

# Wake Robin Residents Association Committees and Activities

## 2016

Wake Robin's committees and activities are at the heart of our lively community. The amazing variety of groups offers every resident the chance to find a place to share talents, learn new skills, contribute to the community and enjoy working with other people. Joining a committee is a good way for residents to be part of community life.

There are currently about 47 committees and activities, all of them resident-driven. This means that residents have started each group, defined its purpose and worked out its structure. Resident members plan meetings, discuss and carry out projects, adopt new goals and submit yearly budgets to the WRRRA. Over time, some groups disband and new ones begin, sustained by residents' interests, energy and hard work. All groups have the support of Krista Malaney, Resident Services Program Coordinator.

A current list of committees and activities, with the name of a contact person for each, is available at the front desk or via email request to Kasey Robinson ([krobinson@wakerobin.com](mailto:krobinson@wakerobin.com)).

# Committees and Activities

## 2016

### **Aquatic Committee**

Issues a pamphlet on rules of safety for pool users. Certifies residents as Buddies or Pool Monitors and schedules monitors to staff daily monitored pool hours. Maintains a log of pool usage and works with Environmental Services on maintenance of the Aquatic Center. The Committee meets monthly.

### **Archives**

Collects, preserves and makes accessible materials of enduring value to Wake Robin's history. Typical materials include committee records, trail maps, lists of wildflowers, photographs and videotapes, copies of Trillium and Cosmos, scripts of plays produced by the Wake Robin Players, and programs of musical events.

### **Ballroom Dancing**

Meets once a month, typically, in the Meeting Room, with music of varied styles and speeds from the Big Band era. Everyone is welcome – couples, singles and those who just want to watch, listen and chat. New dancers will be comfortable, no matter how long it has been since they last danced.

### **Bible Study**

This group meets weekly from fall to spring in the Meeting Room. The group selects a theme for its weekly discussions, which are led by the Rev. Greg Smith of the Shelburne Methodist Church.

### **Bridge**

Open to all bridge players, this group meets weekly on Tuesday afternoons.

### **Card Making**

Participants create new designs from used greeting cards, expressing their artistic abilities and exchanging ideas in a sociable environment. Craft materials are provided. The group supplies the Gift Shop with appealing cards at an affordable price. Profits from card sales benefit the WRRRA. The card makers meet weekly.

### **Chorus**

The Chorus, or Wake Robin Singers, is a group of residents who enjoy singing together. The group meets weekly for ten weeks in the fall and spring and presents two programs yearly. Members of the Chorus pay a fee to cover the cost of their outside director and accompanist. Any resident who likes to sing is invited to join. There is no audition.

### **Community Gardens**

Members of this committee are residents who enjoy growing their own flowers and vegetables in the small garden plots near the Maintenance Building. The committee assigns gardens annually, giving priority to apartment dwellers. It assists Wake Robin's landscaping staff with building and repairing raised beds, cares for tools and supplies compost.

### **Computer Committee**

Members maintain a PC and a Mac for resident and staff use in the committee's office in the Community Center, and help residents with problems on their home computers.

### **Cosmos**

This literary magazine is produced and written by and for Wake Robin residents. It is published annually.

### **Decorating Committee**

The mission of the Decorating Committee is to act as resident consultants to the administration on matters of interior decorating on the Wake Robin campus.

### **English Country Dance**

The group is open to all residents who enjoy or would like to learn English Country Dancing. The group meets weekly from fall through spring. A fee covers the cost of the dance instructors.

### **Fiber Arts**

The group's purpose is to enjoy and explore a variety of fiber arts, to be a resource for residents who need advice, material and supplies, and to establish friendships through working together.

### **Film Club**

The purpose of the Film Club is to view and discuss provocative films. Monthly screenings of previewed films are open to all residents. Suggestions are welcome.

### **Flower Committee**

Members of the Flower Committee provide and care for bouquets at six different stations in the Community Center and Linden. The committee maintains a small cutting garden and four standing flower boxes on the deck of the Community Center. They meet monthly to review assignments and responsibilities.

### **Gallery Exhibits**

A resident group plans themes and arranges the changing shows that are displayed throughout the year in the exhibit cases of the Community Center.

### **Gentry Gallery**

The Gentry Gallery in the Community Center presents art exhibits by residents, or by artists with connections to Wake Robin. Organizers plan themes and arrange and hang the exhibits.

