



The Kimball Farms Observer



Volume 35, No. 10

Pause in Changeover—page 3

December 2025

Holidays to be Celebrated



Top: Display of gifts for sale at the Corner Store.

Above: Hotshot Hillbillies Jim Dignum and Wendy Walz performed at the November 14 holiday fair.



Kimball Farms Singers will perform in concerts December 17 and 27.



Assistant marketing director Susan Smith organized the holiday fair.

Photos by Charles Bonenti

There's Music

Holiday Events Abound

By Nancy King
Observer Contributor

KIMBALL FARMS has long been known for its festive resident-generated celebrations, and this year is no exception.

Here's the lineup:

On Wednesday, December 17, at 2 p.m. in the auditorium, the Kimball Farms Singers will perform their Christmas/Hanukkah program for PineHill residents. John Cheney will lead the 30-member chorus, assisted by Nancy King at the piano and guests Lyndon Moors and Joan Devoe on reed instruments. For Independent Living residents, the date to remember is Sunday, December 21 at 7 p.m., when the same concert will be performed. The dedicated singers have been practicing since September and are more than ready to strut their stuff—and to enliven the holiday spirit!

LEP (Life Enrichment Program) residents will have their

Events, continued on page 2

Events, continued from page 1

own holiday concert, performed by the Berkshire Hills Chorus, at 6:30 p.m. on December 16.

The New Year's Eve program will be equally festive. It will feature Wanda Houston in concert at 4 p.m., followed by a cocktail party/buffet from 4 to 7 p.m. and a musical celebration beginning at 7:30 p.m. It will include a sing-along of songs mostly chosen by chorus members; some readings of poetry written by residents Ruth Heuberger, Laird White, and Tad Evans; and holiday-spirited solos by John Horton on trombone. Ring in the New Year right here in the auditorium.

And more:

Both PineHill and LEP residents are invited to celebrate the season with their annual holiday lunch near the Big Gingerbread House at the elegant Red Lion Inn in Stockbridge on December 19.

Two field trips are planned, one on December 17 to view the "Bright Lights at Forest Park" in Springfield and the other on December 5 to see the "Festival of Trees" jointly sponsored by the Berkshire Museum and Hancock Shaker Village. (The annual event was moved to the village while the museum is undergoing renovation.) This year's theme, "Barn to Be Wild," honors the work of Hancock Shaker Village and its unique farm and architectural heritage.



Photo by Charles Bonenti

Former Kimball Farms seamstress Pamela Perry, who relocated to Bennington, Vt., was selling handcrafted gifts at the holiday fair.

PineHill residents can see the classic holiday film *The Christmas Story* at the Beacon Cinema in Pittsfield on December 12. The movie centers on nine-year-old Ralphie Parker in 1940s Indiana, who desperately wants a BB gun for Christmas, and his humorous struggles to convince his parents, teacher, and even a mall Santa Claus to give him one.

The Life Enrichment team expects to present "A Christmas Carol," the Charles Dickens tale of how visits by three spirits to miserly Ebenezer Scrooge changed his life. Date and time to be announced

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

EDITOR Charles Bonenti
ASSOCIATE EDITOR Katherine Ness

COLUMNISTS
Stephanie Beling, Mary Misch

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Lily Wayne, Charles Bonenti

PRODUCTION
Page Design: Tivy Design, Brookline
Printing: Lenox Print & Mercantile

CONTRIBUTORS THIS ISSUE
Ellen Kanner, Nancy King, Dorothea Nelson,
Jean Rousseau, Pat Steele, Laird White

Email: KFObserver235@gmail.com
Phone: (413) 637-7179

Staff Fund Hits \$230,000

As of November 20, the Staff Appreciation Fund stood at a little more than \$230,000. The total which will include late contributions from last year plus funds from a special gift will be a little more than \$250,000, reported committee treasurer Tad Evans.

