



# The Kimball Farms



# Observer



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Card Contest p.2

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Photos by Lily Wayne  
At left, an angel by glass maker Simon Pearce looks over handsome paperweights, a Lalique dish and Tiffany votive lights. Above, Judy Glockner models a knitted poncho by the English designer Eskandar and a Gucci silk scarf.

## Holiday Shopping Close to Home

Is your holiday gift list a long one? The biggest problem you might have this year is to choose among the many gifts you will find right here at Kimball Farms.

The resident-operated Corner Store will open a Holiday Gift Boutique, right after Halloween. It will feature treasures such as a crystal angel from Simon Pearce, a Lalique crystal Christmas tree ornament in its original box, Tiffany crystal votive candle holders, and a small bronze statue on a marble base by sculptor Stella Shawzin. The store is also offering a handsome reversible Japanese wool scarf, an Eskandar poncho from England, and two elegant black linen jackets.

“We’re delighted to present this very special shopping opportunity,” said Lily Wayne, chair of The Corner Store, “as a service, especially for people who

no longer drive. We’re starting early so that residents have plenty of time to ship their gift choices.”

The Corner Store will be decorated for the season by Donna Lucido, who produces spectacular seasonal displays for Kimball Farms, as well as for Miraval Berkshires Resort and Spa, and the Austen Riggs Center in Stockbridge. Donna is also one of our servers in the dining room.

“It will be really festive,” promised Lily, “with really lovely gifts.”

The Corner Store is open to family and friends, as well as employees and residents. Special hours for the Holiday Gift Boutique will be announced.

Another shopping opportunity will come with a Holiday Fair on Friday, December 1, sponsored by

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*(Shopping, continued from page 1)*

the Kimball Farms marketing team.

It will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to residents and friends from the community. More than 15 local vendors will have displays in the Commons corridor outside the auditorium, in the game room, and in the Pine Hill art room. You may recognize several names of crafters and artists who have participated in the Connector Gallery exhibits organized by Sharon Lazerson.

A quartet of singers from the Cantilena Chamber Choir will circulate with holiday songs among the fair locations, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Refreshments will be provided by the Dining and Nutrition Department.

That department will also be among the vendors, with an assortment of its "Way Too Good" spice blends for sale. Another familiar face will be Pam Perry of Hemming Way in North Adams. She visits Kimball Farms regularly to make sewing alterations. She also makes mittens and pillows from recycled sweaters. Mary Berle will bring yarn and sweaters made from the fleece of her Great Barrington sheep. Wooden bowls turned by woodworker Lew Wallace will be just the right thing for a special gift such as a wedding present.

You may have seen Pam Dalton's framed "Scherenschnitte" (the German word for "scissor cuts") on display in the Connector Gallery. She will have some for sale at the fair, along with children's books illustrated with her work.

Mimi Hassett, in addition to being a pastor and counselor serving two rural churches, will offer "small things" she makes from fabric. Janet McKinstry, another repeat artist, makes bags, aprons and hats from exquisite fabrics and exotic findings. Her work can also be seen at Karen Allen Fiber Arts in Great Barrington, the Red Lion Inn, and the Williams College Museum of Art.

Ben Webb will have examples of the small string instruments he makes and plays. Amy Byrd crochets and knits small animals, just the right size for stocking-stuffing or a child's pocket. Tissue paper stars and small knitted objects are specialties of artist Ruth Blair. Note cards, pottery, and baskets are also among the offerings from local artists and crafters. More vendors may be recruited by the time the fair opens on December 1.

*Susan Dana*

## Card Contest Underway

The annual Kimball Farms Christmas card competition is under way. It will conclude with selection of the winning entry and the honor of representing the community on a card. Art teacher Mike Cohen is inviting all residents, not just the art room denizens, to submit their work. In the normal course of things, the art room regulars are quite cooperative and supportive. At times, the mood becomes just a bit more competitive, still very friendly.

The card contest, and all art initiatives, are under the direction of long-serving Mike Cohen. Betty Jones discovered him teaching painting at the Lenox Community Center and urged him to come to Kimball Farms. When he did, he found the art room sadly disheveled, without proper resources, and with just one regular participant.

