center have felt much like the apple trees this summer, growing from flower to fruit, ripening in the warmth of people's hearts, building the right connections, and now we are breaking ground. The machines have arrived and our landscape is forever changed. Thank you to everyone that has supported us in taking this major step in our community's development. We are making a leap of faith as we reach out once again to our extended community for the final funds to make this building a reality. Our goal is to close the final gap in funding with \$300,000 left to raise by the end of December—we are so close but still need your help!!!

Over the weekend of September 20th Heartbeet hosted a conference for Camphill community members from all over the world, as well as for many other new friends who feel connected to the Camphill impulse. The weekend was closed with a festival of activities that took place on the Community Center site. With a peace dove from Bread and Puppet flying its graceful wings over the circle of inspired participants, calling into being a home for interfaith activities, inclusion and community building, each person participating felt seen and heard as they helped us welcome this very special building.

To complete the construction we will need these final funds. Your help is essential! I have trust in this final step, and so much gratitude for being part of this community building process.

With much love and deep thanks,

Hannah Schwartz
Executive Director



Community Life



From Top-Left to Right: Kei & Suzannah relax on the porch; Byron & Ann putting up hay; Thomas; Wilde & Victoria; David & Onat - All dressed up!; Jared, Kei & Samantha; Hannah, Jasper, Lyla & Josiah; Patrick and Alden; Victoria, Lindsey & Anna in the garden; Ann & Rachel at Friends and Family Day; Sean enjoying the sun; Jemma, Sara, August & Andy; Eric, Seneca, & Kai on Father's Day; Connor & Marcianna share a dance



Building a Community

~ Past, Present, Future

Past: The Samuel French Meeting House

The Heartbeet Community Center will be a great many things, but first and foremost it will be a place for people to come together. We look forward to bringing this place of community to the Hardwick area, providing an interfaith space for people of all abilities to gather and celebrate diversity. As it turns out there are others throughout history who have had similar ideas, one in particular on this very spot. Elizabeth H. Dow of the Hardwick Historical Society reports the following:

In 1820, Hardwick had roughly 900 people. It had become a fully settled and organized community in the roughly 30 years since the first settlers arrived. Farms, mills, shops, homes, and specialized buildings of all sorts dotted the landscape, but it had no dedicated house of worship. Samuel French addressed this need when he built a non-denominational 'meeting house,' known as the French Meeting House, a little west of the Hardwick Center school on the Center Road. This building was erected in 1816 for the purpose of promoting harmony and peace among the citizens, and was designed for a union house, but failed to effect the object for which it was built. It had "Liberty of Conscience" inscribed on its front. *(Reprinted with permission from the Hardwick Historical Society)*



A window from the French Meeting House hangs at the Hardwick Depot into the same intentions and goals. Our Community Center will stand as tribute to the fundamental goals of those who came before us, reinforcing the timeless nature of the importance of inclusion, diversity, and community.

The building described sits just above the Heartbeet property. What a strange and marvelous coincidence that 200 years later we would be immersed in the construction of our own interfaith space in nearly the same spot! We are inspired by the work of those who came before us who poured their energies

into the same intentions and goals.



The big machinery is rolling in!

Present: Building a Foundation

This is our moment of truth: our Community Center is on its way! We have broken ground and construction began on October 12th. We couldn't be more excited! The walls may be rising, but we still need to raise \$300,000 of the \$2.2 million dollars required by December to build this Community Center! Our team has been working hard, and all the permitting for this building is in place. Our goal is still to enclose the Community Center before the snow flies. We have faith that it can be done, but we need your help! Old friends, new friends, now is the time where you personally can make a difference in Heartbeet's future! Please consider making a gift towards the Heartbeet Community Center at this crucial moment!

We are truly at the threshold of a defining moment for the community. On September 20th, 2015 participants of the Second Annual Camphill Conference participated in a Foundation Stone Festival which was held at the future hall site. We celebrated together that we are laying a foundation for the future. By Fall of 2016 we will be welcoming you into the newly built Heartbeet Community Center!



Jonathan working on plans for the Hall

Community Center Present, Future! ~



Andy works with the HP Cummings team



The Foundation Stone Festival at the Hall Site



Sequoya and Andy mark out the foundation site

Future: Fixtures, Furniture, Equipment

The future is bright for our Community Center, but even after it is completed we will have some work to do. The first task will be to fill it! We will be in need of fixtures, furniture, and equipment (FFE) in order to welcome the extended community in. These accoutrements are already beginning to take shape. We are in possession of a baby grand piano, generously donated by Judith Strull, which will bring music and enliven the Hall. We have also received a gift of table bases from Circus Smirkus, which we will be using to furnish our community dining room! We are so grateful to those who have already stepped forward to outfit this building, and excited at the prospect of what is to come. Heartbeet has also received a Vulcan six burner stove through the generosity of Philip Cook, but will still be in need of pots and pans, kitchen amenities and fixtures. Similarly, we will be in search of additional tables and chairs for the community dining space. Finally, what is a community space without décor? We are searching for art to adorn the walls of the Community Center: inspirational colors and images to brighten and warm this space. We are inspired to create a truly bright future for Heartbeet and the surrounding area. We hope you will be similarly motivated to join us in this effort!