This compares with the total \$210,065 raised in 2024, which was more than \$40,000 above the \$170,000 goal. The 2023 goal had been \$170,000.

Of the \$210,065 raised, \$207,000 was distributed to staff with the remainder going into an interest-bearing account to start off the 2025 campaign, according to committee chair Mary O'Brien. Check amounts are based on the number of hours worked.

President's Letter

Changes at Top on Pause

I CAN'T BELIEVE it is December already! Thanksgiving is behind us, and we are frantically shopping for the holidays. Be sure to visit the Corner Store for your holiday wants and needs.

The transition between Sandy Shepard and Bill Kittler is underway, and we look forward to working with both in their new roles.

A new administrator has accepted the position at Sunset Avenue. His start date is unknown at this time as Integritus will need to replace him at his current affiliate. Once an official transition occurs, we will highlight him and his experience in an upcoming issue.

In the meantime, Bill Kittler will remain at the Nursing Care Center. Sandy has assumed her new position, but she will remain at Kimball on Walker Street for at least two to three days a week until Bill can permanently transition, sometime in late January or February. Time frames are still flexible depending on recruitment.

At our meeting this week, we are electing new officers and counselors, assigning new committees, and setting up a 2026 budget and calendar. We welcome Terry Shea, Leslie Curtis, and Diane Cook to the Residents Council and extend our heartfelt thanks to Mary O'Brien, Eileen Henle, and Marilé Lynch for their hard work.

Later this week we will distribute the holiday bonus checks to our dedicated staff. We are proud to announce that we met 100 percent of our goal in the Staff Appreciation Drive! Thanks to Mary O'Brien, Tad Evans, and the whole committee for a very successful fund drive.

November brought numerous concerts, lectures, shopping trips, and meals out. We appreciate the addition of Saturday service on the vans as well as a new plan to offer rides to the airports, train stations and distant hospitals.

Many exciting events are planned for December. Be sure to check your calendar and Channel 1390 for upcoming events. We are blessed in the Berkshires to have access to wonderful music year-round but especially during the holidays.

December will wrap up with an Association-sponsored New Year's Eve celebration. Wanda Houston and John Cheney will treat us to holiday performances, our resident bartenders will serve us drinks, and Mike Paglier will offer a special New Year's Eve buffet.

Dust off your tuxedos and fancy dresses for a festive end to 2025.

— Pat Steele, President, Residents Association

Editor's Desk

Focus on Holiday Delights

WITH the executive changes announced in last month's *Observer* on pause (See the President's Letter) and winter closing in, we are focusing this issue on the holiday lights and delights that December brings.

Foremost are the Kimball Farms Singers concerts that Nancy King writes about (and plays piano for) on page 1. Choral Conductor John Cheney has opted for two performances this year to accommodate Pine Hill residents as well as those in Independent Living.

Our Holiday Fair on November 14 was a busy scene with numerous vendors and outside attendees. It was a big success with the added attraction of music, tasty baked treats, and a lunch prepared by Dining Services for those who reserved ahead. A festive holiday dinner on December 25 will be followed by our traditional New Year's Eve gala on December 31.

Health columnist Stephanie Beling offers advice on weathering the highs and lows of celebrating, Ellen Kanner interviews Deborah Carter whose wearable art is on display in the Connector Gallery, and book editor Mary Misch suggest some holiday reading. Two couples who recently joined our community are also interviewed.

Finally, as we celebrate, others in the Berkshires who are less fortunate will struggle to buy food and gifts to exchange. We can all help by donating to the ongoing collection in the Pinnacle Store. Both food and monetary contributions are welcomed.

— Charles Bonenti

Finishing Touches

By Jean Rousseau
Observer Contributor

THE LAUREL SALON, known informally as the Hair Salon, has been a part of Kimball Farms since the beginning. It was *The Lee Parie* for many years under its founder, Andrea Nolan. She managed it from its inception in a spare room and still stops by. Rose Davis McDonald, here at the beginning, now works a Thursdays-only schedule of manicures, pedicures, and toenail trimming. Lori Gentzler came in 2013 and both manages the salon and does the hair styling. They know their regular customers well and make great efforts to meet their needs and wishes, but they are also attentive to everyone who calls.