### **Greens Committee**

The Greens Committee promotes environmental awareness at Wake Robin. The committee provides information on reducing energy use and works on community recycling and composting in coordination with Environment Services. It sponsors field trips to local public service facilities and hosts evening programs on environmental issues. Monthly meetings are open to all residents.

### **Gift Shop**

The Gift Shop provides a convenient place for residents to buy items like greeting cards, stationary, books, office supplies, over-the-counter drugstore needs and a selection of seasonal and holiday items. The shop is maintained by resident volunteers who do all the buying, selling and accounting.

### **Handbell Ensemble**

The Handbell Ensemble is made up of residents who play four-octave sets of hand bells and hand chimes under the direction of a professional leader. The group practices weekly and presents two concerts each year. There is a fee for the director's services.

### **Library Committee**

The Jean Connor Library includes a collection of over 4,000 books, audio-visual materials, newspapers and magazines, regularly updated through purchases and donations, as well as a computer and a large-print magnifier. The collection in the main library of the Community Center includes fiction and non-fiction. Biographies and large-print books are shelved in the Game Room. Mysteries and DVDs, VHS tapes and CDs are found in the Butternut ground floor library.

### **Linden Mail Delivery**

The Linden Mail Delivery group's aim is to provide personal and social contacts between residents of Cedar and residents living independently. On Monday through Friday of each week two volunteers from the group pick up mail at the front desk and deliver it to Cedar residents.

### **Linden Support Committee**

The purpose of the Linden Support Committee is to encourage connections between residents in independent living and residents who live in Spruce, Cedar and Juniper. Volunteer visitors receive orientation from Activities Coordinator Andrea Dion, who introduces them to residents who would enjoy visits and provides information on visiting protocol.

### **Memoirs Group**

The group is a gathering of people who share written memories of their life experiences and adventures. We write for the joy of recall. We do not criticize, edit or attempt to teach writing skills. We simply listen and appreciate each contribution and learn a bit about each other. If you are curious, interested or have been wondering about the Memoirs Group, welcome.

### **Movies**

The group reviews, selects and projects the films that are shown in the Meeting Room on most Saturday nights. They welcome suggestions.

### **Music Committee**

The committee plans and arranges concerts at Wake Robin and arranges transportation to a variety of off-campus musical events, like Vermont Symphony Orchestra performances. The committee schedules on-campus events in a variety of musical genres. It meets monthly.

### **Name Tags**

Wearing a name tag is a Wake Robin tradition. Working with Resident Services, a volunteer orders a name tag for each incoming resident, orders replacements for lost tags and can do minor repairs.

### **Nature Committee**

The Nature Committee's goal is to offer all Wake Robin residents the chance to learn about and experience our rich local environment, to promote an understanding of relationships and connections in the natural world and to nurture a sense of stewardship for the earth and its living things. The group schedules explorations and trips on and off campus and invites presentations by experts on aspects of the natural world. The Nature Committee is currently inactive and seeking new leadership.

### **The Odd Job Club**

Our campus is our home. Like other homes, it has a job list, a continuing list of things that need to be fixed, cleaned, bought and returned, etc. To give us all the pleasure of working on a list as we used to and to make our campus safer, more attractive and brighter, a group of volunteers called the "Odd Jobbers" work on projects which go through ES and Henry. Henry is our "report" and sees that we have proper instructions, tools, materials, etc. Join us, help out, have fun, make things better.

### **Pet Committee**

The Pet Committee facilitates dialogue among residents about pet issues, provides information about campus pet policies, issues, and concerns, and promotes practices which ensure the health and safety of pets on campus. The committee may also carry out other pet-related activities as suggested by the administration.

### **Program Committee**

The Program Committee plans a variety of programs, educational, entertaining and enriching, for the Wake Robin community. Responding to resident interests and requests, it works with the Resident Program Coordinator to create a full schedule of events throughout the year. The committee decides upon events for on-campus and off-campus venues. Members meet at least once a month.

### **Puzzles**

Dedicated Wake Robin puzzlers maintain and enjoy the jigsaw puzzle corner in the Community Center Living Room. All residents are challenged to drop by and test their special skills.

### **Refundables Crew**

Resident volunteers regularly collect refundable bottles and cans from cottage and apartment trash rooms and the storage container outside the Hawthorn maintenance building and deliver them to a central collection site in the Hornbeam garage. Crew members then take the refundables to a Shelburne redemption center, generating funds for the WRRRA. The crew educates residents on this process at a community meeting twice a year.