After setting things aright, he began a recruiting and training regimen. It led in a few years to 28 regular participants, then a transition to two weekly sessions to accommodate all. After an illness-related furlough, he returned last year and has rebuilt the program to between 12 and 15 regulars so far.

Mike is a wonder at bringing non-painters, or long inactive ones, into the fold and helping them into a satisfying pursuit at a great rate. He is also, of course, an encouraging guide to his established minions.

What's next in art? Sculpture! Approached by several three-dimensional artists or prospects, Mike worked with the administration to establish a program. After extensive efforts to find a space and refit it for the practice, the Sculpture Room is scheduled to open in early November or soon after, pending the completion of the space. Mike will emphasize sculpting heads, a popular subject generally, and a great assist to pencil, pen and painting practitioners as well.

So come meet Mike, give art a try, and surprise yourself with what he will bring out of you. You will be amazed and delighted.

*Jean Rousseau*

## Golds Make Move from Washington

Joy and Archie Gold recently moved to Kimball Farms from Bethesda, Md., a suburb of Washington. They were born, raised and married in the Philadelphia area, have two married daughters equidistant from Kimball Farms.

The couple are not new to the Berkshires since both visited as children and later as adults. They are pleased at how kind and friendly everyone is and that they can enjoy the many cultural sites, plus great restaurants and mountains and lakes with their boating and fly-fishing.

Joy Cohan's parents lived above their Philadelphia furniture store, from which she used the subway and trolley system to attend grammar school. Later, when the business moved to central Philadelphia, Joy attended junior and high schools in Germantown. After graduation, she attended Penn State Collage, earned a teaching degree in biology, and taught biology at Germantown High School.

During World War II, after finishing his first engineering year at Drexel University, Archie was drafted into the Navy and became a "Degaussing Expert," minimizing iron ships' magnetic fields to protect against magnetic detecting mines. While preparing for a potential invasion of Japan, his ship was torpedoed and he became the diesel-electric-engineer for a fleet of tank-landing craft operating in the western Pacific Theater.

After his discharge, Archie returned to Drexel, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering.

During this time, after a blind date with Joy, they were happily married in June 1955. After their marriage, Archie began his engineering career at the Johnsville Naval Air Development Station outside of Philadelphia, where he was involved in the

development and field-testing of a new radar and optical air, space and sea sensors. Twenty years later, he accepted a position at the Pentagon as Director of Radar and Optical Sensors for DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency), where he also participated South Atlantic and Central Pacific high-altitude nuclear test programs.

Five years later he became the Deputy Director of ABMDA (Advanced Ballistic Missile Defense Agency), where for the next eight years he was involved in numerous, worldwide sensor creations, developments, testing and applications.

While living in the Washington area for 34 years, Joy first became a docent and then the "Answer Lady" for the Vertebrate Zoology Department of the Natural History Museum of the Smithsonian Institution.

She responded to questions from all over the world and co-authored two Smithsonian books published worldwide: *Whales & Dolphins in Questions* and *Sharks in Question*.

In this position she became acquainted with foreign diplomats and helped their families cope with U.S. stores, banks, and travel.

*Joy Gold with Cris Raymond*



**Lily Wayne Photo**  
Archie and Joy Gold are pleased with move.

## Finding Love Amid a Plane Crash

A plane crash brought them together. Charles was a reporter at the Bennington Banner in 1972 and Stephanie was in publications/PR at Bennington College, when a Bennington student was killed flying solo into a mountain. Charles was dispatched to the campus, where he'd worked before joining The Banner, to get information on the victim. Poking his head into the office of his usual press contact, he found Stephanie instead.

"I know you!" she said to his surprise. She had been checking personnel files and had just closed his. He got his information, returned to the newsroom and called with one more question: "Will you have lunch with me tomorrow?" She agreed and a dating pattern began.

When Charles was offered an assistant editorship at The Berkshire Eagle a year later, they moved together to Williamstown.

Stephanie, who'd worked for seven years at Conde Nast publications in New York, was hired by The North Adams Transcript — a rival to The Eagle — to write features, edit its magazine and report local news. They married in 1976 and a year later bought the Victorian-style house they occupied for 46 years.