Frequent users invariably remark on the friendliness, efficiency, and flexibility of the staff. Anxious calls to make last-minute appointments, or to cancel them just minutes or hours ahead of time, are a constant element of their days, always calmly dealt with, and wait-list clients are happily fitted in.

The shop is tucked into a convenient spot in the Commons area and is open for business by appointment every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, plus occasional Wednesday sessions when demand overflows. Just call ext. 7055 to set a date, or to look things over and meet the friendly staff. Cash payment is preferred; checks are also okay. Credit accounts can be arranged as necessary, especially for special-needs clients.

The clientele reflects the increasing number of male residents in recent years. Business is brisk. It's also a good place to get the news behind the news.



Photo by Lily Wayne

Salon manager Lori Gentzler, left, poses with manicurist Rose McDonald.

Here's a profile of the services available:

For Ladies:

Haircut: \$45

Shampoo & blow-dry: \$27

Color: \$62; Color and cut: \$85;

Color and highlights: \$85

Permanent: \$75

Pedicure: \$28; with polish: \$38

Facial wax: \$10 and up

For Gents:

Haircut: \$20

Beard and mustache trim: \$10

Pedicure and nail trim: \$28

Manicure: \$10

In Memoriam

Birthday Wishes

Nine residents celebrate birthdays in December.

There is an 18-year spread between the youngest and oldest celebrants.

December birthdays belong to: Eileen Henle, Ellen-Ann Adler, Linda Williams, Bob Hawboldt, Cris Raymond, Mary Deblieux, Cynthia Segal, Sara Palmer and Frank Pringle

Happy Birthday to each of you!!

A Consequential Seating

By Dorothea Nelson

Observer Contributor

ELIZABETH Michel-Cleeve and Leonard Rosenfeld traveled many roads before arriving at Apartment 266 in Kimball Farms. Elizabeth came to the Berkshires from Schenectady, N.Y., in 1983 after a childhood in Highland Falls, near West Point.

Leonard had a longer journey. Originally from Newark, N.J., and Los Angeles, he came to the Berkshires in 1973.

The two met in 1996 at the Berkshire Museum's "Little Cinema," where the Berkshire Lyric Theatre was performing. There were several empty seats next to Leonard when Elizabeth arrived. She asked if one was available. It was, and the two began a conversation that continued over coffee and dessert after the performance. Afterwards, Leonard asked if he could call her. "Yes," said she. He did call a few weeks later and asked if she remembered him. It was "yes" again, and he asked for a date. The rest is history; they married in 2014.

Backing up to earlier years, both went to college. Elizabeth attended Green Mountain College in Poultney, Vt., for two years and went on to complete undergraduate and graduate school studies at Plattsburgh (N.Y.) University for a bachelor's degree in history and a master's in counseling.

She worked at several educational institutions before moving to the Berkshires in 1983 with her three-year old son by a previous marriage. She began as a guidance counselor at Monument Mountain Regional High School in Great Barrington, then

worked as a counselor at Wahconah Regional High School in Dalton from 1988 to 2009.

"I fell in love with the Berkshires when I first came here," Elizabeth said. Thankfully, ensuing years confirmed that impression.

Leonard, meanwhile, attended San Jose State University in California, where he played baseball for two years before transferring to the University of California at Los Angeles and then Northwestern University in downtown Chicago, where he earned a doctor of dental science degree.

Leonard joined the U.S. Army after dental school and was stationed in Germany from 1968 to 1971 where his two children by a previous marriage were born. He returned to the United States to specialize in endodontics (root canal therapy) at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York City. In 1973, a friend alerted him to a need for his specialty in Pittsfield. He came and opened a practice that he maintained until 2011.

