

July/Aug./Sept. 2018

"I never met a man I didn't like." -Will Rogers

Saranac Village at Will Rogers News is published quarterly for residents and their families, community members and friends of Saranac Village at Will Rogers. If you know someone who would be interested in receiving this newsletter, call 518-891-7117. Email hmarlow@saranacvillage.com if you would like to receive the newsletter via email.

Saranac Village at Will Rogers

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Saranac Village at Will Rogers News

The Historic Retirement Community of the Adirondacks

The Bethune Murals

On Thursday, September 6th at 7:00 p.m., Tony Holtzman will speak about his historical novel based on murals that were painted in Saranac Lake at the Trudeau Sanatorium in 1927. Learn about a mystery tied in about stolen papers that were written about asbestos toxicity that may have had influence on the murals.

Holtzman is a retired Professor of Pediatrics, Health Policy and Epidemiology at Johns Hopkins. He has taken writing classes at Stanford University, New Mexico State University, The Great Courses and the Adirondack Center for Writing for which he has served on the board. He has taught writing at the Adirondack Correctional Facility and currently leads a writers group in Menlo Park, CA, where he winters.

This program is free and open to the public. Books will be available for sale and signing. Refreshments will be served. For more information, please call Debbie Kanze at 518-891-7117.



Finding True North

Author, actor and nationally-known storyteller Fran Yardley, will speak about the history of the Bartlett Carry Club and the area of the Adirondacks along Middle Saranac Lake where it is located, on Saturday, September 19th at 7:00 p.m. Come learn about the Club and the mission that she and her now late husband Jay, shared to restore the Club back to its present glory. This information is the basis of her new book, *Finding True North*, as she tells the true-life story of moving to the Adirondacks to revive the long-abandoned but historic Club, with its one thousand acres and thirty-seven buildings, which had been in Jay's family for generations.

Fran and Jay, managed the Club for sixteen years. In 1999 she cofounded Creative Healing Connections, a nonprofit organization offering retreats for women veterans and women with cancer and chronic illness. Originally from Buffalo, she is rooted into the shores of Middle Saranac Lake, where she lives with her actor/photographer husband, Burdette Parks, and her dog, Merlin.

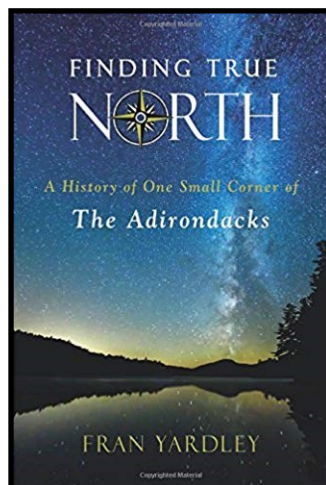
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Resident Gretchen Ralph

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A Note from Jamie Whidden

Summer is filled with outings and activities at Will Rogers. Not a resident yet? Why not join us for a visit to a state park, an old mining town and a private Adirondack preserve. It's a great way to get out and enjoy nice weather while we take care of all the planning for you!

Maybe you aren't interested in or able to do physical activity? No worries! We have plenty of other events in our list on page 3 and if you'd like to join our day program, we have many activities such as exercise, arts and crafts, games, movies, music and more that you can take part in.

Summer is short in the Adirondacks so call us at 518-891-7117 and let us help give you a summer to remember!

-Jamie Whidden
Executive Director

Welcome New Residents:

Lois DiNicola
Thelma Walker

Photo Album



Top Left: Residents had lunch at Pleasant Corner Diner. Top Right: Lucile and Al Beideck celebrated Memorial Day. Thank you Al, for your service to our country. Left: Historic Saranac Lake held a tea party in honor of Ursula Trudeau, seated, for her contribution to the community. Many of Ursula's hats, which she is known for, were on display. Also shown in the picture are a guest and Amy Catania.

The Other William Morris

Join us on Thursday, July 26th at 7:30 p.m. for a special presentation on William Morris. Morris, the foremost talent agent of his time, was a household name in American show business and a board member of the National Vaudeville Artists Lodge (later Will Rogers Hospital and now, Saranac Village at Will Rogers). Come learn the history of Morris' impact on the entertainment industry and Saranac Lake.



This talk will be given by Bill Berlinghoff, who is uniquely positioned to tell Morris' history, as his great-aunt Emma was married to Morris. Berlinghoff's grandfather Henry, was the first act the William Morris Agency ever booked. Besides speaking on his famed ancestor, Berlinghoff, has been singing and playing his guitar for many years. He lives with his wife Phyllis, in Maine. In 2017, he performed at the Third Annual Unampli-Fire Festival of World Wide Roots Music in London.

This program is presented by Historic Saranac Lake. A display of rare books, photographs (the photo to the left is of Morris and his wife) and more will be on display at this program which is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact Debbie Kanze at 518-891-7117.