Charles, an art major at Hamilton College, a practicing artist and an advocate for historic preservation while at The Banner, added art and architecture reviews to his desk editor duties. He also wrote freelance on land-use issues for The Boston Globe Sunday Magazine and headed the Williamstown's Historical Commission's

unsuccessful efforts to save the town's former opera house from demolition in 1992. More recently, he chaired the town's Affordable Housing Committee and Milne Public Library trustees and remains a volunteer at the Berkshire Immigrant Center and a writer for Art New England magazine.

Stephanie wrote a guidebook, "The Best of the Berkshires," in 1979 for Globe Pequot Press. It was the only such guide on the market at that time. She also ghost-wrote a primer on investing, and returned to college to complete her B.A. degree, graduating from Williams in 1989 at age 45. She continued to write freelance and work as a substitute elementary schoolteacher, served on and headed several nonprofit boards and was a docent for 7 years at The Mount and 15 at the Clark Art Institute.

Intrepid travelers, they have, since retirement, embarked on numerous Viking cruises. They also spent 25 treasured summer weeks at Squam Lake, N.H. Charles has been a recreational runner, lap swimmer, Nordic skier and kayaker. Stephanie favored yoga, gardening and hiking with friends.

In their late 70s and in good health, they hoped to "age in place" at home, but without children or family nearby and scant Berkshire home-care services, they considered other options. Kimball Farms came out on top and they are delighted with the space, the location, the courteous staff and welcoming neighbors. *Stephanie Johnson & Charles Bonenti*



Photo by Kathy McKnight

Stephanie and Charles are longtime Berkshire writers.

## A Prosecutor Who Relished His Career

Why Kimball Farms? Why Lenox? It's an interesting story. Doug Cannon is happily married to Jeanne Kempthorne, a fellow prosecutor. She was lured from her position in Middlesex County and moved to Pittsfield to become Chief Prosecutor to the Berkshire County District Attorney. It turned out to be a brief tenure, but enough time for Jeanne to become attached to the Berkshires.

They decided to move here, with Jeanne retaining her Pittsfield residence and Doug coming to Kimball Farms. He asserts that a certain amount of separation is one contributor to a happy marriage.

Doug moved into Apartment 230 in early September, having recently retired from an interesting and satisfying 48-year career as a prosecutor at both the federal and state levels. He comes to us from his last position as Chief of Special Investigations for the Middlesex County District Attorney, where he served for 15 years. Working backward from that, Doug served as a Federal Prosecutor in Greensboro, North Carolina, for 27 years. His first career position as prosecutor was six years in Chicago in the Cook County, Illinois, District Attorney's office.

Doug speaks of his long career as a prosecutor with pleasure and with a definite relish, as he recites the numerous areas of the law in which prosecutors labor. Asked for a favorite sinning category, he brightened as he cited political corruption (lots of practice in his Chicago years). In recent years he has also aggressively prosecuted flimflam scams, especially those practicing the "grandparent scam" game, recently prevalent in this area.



Doug found his way into the law on a somewhat circuitous path. He was born and raised in Dekalb, Illinois, a medium-size industrial city west of Chicago. He attended Northern Illinois University there and spent three years studying engineering before deciding to study history in his last year. He began his working career as a teacher. He was then attracted to law, and migrated to Boston University, where he earned his JD in 1972.

Doug enjoys swimming, biking (a flatlander, he particularly enjoys the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail) and history. He is an avid reader, particularly of ancient history, but has also delved into his family genealogy. As you might expect of a dedicated attorney/prosecutor, he has done this by deciphering family wills going back to the 17th century and finding the family's roots in colonial Maryland and Delaware.

Doug has three children from his first marriage, and Jeanne has one. Five grandchildren complete the family.

*Jean Rousseau*

### In Memoriam

**Sandra Rubin**  
February 19, 1937, to October 11, 2023

**Elaine Feltre**  
March 16, 1935, to October 22, 2023

## Yet Still Living Alone

“You’re not strong enough to live alone,” they told him when he returned to the big house from the hospital. “You should go to the place called Sunset. They’ll fix you up.”

He had lived alone before the hospital, and he could live alone again, he told them.

He woke in his old room the next morning, and tried to fix his usual breakfast of juice, coffee and cereal with fruit and yogurt. He could barely get through it.

He surrendered.

Memories of the place called Sunset, an ironic nickname for a nursing home, taken from the road in front.

