

Jan./Feb./March 2019

"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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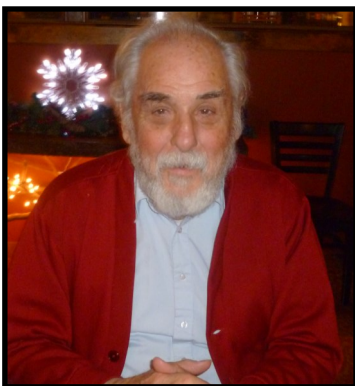
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Saranac Village at Will Rogers News

The Historic Retirement Community of the Adirondacks

Saranac Lake Pictures from the Past

Local historian Neil Surprenant, will take people on a nostalgic walk down the streets of Saranac Lake through historic photographs of the village and its people, on Wednesday, February 6th at 2:00 p.m. as part of the Will Rogers' Road to Retirement series. View the town's historic buildings, its people at work and play and the scenery of yesteryear in these photos from the 1870's to the 1960's, from collections of the Saranac Lake Free Library.

Author of two Arcadia Press *Images of America* books including one on Saranac Lake, Neil will show pictures from the Saranac Lake book as well as outtakes that will be seen for the first time. In honor of the Saranac Lake Winter Carnival, there will be photos depicting carnivals of the past.

Neil retired as Library Director for Paul Smiths College in 2015 where he also taught American History and Adirondack History. He was the Librarian for the XIII Olympic Winter Games in Lake Placid, NY and was Librarian Consultant for the US Department of Energy and the National Park Service. He has lectured for numerous organizations, has written many publications and has consulted on various projects including Home and Garden Network's (HGTV) program Great Camps of the Adirondacks.

This program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. For more information, please call 518-891-7117.



Dissipated Eight

One of the oldest all-male acapella groups in the country, The Middlebury College Dissipated Eight, will perform at Saranac Village at Will Rogers on Saturday, March 9th at 7:00 p.m. Singing and simulating the sounds of instruments by using different pitches of their voices, they will perform songs of the last five decades as well as original material.

This program is open to the public and a \$5 donation is requested. Refreshments will be served. For more information, please call 518-891-7117.





A Note from Jamie Whidden

Our recent resident survey won us a 4.7 out of 5 in terms of how happy the residents are in all areas of our community including food service, maintenance, housekeeping, activities and administration. These results, in combination with winning Best of the Mountains in Retirement Living, are a great way to start out 2019.

Although our scores are high, we are always looking for ways to improve and provide residents with the best service and amenities as possible. And we will continue to do this in the new year.

We invite you to come for a tour and see why our residents and our community are so happy with Saranac Village at Will Rogers. Call 518-891-7117 to schedule a visit and start the new year off right!

-Jamie Whidden
Executive Director

Welcome New Residents:

Pat Bedore
Carmen Longo (Winter Stay)
Ann Merkel

Photo Album



Left: Cheers to Pat Bedore, Kay Leigh and Lenore Leavitt who enjoyed lunch out.



Right: Mary Suplee and Richard Syphax relax in the Great Room.



William Morris Fireplace Screen

A new historical item from the past has returned to the Saranac Village. As one enters the Great Room they will notice a fireplace screen on display. This screen was presented to William Morris, a famous agent who represented entertainers, as a token of gratitude for the unceasing charitable acts that he provided to the Industry, the National Vaudeville Artists and the Will Rogers Memorial Hospital. William and his wife Emma Morris, came to Saranac Lake so that William could cure. The screen was given to Morris in 1920 and originally was displayed at his home Camp Intermission, near Lake Colby.



The appearance of the screen is that of a theater marquee and it has the signatures of famous performers of that time period. These names include Charles Chaplin, Harry Lauder, Sophie Tucker, William S. Hart and George M. Cohan. Actors signed their name onto a piece of paper, the signatures were then electroplated onto a plaque, and the plaque it was attached to the screen.

In 1961, the screen was relocated to the Will Rogers Memorial Hospital. Once the hospital closed, it went to the Will Rogers Institute in Los Angeles. Now over forty years later, the screen has come home to Saranac Lake.—Leslie Hoffman, Historian



Calendar of Events!*

Road to Retirement: A Most Unusual Instrument, The Musical Saw on Wednesday, January 2nd at 2:00 p.m.

Concert musician Gregor Kitzis will demonstrate and teach the playing of a musical saw. Bring your own or you can play on a saw that will be provided. A saw 26" in length that makes a sound when the handle is shaken is best.