Calendar of Events!*

Kangaroo Dreaming: An Australian Wildlife Odyssey on Wednesday, July 11th at 7:30 p.m. Author Ed Kanze will show slides and tell tales of the 25,000-mile journey he and his wife Debbie made around Australia.

Songs from the Great American Songbook on Wednesday, July 25th at 7:30 p.m. James Coleman, David Hodges and Lynn Waickman will perform a musical tribute. \$5 suggested donation.

The Other William Morris on Thursday, July 26th at 7:30 p.m. Bill Berlinghoff, a relative of William Morris, will tell the story of this talent agent and board member of the National Vaudeville Artists Lodge (later renamed the Will Rogers' Hospital). Memorabilia will be displayed. This program is co-sponsored with Historic Saranac Lake.

Outings Club: Fish Creek State Park on Tuesday, July 31st at 10:00 a.m. Enjoy lakes, streams, woods and wild-life. Bring your boat, hiking shoes and/or bathing suit. We will have a cookout and take walks as well. Bring a bag lunch or join our cookout for \$7 per person. Call 518-891-7117 to RSVP.

Road to Retirement: Travels in South Africa on Wednesday, August 1st at 2 p.m. Nature photographer and world traveler Frank Lescinsky will present a program on his and his wife Lethe's recent trip to South Africa.

Wonders of our Wetlands on Saturday, August 4th at 7:00 p.m. Professional photographer Gerry Lemmo will present a slide show about wetlands featuring great blue herons, wood ducks and green-winged teal.

Ouluska Pass in Concert on Thursday, August 16th at 7:00 p.m. Gregor Kitzis, Laura Thompson and Madeleine Jansen will perform chamber music with special vocal guest Ray Troise performing special string & piano arrangements of Frank Sinatra songs. \$10 suggested donation.

Outings Club: Historic Tahawus Mining Village and Henderson Lake on Tuesday, August 28th at 10:00 a.m. Relive the story of Teddy Roosevelt's Midnight Ride, up the trail from the town of Tahawus. Bring a bag lunch or join in our picnic for \$7. Call 518-891-7117 to RSVP.

Road to Retirement: How Not to Fall on Wednesday, September 5th at 2:00 p.m. George Locker, T'ai Chi instructor, will teach tips and tricks to improve your balance and help to keep you upright. This workshop will involve exercises so please wear loose fitting clothing and socks and/or sneakers.

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Outings Club: Elk Lake Lodge and Preserve on Tuesday, September 25th at 10:00 a.m. Join us as we venture into this private lodge with access to their hiking trails. Bring a bag lunch or join our picnic for \$7. Call 518-891-7117 to RSVP.

Joe Dockery and Friends in Concert on Saturday, September 29th at 7:00 p.m. Joe Dockery, Dan Spada and David Mishanec will perform music from 50's and 60's pop favorites, jazz standards and country western ballads. \$5 requested donation.

Game nights will be held on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month from 5:00 p.m.—9:30 p.m.

***All programs are free unless otherwise noted.**



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Saranac Village at Will Rogers offers independent retirement living with enhanced services, no buy-in fee and a great value! We treat you like family!

Resident Spotlight: Sarah Bess Wagner

We can always count on Bess Wagner to have a smile on her face. She has been a breath of fresh air ever since she arrived at Will Rogers in the fall of 2017 and continues to delight us with her positivity, laughter and sweet personality.

Born and raised as an only child in Mississippi, her mother taught Home Economics and her father was a salesman for Pure Oil. Always being social, she enjoyed riding bikes, swimming and roller-skating with her friends. She attended Belhaven College and then the University of Southern Mississippi where she studied Home Economics. In 1955, she met Gerard Wagner, a classmate of hers and six weeks later, they eloped. They had two boys, Stewart and Cliff and moved from Mississippi, to Texas, to Florida, where Bess taught nursery school and elementary school, and then to Surprise, NY, near Albany, where they bought a farm. Although Bess didn't like the idea at first, she grew to love the land while raising pigs, chickens, cows and rabbits, all for food. After their children moved out, they downsized the farm and Gerard started a small gardening business called Weeding and Watering. They always enjoyed each other's company as

they worked out together and saw movies together. Bess said she was never bored. "I always had a book to read, always had friends to do stuff with." She retired in 1995 and Gerard and Bess traveled yearly to Mexico. Gerard passed away in 2014 and Bess stayed on the farm until moving to Will Rogers.

Bess said she "never looked in the rear view mirror," when she moved. "I love the fact that every day I have to get up, and get dressed and go to meals, but also I can not do anything one day. I can stay in my room and read if I want to. It's an amazing place." Bess loves playing cards, going on trips and seeing movies. Bess says Will Rogers is "a wonderful place. I am very happy here."

Thank you to Kayt Gochenaur for interviewing Bess for the Oral History Project at Saranac Village at Will Rogers through Historic Saranac Lake.