Physical therapy: massage and exercise of muscles he knew only from their aches.

Occupational therapy: instruction on how to safely shower, dress himself, and otherwise take care of himself at home.

Food: healthy. Imaginative.

Television: unwatchable. War scenes and talk, again and again.

Get-well cards. Appreciated.

COVID outbreak: masks. Quarantines (he escaped). Part of building cordoned off.

Nurses and aides: dedicated. Always busy, tending the next patient. Some remembered his wife from when she was a patient four years before.

A “dear,” they called her. Quiet and gentle. (But never resigned to being in their care, he could have told them.)

The nurse who stayed late giving him a pedicure.

The aide (male) who washed him and put him to bed. Just like Mother used to do, he joked.

But why him — he who had climbed mountains, run, and snowshoed? He’d done useful work in the world. Why strike him down with a bleeding spell and loss of stamina? But then, he was no better as a person than others in this place.

It seemed more than coincidence that he was reading Richard Powers’ novel *The Overstory*, with its basis in connections between humans and trees. Trees also mate in a community, the book shows. While at the place called Sunset, on those wonderful warm, blue days in early October, patients could sit outside on a patio behind the building. A line of trees

(not yet in color then) made a wide swath circling the lawn.

He had sat on that patio with his wife four years before, neither of them saying much, just gazing out at those trees, remembering. He’d been there for her. Now she was there for him. He remembered her face, the good days, the bad days, the years together. Six months later, she died. They were five days short of their 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

After 11 days at Sunset, he returned to the Big House, trained in how to take care of himself. But he was still alone.

*Andrew Pincus*



## Kimball Farms Nursing Care Center

AN AFFILIATE OF  
INTEGRITUS HEALTHCARE

### November Trips

<b>Wednesday November 1<sup>st</sup></b> Yiddish Book Center, Amherst W/lunch at Essalon Café, Hadley	<b>Bus 9:30a</b>
<b>Wednesday November 8<sup>th</sup></b> Smith College Fall Chrysanthemum Show	<b>Bus TBD</b>
<b>Friday November 10<sup>th</sup></b> Hevreh in Great Barrington	<b>Bus 5:30p</b>
<b>Wednesday November 16<sup>th</sup></b> Holiday Shopping Colonie Center & Trader Joe’s	<b>Bus 10a</b>
<b>Sunday November 19<sup>th</sup></b> Met Opera Live in HD Anthony Davis’s X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X	<b>Bus 12:15p</b>

## Hail To the Queen

Our library has the 2022 edition of *The Queen: Her Life*, by Andrew Morton. First published a few months before the death of Queen Elizabeth II, it leaves many loose ends. A 2023 edition exists, with an updated epilogue. Either book provides ample material for revisiting high and low points in the queen's life. Andrew Morton has put together a lively chronicle of events, using resources from numerous books, plus newspapers and magazines of the times.

Princess Elizabeth, called Lilibet as a child, is described lovingly by her former governess, Marion Crawford, in quotes from her book, *The Little Princesses*. Author Morton shows how Elizabeth's future changes when her father suddenly becomes King George VI, and she is next in the line of succession. We see her groomed for the position of queen by her father and her tutors.

At 21, Elizabeth is prepared for a coming-of-age speech with the aid of a writer from the *Times of London*. Morton states, "It was an almost nun-like vow and brought Elizabeth to tears when she first read the draft." Making the text her own, she broadcasts to the British Commonwealth and Empire: ". . . my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service." Soon to be made known was her forthcoming marriage to Prince Philip of Greece. As Duke of Edinburgh, he would serve as her consort for many decades.

Morton retells the well-known saga of Elizabeth's early, married life; accession to the throne; and formal coronation. As he reports, "Prince Charles, then four, saw his mother's crown and made a beeline for it. . . . His time would come."