Participants of the 2015 International Camphill Conference!



Harvesting wood for the Hall

Welcome!

Mandy Pedrotty - Finding Home at Heartbeet

Mandy Pedrotty comes to Heartbeet from Underhill, Vermont at the base of Mount Mansfield, where her family has lived for 33 years! She graduated from Mount Mansfield Union High School. Mandy has held a variety of jobs, including working in a video store, hardware store, and at Champlain Valley Fairgrounds. She has also done volunteer work for her local library, Vermont Public Television, and Vermont Parent Information Center!

Mandy was born in Ohio and moved to Vermont when she was 6 weeks old. Her family includes an older brother, Pete, his wife Rachel, her mother Georgann, and father Tim. Other members of her immediate family include their cat Peaches and a Bernese Mountain Dog named Dutchess.

Mandy enjoys yoga, therapeutic horseback riding, snowshoeing, swimming, and kayaking. She also loves to take walks with her mother and Dutchess, and enjoys driving with her father in their Corolla. Mandy has a keen interest in identifying makes and models of cars and trucks.

Mandy is excited to be joining Heartbeet to make new friends and develop new skills! A loving community is just her kind of place.



Mandy with her family



Mandy & Kaylin out for a walk



Meet our new co-workers! (From Left) Jan, Anna, Odile, John

Introducing Warren Gleicher *Incoming President of the Board*

Warren Gleicher graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in English from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, a Law Degree from State University of New York at Buffalo, and an LLM in Taxation from New York University Law School.



Warren and Max

Warren has practiced Law in NY since 1977 and has been admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court Bar. He is past President of the Board of Camphill Special School and is President of the American Board of the University of Haifa in Israel. He has been a member of the Heartbeet Board of Directors since 2010.

Warren lives with his wife Amy in New York City. They are the parents of three sons, the youngest of whom, Max, has lived at Heartbeet since 2011.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Warren as President of the Board of Directors!

Jerry Schwartz *New Board Trustee*

Jerry Schwartz joined the Heartbeet Board in June 2015. He is currently an at-large trustee of the Camphill Association of North America and investment advisor to six additional Camphill communities. His undergraduate and graduate degrees are in the field of philosophy. Jerry entered the investment world through Merrill Lynch in 1977 and founded his own financial planning and investment advisory practice, Arista Investment Advisors, Ltd. in 1984. As part of his lifelong study of the world's great spiritual traditions, Jerry teaches workshops in mediation, self-transformation, and the spiritual nature of money as the carrier of social and communal vitality.

Jerry lives in Hawaii with his wife Erin, next door to his daughter Faith, her partner JR and grandchildren Gracie and Jeremiah. In his free time Jerry enjoys running and has completed seven marathons! His interests also include reading, music, and when possible, lazy times in the shade of a palm tree by the side of the beautiful blue and emerald Pacific Ocean.



Reflections...

Jed Williamson - A Retrospective

Outgoing President of the Board

I have known about Heartbeet since day one! During the startup years I was just up the road at Sterling College, where I was president from 1996-2006. We were doing significant building renovations in 1999, which is when I met Jonathan, who was working as a carpenter with the contractor. As they say, the rest is history!



It so happened that I had become involved with a very similar project in Hokkaido, Japan. Through contacts in Obihiro I met Nozomu Miyjima, a man dedicated to caring for adults with special needs through his working cheese and vegetable farm called "Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds". With grant money I was able to take Sterling students there annually. Now they only have to travel ten miles to Heartbeet to see the same approach in action!

I was honored when asked to serve on the Heartbeet board, and then serve as its president. I continue to have many happy visits and moments of joy when I see all the Friends. A very bad experience that turned into a positive growth experience for all began with a phone call on a Sunday in January 2013 informing me that Sophia House, nearly 90% completed, had burned to the ground. Out of this devastation came the reconstruction of the building and the community. Now we look forward to the newest symbol of Heartbeet's soul—the Community Center.

A Year at Heartbeet

By Johannes Englert



Brittany, Johannes, Connor, & Suzannah

Leaving my home in Germany and coming to Heartbeet was one of the biggest steps I have taken in my life. This past year has been a great opportunity for me to be more open to completely new experiences, and to discover a different lifestyle.