Looking ahead, they were impressed by the assurance of continued care at Kimball Farms and decided to apply before their needs increased.

Travel plans still include a bucket list of the north coast of France, the Aegean Sea and Corfu, then westward to Japan, including a bit of China. Morocco, Malta, Corsica, and Sardinia are also on the list before they say enough.

In addition to travel, they also play golf and enjoy walking outdoors in good weather and along the warm hallways of Kimball Farms when it's colder. Elizabeth and Leonard love theater, music, dance, and fine-arts museums. Now settled at Kimball, they look forward to making many new friends.



Photo by Lily Wayne

*Elizabeth Cleeve and
Leonard Rosenfeld*

New Arrivals Took to the Air

By Jean Rousseau
Observer Contributor

FRELING Smith and Linda Griffin are both northern New York State natives, as were their ancestors, but here they are in Massachusetts and at Kimball Farms. Freling's daughter-in-law, Susan Lynch Smith, of the Kimball Farms Marketing Department, surely had a hand in the move. Until now they had lived in many places, but all of them within 25 miles of Albany.

Freling's great-grandfather was such an admirer of Theodore Frelinghuysen, U.S. Senator from New Jersey and running mate for the presidency with Henry Clay, the great Whig and U.S. Senator from Kentucky in 1844, that he named his son Freling Huysen Smith. It was an unusual choice, but naming sons for great Americans was common in the 19th century and carried down into our own times, too. According to Freling, there have been seven Freling Smiths, four of them Freling Huysen Smith.

Linda and Freling were both lawyers and are both Juris Doctor graduates of Albany Law School. Linda grew up in East Greenbush, N.Y., attended public school there, and majored in English at Utica College, then an affiliate of Syracuse University. Freling began his education in Stephentown, N.Y.'s one-room schoolhouse, moved up to the regional public school, then went on to graduate from Cranwell Academy in Michigan and Notre Dame University in Indiana. Linda spent 15 years in private law practice in Albany, then was elected judge of Rensselaer County Family Court, where she served for 15 more years.

The couple met professionally in 1978 when Freling became counsel for the Town of Schodack and Linda

held court there from time to time. They married in 1983. Freling has two sons from his first marriage and, through them, he and Linda now have two daughters-in-law and three grandchildren.

Linda remarks that she grew up in a quiet family not given to exciting undertakings, whereas Freling's parents were both licensed airplane pilots. He took up flying as early as the law allowed and added skiing, wind surfing, hang gliding, and zip gliding to his recreational repertory as opportunities arose. His first wife was risk averse, so flying was set aside for years.

Linda adapted to Freling's inclinations and took up flying herself when they decided that the ferry boat trip to and from their new house on Martha's Vineyard was intolerable. And considering the variable flying conditions around the Vineyard, they both added instrument ratings to their capabilities.

The family estate in Stephentown features a grass runway and hanger, although they usually kept the plane at Albany airport. Daughter-in-law Susan

lived in Stephentown and, as a keen equestrian, got her in-laws interested enough to begin riding. They did so enthusiastically and in time joined the Old Chatham Hunt and took up fox hunting, there and



Photo by Lily Wayne

*Freling Smith and
Linda Griffin*

*He took up flying as early as
the law allowed.*

once in Ireland. The pair are indefatigable travelers: Europe, the Near East, Egypt, the Persian Gulf, and once through the Panama Canal. If you call on them at Apartment 156, you will meet dog Charley, too. He is pushing 14 and taking it pretty easy, but a fine, old guy.

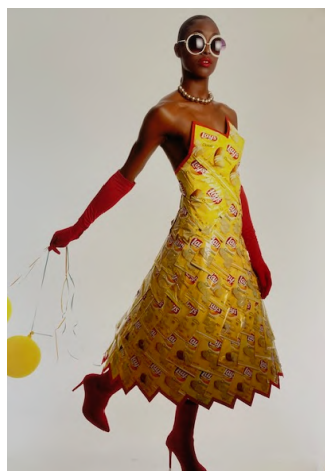
Fashions as Artworks



Photos by Charles Bonenti

Examples of the wearable artworks Deborah Carter is showing in The Connector Gallery.