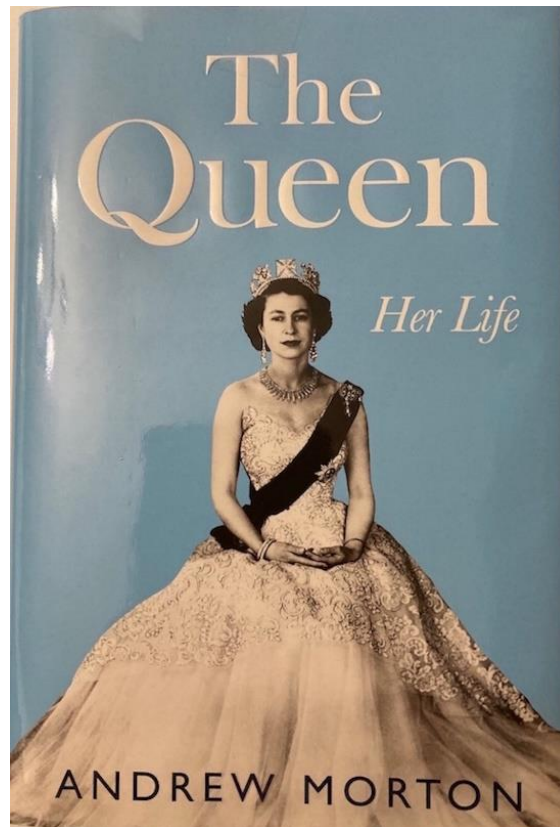
Queen Elizabeth's activities as head of church and state are described in colorful detail. The full royal family, in public and private, receives plenty of attention. After Lady Diana Spencer appears as the

fiancée of Prince Charles, Morton reports: "As the palace planners prepared for the wedding of the year, the IRA began their own deadly planning." He then describes an incident when an IRA bomb was partially detonated within 500 yards of the queen. This is followed by an anarchist's shooting attempt while the queen parades on horseback.

The spectacular wedding of Charles and Diana is covered in less than a page. Other royal marriages and certain divorces take up quite a bit of space. Then comes the much-documented story of Princess Diana's tragic death.

The final chapter of this edition covers most of Queen Elizabeth's last decade in life and office. It highlights events and honors that reflect a more relaxed, more approachable sovereign as her reign surpasses 70 years.

Mary Misch



### Birthday Wishes to our residents!

**Nineteen residents celebrate birthdays in November.** There is a 30-year spread between the youngest and oldest celebrant.

November birthdays belong to: Ellen O'Brien, Ingrid Richardson, Lavon Frye, Barbara Sterner, Virginia Rocheleau, Rose Pocock, Karen Carmean, Barbara France, Lois Neumann, Patricia Steele, Marile Lynch, Joyce Coffey, Brian Lowery, Rosemary Graves, Betsey McKearnan, Elske Smith Suzanne Bach, Barbara Liebert, and Robert O'Brien.

**Happy Birthday to each of you!!**



**MOCK EVACUATION** of nearly 500 Lenox High School students and staff brought 12 school buses and a police presence to the Kimball Farms campus on Oct. 24. Lenox Police Chief Stephen E. O'Brien said it was the first time for such a drill here, although they have been held in other school districts. He said Stockbridge, Lee and State Police assisted in the drill here. *Charles Bonenti*

## *President's Comments: Changing the Guard*

As the weather is changing to fall/winter mode, so too is the Residents Association, as preparations are underway to select its 2024 governing body.

Earlier this summer the president of the association, in cooperation with the Committee on Committees, set about to select committee chairs for the coming year. The association bylaws have the committee chairs serving two years, but they may serve longer if no others are interested in the positions. Once the committee chairs have been approved by the Residents Council, the Committee on Committees sends applications out to residents.

When the application lists are returned, the Committee on Committees compiles a list of those applying to the respective committees and gives those lists to the committee chairs for the coming year. The committee chairs then select the residents whom they would like on their respective committees. The new committees take effect on January 1.

While this activity is going on, the association president selects a Nominating Committee of five members, one from the council and two each from the Lenox and Stockbridge areas. The Nominating Committee is then approved by the council. The committee elects a chair, and it begins the process of finding candidates for the council, which consists of a president, first vice president, second vice president, secretary, and treasurer, along with nine councilors.

All council members stand for election every year and can only serve for two years. Efforts are made to stagger the makeup of the council, to provide continuity. The slate of officers and counselors is presented to the association members at the November meeting, or sooner if desired. The slate is posted on the bulletin board in the mailroom. At the December association meeting, residents vote on the slate. According to the by-laws, the new council assumes its duties at that time. *Garry Roosma*

*The Kimball Farms Observer is written and published by and for the residents of Kimball Farms*

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