Ouluska Pass in Concert on Thursday, January 3rd at 7:00 p.m. This musical trio of Gregor Kitzis on violin and musical saw, Laura Thompson on flute and Denise Cridge on viola, will perform the rarely heard Beethoven Sere-nade as well as baroque pieces and other selections.

Trivia Night on Saturday, January 26th at 7:30 p.m. Host Jason Brill will test your knowledge with questions for this fundraiser for Creative Healing Connections, which supports women Veterans and women with chronic illnesses. There is a \$20 entry fee. Contact Gail Brill at gailbrilldesign@gmail.com or at 518-586-1063.

Outings Club: Snowshoeing at Dewey Mountain on Tuesday, January 29th at 10:00 a.m. Walk the trails at Dewey (\$5 includes use of snow shoes) and then have lunch at the Blue Moon Restaurant (\$7.95 and up). Please dress for the weather and call 518-891-7117 to RSVP.

Road to Retirement: Saranac Lake Pictures from the Past on Wednesday, February 6th at 2 p.m. Local historian Neil Surprenant will take people on a walk down the streets of Saranac Lake through historic photos of the village and its people. Saranac Lake Winter Carnival photos and other images will be shown for the first time.

Winter Carnival Slide Show on Wednesday, February 13th at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Come re-live the 2019 Winter Carnival "Prehistoric Park" through highlights in pictures, presented by photographer Mark Kurtz.

Moment's Notice on Saturday, February 23rd at 7:30 p.m. This quartet of talented musicians, featuring Karen Baker, Mike Joyce, Dan Spada and Sadie Spada, will perform Jazz standards, Latin, Blues and rock interpretations. Come to dance or come to listen. There is a \$5 suggested donation.

Outings Club: Goin' to the Dogs on Tuesday, February 26th at 10:00 a.m. Take a dogsled ride on Mirror Lake (\$10 per person). We'll have lunch at Simply Gourmet (\$6.95 and up) and then take a snowshoe at John Brown's Farm. Please bring snowshoes and dress for the weather. Call 518-891-7117 to RSVP.

Road to Retirement: Islands in a Faraway Sea on Wednesday, March 6th at 2:00 p.m. Naturalist, author and Adirondack guide Ed Kanze, will speak about and celebrate the New Zealand "bush" in all its diversity. See and learn about the unique features of this country through this photo presentation.

The Middlebury College Dissipated Eight on Saturday, March 9th at 7:00 p.m. One of the oldest all-male acapella groups in the country, this eight man double quartet sings and simulates the sounds of instruments by using different pitches of their voices. They will perform songs of the last five decades and original material. There is a \$5 suggested donation.

Remarkable Women of the Adirondacks on Saturday, March 23rd at 7:00 p.m. Writer and scholar Sandra Weber, will portray some of the Greatest Adirondack women of the past including abolitionist Mary Brown, hotelier Lydia Smith, TB patient Martha Reben and pancake-flipper Mother Johnson. Music and additional narration will be provided by David Hodges. Sandra's books will be available for purchase. There is a \$5 suggested donation.

Outings Club: Whiteface Mountain on Tuesday, March 26th at 10:00 a.m. Ride the Gondola to the top of Little Whiteface for an extraordinary late winter view (\$15 pp). Lunch will be at the café (\$10 and up). Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear and bring walking sticks or ski poles if desired. Call 518-891-7117 to RSVP.



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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: Judy Potenza

Judy was born on August 29, 1940 in Saranac Lake. She attended River Street school, which was next door to her home, at 136 River Street. Her father was a plumber, and her mother a beautician. When Judy was only two years old, she had a severe fever which permanently damaged her auditory nerves, and left her hard of hearing. She has always been an avid reader, and used to love going to movies, although it was difficult for her to follow them, because of her hearing.

In 1958, Judy graduated high school, and went to Alfred University. She was incredibly homesick while at college, and had trouble keeping up in classes because she couldn't hear the professors. She soon moved back to Saranac Lake, and attended the Guild School for the Disabled, where she studied X-Ray technology. She loved going to school at the Guild, and found the professors to be very conscientious about her disability. She took an apprenticeship in Rome, NY before getting a job in Watertown.



After five years in Watertown, Judy moved to NYC where she worked at Columbian Presbyterian Hospital. She worked there from 1965 to 1999. In 1967, she married Rocco Potenza, and the couple moved to Greenwich Village, then the Bronx, before settling in Mt Vernon, where they lived until Rocco passed away in 2010. In 2014, Judy moved to Will Rogers where she enjoys watching TV and doing needlepoint.

A special thank you to Kayt Gochenaur for sharing this information through the Oral History Project for Historic Saranac Lake.