By Ellen Kanner
Observer Contributor



FOR THOSE OF US who grew up in the 1950s and '60s, clothing was always more than a covering. For some of us it was a uniform—think gray flannel suits and cardigan sets. Or a statement of nonconformity—like granny skirts and jeans. Whatever your attitude about clothing, the ex-

hibit of wearable art by Deborah H. Carter, currently on display in the Connector Gallery, still packs surprises—and a punch.

Consider the pencil skirt, a fashion item from the '50s that gained popularity in the '80s as large numbers of women joined the workforce. Deborah's witty interpretation of the pencil skirt features a fringe of real pencils.

The show also features a boxy life vest she built with wine corks, and a black vest and skirt ensemble, entitled *Dinner Bell*, that would make a humorous choice for a dinner party. Deborah constructed the piece using everyday flatware—a collection of knives and forks and spoons—that makes a pleasant

sound as the wearer walks.

Her more delicate constructions, captured in stunning photographs by Eric Korenman, include two lavish headpieces built from discarded floral arrangements and a slinky yellow party dress that she fashioned from empty Lay's potato chip bags.

I asked Deborah, who is represented by the Wit Gallery in Lenox and whose work has been featured in two prestigious international shows, to talk about the meaning of wearable art and what drives her work.

"Wearable art," she answered, "works in layers."

Her first intention is "to have the viewer enjoy the art and from there, to consider his or her attitude about waste and consumption." Wearable art has become an important way to "open people's eyes to the fact that clothing and fabric have become major contributors to pollution around the globe," she said. "Wearable art encourages us to look ahead, to find solutions to pollution."

She sources much of the material she uses locally and calls Zero Waste Maker Space, an enormous warehouse of recycled materials in Adams, her "candy store."

With a passion for sewing from an early age and a degree in traditional clothing design from New York's Parsons School of Design, Deborah worked as a women's sportswear designer on Seventh Avenue before creating her unique brand of wearable art. Her show will be on display in the Connector Gallery until the end of December.

Open Mic

A Gift from Gutenberg

By Charles Bonenti
Observer Contributor

I GREW UP with books and have my nose in them all the time. Years ago, I joined an artist group focused on creating art books. I learned how to make bindings and covers; self-published a book online; and won an award at the Center for Book Arts in New York for an edible book with pages of egg-roll sheets and covers of white chocolate wrapped in apricot bark.

In September, Stephanie and I were on a Viking cruise of the Rhine River that stopped at the city of Mainz, the birthplace of Johannes Gutenberg, inventor in the mid 15th century of the movable-type printing press. His legacy is preserved in the Gutenberg Museum, to which we paid a visit.

Gutenberg's contribution to literacy is incalculable. Before his invention, books were written by hand or printed on presses with text carved into blocks of wood. Production was slow and expensive. His innovation was to mass-produce individual letters cast of metal that could be quickly assembled into words and text, then inked and run through a press to print a page.

A museum guide demonstrated the process on our visit, showing how each letter would be cast from a mold, then assembled into lines of type to



Photo by Charles Bonenti

The museum guide handed me the page.

form a text.

She inked a prepared block of text, then pressed it to a sheet of paper with a screw press.

Voilà! She held up a page from the Gospel of John. "Is anyone here named John?" she asked.

When no one responded, I tentatively raised my hand and said, "My middle name is John."

"The page is yours," she said, handing it to me.

I beamed and felt blessed. The Gutenberg sample had found a home with an incorrigible reader who once made books as art.

Loss

The following poem expresses end-of-year thoughts many may share.

By Laird White
Observer Contributor

Your absence,
sharp as a salted wound,
has left me unfinished -
a postcard without a stamp,
a paperclip on a table's edge
a pocket turned inside out.