### **Remembrance Committee**

The purpose of the Remembrance Committee is, when requested, to assist family members and friends to prepare a "Circle of Remembrance" at Wake Robin to celebrate the life of a resident who has died. The Committee will work, insofar as possible, to fulfill the family's wishes.

### **Resident Profiles**

The Resident Profile Committee maintains profiles of each resident with their photos. Participation is encouraged. The profiles are located in the Community Center and Spruce living rooms.

### **Sages and Seekers**

Sages and Seekers is a nation-wide program which encourages face-to-face conversation between elders and students, in this case Wake Robin residents and Lake Champlain Waldorf School students. A spring or fall session includes eight weekly meetings, each lasting about an hour. The first meeting presents an overview of the program. Each Sage is paired with a Seeker at the second meeting. These pairs remain together for the next six meetings, and opportunities are also offered for getting to know members of both groups. The program ends with the reading of a tribute written by the Seeker and presented to the Sage.

“Even in a digital age, the spoken word remains the most basic unit of our interactions, the very basis of our humanity.” – American Academy of Art and Sciences.

### **Silversmithing**

Participants design and create jewelry from sterling silver for their own use or for sale in the Gift Shop. There is a volunteer instructor. An outside instructor whose fee is shared by participants comes several times a year.

### **Social Committee**

The Social Committee's aim is to encourage all residents to feel they are part of the Wake Robin community. The committee brings residents together in planned or informal activities like afternoon teas in winter, summer ice cream socials and monthly birthday parties. It encourages small gatherings of neighbors, welcomes new residents into the community and hosts mealtime tables on holidays.

### **Sports Committee**

The committee plans and facilitates sports activities for Wake Robin residents and staff. It oversees a budget for sports equipment and works with Environmental Services on the maintenance and improvement of sports areas.

### **Studio Arts**

A class in oil painting and one in watercolor painting and graphite drawing are taught by volunteer resident artists. Both classes are designed by their instructors to encourage individual creativity. Classes meet weekly in the Community Center Activities Room, which is open several days a week for residents to pursue their own work.

### **Sugaring**

A group of interested residents plans and maintains an ever-expanding Wake Robin sugarbush. Each spring they gather sap, boil it at the Sugar House, bottle it and spread the sweetness! No meetings, no minutes. Just camaraderie in the fresh air.

### **Tag Sale**

The Tag Sale's aim is to help residents recycle household items responsibly and to generate funds for the Wake Robin Residents Association. The Tag Sale is a community-wide project; in 2014, close to 150 residents volunteered to work before, during and after the day of the sale.

### **Trails**

A year-round group maintains and improves hiking trails at Wake Robin. Their work includes maintaining tools for the trail work and removing invasive species. No meetings. No minutes. Just camaraderie in the fresh air.

### **Trillium**

*Trillium* is a newsletter publishes six times a year. Residents are responsible for writing, editing and producing the publication a contribute photographs and artwork as well. *Trillium* aims to catch the pulse of life at Wake Robin by reporting on people, issues, and activities in the community. Suggestions of ideas for stories are welcome and should be submitted to the editor.

### **Vermont Humanities Book Discussions**

A committee of Wake Robin residents chooses books for discussion from a Vermont Humanities Council list of titles. An eight-week series of discussions guided by a Humanities Council scholar is held in the fall and spring of each year. There is a fee for each series.

### **Wall Art Committee**

This committee selects, buys, and hangs framed posters from museums like the Metropolitan, The National Gallery and the Hood, and occasionally a loaned or donated painting. The art is hung throughout the community and recorded in an up-to-date data base maintained by the committee.

### **Wood Shop**

The Wood Shop and its equipment are available to all qualified, certified residents. It may be used by individuals or by organized group sessions, including Wednesday morning Woodworker gatherings. Work may be for residents' own projects, residents' repairs, projects for the Wake Robin Community or for outside organizations like Shelburne Farms.

### **WRTV**

Volunteer residents manage Wake Robin's two closed-circuit TV channels, WRTV-1 and WRTV-2, which post schedules of ongoing activities and services, announcements of events on and off campus, menus of the Dining Room and Garden Café, and photos or other items of interest provided by residents.