Living at Heartbeet has been like living in a big family. From the first moment I arrived I felt like I was at home. It was a Tuesday, bag lunch day, and everyone was gathered on the White Pine lawn. The feeling of simply being together and sharing a meal was incredible. Throughout the year I have loved being together in big groups for events.

Heartbeet also showed me how to become independent. Of course sharing the same space is not always easy, and can sometimes be stressful. Thank you Heartbeet and especially Kaylin and Patrick for being not just great family members, but for pushing me and helping me find my voice. I will never forget this year; Heartbeet will always be a part of me.

Putting a Bookmark in a Beautiful Chapter

By Morgan Gauthier

This year was an amazing one, filled with deep collegueship and meaningful work. From cutting 2x4s for our barn to stacking wood, preparing meals, or simply having an important conversation, everything was done together with a deep interest in the other, and a striving to meet one another's needs. I couldn't put into words how instrumental this year at Heartbeet has been for me.

For the moment I say goodbye to this beautiful place to go on an adventure. I look forward to living



Annie, Chris, and Morgan at Community Lunch

and working with a friend in New York until May, after which we will head west to hike the Pacific Crest Trail.

I am excited for the trail ahead, and though I am sad to leave Heartbeet I am comforted by knowing that I am only putting a bookmark in a beautiful chapter. Saying goodbye to something good is hard, but knowing you can say hello to it again makes it all better. Thank you Heartbeeters for everything this year! Lots of love and best wishes to you all.

One More Step Along the Road I Go

by Clare Collinson

Where and how do I even begin to sum up the last 5 ½ years? Unlike most of the population of the world I can probably count the number of 'bad' days on my two hands. Trust me when I say that I appreciate what a rare statement that is--Heartbeet is a rare place. Memories come flooding back in delicious snippets of hilarious exchanges, eye-brow (and sometimes hair) raising events, and of course an ever present and abundant feeling of unconditional love which permeates daily life.

Those that have spent any time with me will know that my usual mode of operation is laugh first and ask questions later. I'm glad to say that for the most part everyone at Heartbeet 'got' my British sense of humor and tolerated my 'uniqueness.' From the moment I arrived, when Seneca embraced me on a freezing cold January night at the Burlington airport I suspected that I had come home. I have so many people to thank for being able to live this idyll for so many years, and friendships that I will cherish for the rest of my life. Ultimately I have learned such valuable and deepening lessons from all of the Heartbeeters past and present who never once judged me for my shortcomings, and never failed to see the joy and beauty in every new day, every greeting, and every opportunity to come together. The simplicity of true happiness is a profound discovery and a life changer, but its attainment is not easy. Though the

price is high, no one would argue that it is not worth the sacrifice and struggle.

I can say with absolute certainty that just by Heartbeet's very existence the world is a better place. I have never

felt so alive; so loved, challenged, exhausted, privileged, humbled and accepted. I have laughed, cried and celebrated the wonder that is simply being human. I join the ranks of those that have loved and left, those who take the golden thread of this wondrous gift into their new lives: new ways of thinking, communicating, and understanding our role in this world. With the advent of the Community Hall I see a new age dawning for Heartbeet, and although I won't see the deep recognition on the faces of the people who

visit it, I know without a shadow of a doubt that it will be there and they too will take a measure of Heartbeet magic with them when they leave, and the story will go on.

I think the greatest lessons that I have learned are these: love one another deeply; have compassion; have faith and trust in yourself and others; celebrate the good in the world; and at least once a day do something really silly that makes you and those around you laugh! Oh and hugs, give lots of hugs.



Clare and Brittany

Mission:

Heartbeet is a vibrant Lifesharing community that includes adults with developmental disabilities and interweaves the social and agricultural realms for the healing and renewing of our society and the earth. Community members live and work together, in beautiful extended family households, forming a mutually supportive environment that enables each individual to discover and develop his or her unique abilities and potential.

Donations:

Heartbeet Lifesharing – 218 Town Farm Road, Hardwick, VT 05843

Email: Hannah@heartbeet.org – Phone: (802) 472-3285 – Website: www.heartbeet.org

Creative Donations:

Corporate Donations can be supported through business matching grants. If you are giving a donation to Heartbeet, check with your business or corporation to see if they would be willing to match it. If you are thinking of giving money but would like to give it over time, we can organize a pledge donation.

*Heartbeet Lifesharing is an equal opportunity employer and provider. Heartbeet is registered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and its primary purpose is serving individuals with developmental disabilities. We are a youthful organization with significant capital expenses, so your support is greatly appreciated and can be directed towards the following areas of need: **General Operations or Community Center***



Chris & Dave