I, daily, say a prayer for you,
ask for your return,
think back
to fresher, safer times,
but my wish flies off,
echoes in the empty house
swirls in cyclonic tears.

To stop this pulsing fright,
I'll close the heavy door
behind me,

walk outside,
put on my gardening gloves,
say your name, and in your name,
plant your favorite tulips.
After all. Won't these tulips
come back, fresh and bright
next year?

Yes.
But what about tonight?

The Highs and Lows of the Holiday Season

By Stephanie Beling, M.D.

Observer Columnist

THE HOLIDAY SEASON arrives each year like an old friend—familiar, comforting, and yet complicated. It is a time of celebration, reflection, and togetherness, but for some it can be marked by fatigue, excess, and emotional turbulence. It is a season of contradictions: bright lights against dark skies, warmth of companionship tinged with tension, and abundance that can feel empty.

The holidays bring a contrast between outer festivity and inner stillness. As winter deepens, days grow shorter, the world is wrapped in darkness by late afternoon, and the nights stretch endlessly. The cold can be beautiful—crisp air, glistening frost, a hush that settles over the landscape—but it also brings with it a heaviness. For those who are susceptible to seasonal affective disorder (SAD), the lack of sunlight dulls energy and spirit, amplifying feelings of loneliness or melancholy. Yet, paradoxically, the dark season invites intimacy: people gather and share warmth in ways they might not at other times of the year. The contrast between cold and coziness is a hallmark of the season itself.

Food and drink, too, take on double meanings during the holidays. Tables overflow with rich meals, sweet desserts, and festive drinks. There's genuine pleasure in this abundance—the sensory delight of flavors, the nostalgia of traditional dishes, the simple satisfaction of plenty. But indulgence has its price. The excess can feel oppressive. The pressure to eat, drink, and “enjoy” can leave many feeling bloated, lethargic, or guilty. What begins as comfort can quickly turn into overindulgence, re-

minding us that even joy, taken too far, can become its own burden. Remembering “all things in moderation” at this time of year is especially helpful.

Then there is the social aspect—the gathering of relatives and the expectation of harmony. In theory, the holidays are about love, forgiveness, and connection. In practice, bringing together family members with long histories and differing temperaments

can be challenging. Old patterns resurface, small irritations flare, and unspoken tensions hum beneath the buzz of conversation. The pressure to be cheerful and grateful can feel exhausting, especially when emotions are complex or relationships strained. And yet, amid the awkward conversations and forced smiles, there are moments of real tenderness—a shared laugh, a memory retold, a quiet gesture of care. These fleeting connections are often what make the effort worthwhile.

The holiday season seems to come with a demand to be happy. From advertisements to carols, society insists that joy is mandatory, that gratitude and merriment must come easily. But genuine happiness cannot be commanded. For many, the season is shadowed by loss, fatigue, or unmet expectations. Acknowledging this truth can make the holidays more meaningful. When we allow space for sadness and imperfection, we make room for authenticity—for a quieter, truer form of joy that doesn't depend on perfection or pretense. In the end, the highs and lows of the holiday season mirror the rhythms of life itself: light and dark, fullness and emptiness, closeness and solitude. If we can embrace the season's complexity—its beauty and its messiness—we may discover that its real gift lies not in endless cheer, but in its invitation to be human, together, in all our moods and seasons.



Where Money and Murder Don't Add Up

By Mary Misch
Observer Columnist

RICHARD OSMAN has finally issued *The Impossible Fortune*, a long-awaited fifth book in the Thursday Murder Club series. Readers around the world know by first names the four original members of the club, based in Coopers Chase, a retirement village near the Kent coast of England. Elizabeth, former MI6 operative; Joyce, former trauma nurse; Ron, former labor activist; and Ibrahim, still active psychoanalyst, have taken on Bogdan as an external member. A formidably talented Polish immigrant, he functions as fixer and facilitator.

This time, the mystery starts before the murder. It begins at the wedding of Joyce's daughter, Joanna, to Paul, a respectable man with disreputable relatives. The Best Man, Nick Silver, asks Elizabeth for help after a perceived death threat, then drops out of sight. The club is called into action.

In Osman's distinctive style, short present-tense scenes with various characters make up most of the book. The author, as an offstage narrator, adds pithy commentary. When Nick tells Elizabeth, "I own a security company," the narrator says, "There is very little in this world as dangerous as security."

What Nick explains is that he and a business partner, Holly Lewis, have set up The Compound, a well-protected "cold storage" facility for business documents or secret material of any kind. He hints at an item he and Holly are storing in one box, and names two questionable business associates who know its contents. Career criminals populate these pages—some hardened, some softened, some just hired for the job. As our narrator says, "Amazon

deliveries have been the greatest boon for professional hitmen."

Somehow, Elizabeth brings Holly Lewis to dinner at Coopers Chase with the four club members. They get from her the information that The Compound is a secure vault with 200 safe-deposit boxes attached to its walls. Each box can be accessed by one or more owners' codes. She reveals that the box she shares with Nick contains a claim to Bitcoins equal to 350 million English pounds.

Shrugging off Elizabeth's suggestion for placing her own code in a safe place, Holly leaves. As the club talks things over, "They feel the explosion before they hear the noise...the remains of what was Holly's Volkswagen Beetle." Now there is a murder to be solved.

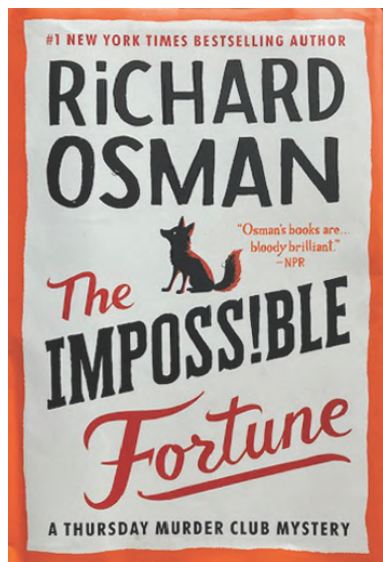
Unaware of what has happened, Joanna and Paul are drinking champagne in a hot tub when Paul receives a series of text messages from Nick. Certain details convince him that an im-

poster is using Nick's phone. He saves the messages. The club will study them.

Multiple investigations go forward. Ron's brilliant grandson, Kendrick, helps to unravel Nick's code numbers from the text messages. Elizabeth deducts where Holly's code was hidden. Ron, codes in hand, goes to an old mineshaft where The Compound is concealed. Opening the box reveals only another mystery. And the murder turns out to be a tragic mistake.

In the process, Elizabeth reflects on her status: "She is old, she is rusty, she is grief-stricken...she may never be that woman again—the mind a razor, the body a spring, the soul a granite cliff face—but she doesn't need to be. Because she is now part of a team."

Our library has this book, a welcome donation from a resident.



December Trips

Tuesday, December 2 **Bus 10:00 am**

Holiday Shopping
Colonie Center & Trader Joe's

Friday, December 5 **Bus 10:30 am**

Chesterwood

Saturday, December 6 **Bus 2:45 pm**

Lessons & Carols
Thompson Memorial Chapel
Williams College
Dinner to follow at Mazzeo's

Sunday, December 7 **Bus 2:30 pm**

Cantilena Chamber Choir
Trinity Church

Saturday, December 13 **Bus 12:15 pm**

Met Opera at Mahaiwe
Giordano's *Andrea Chenier*

Tuesday, December 16 **Bus 6:00 pm**

"Let's Eat Out"
Location TBD

Friday, December 19 **Bus at 5:15 pm**

Hevreh in Great Barrington

December Events

Wednesday, December 3 • 7 pm

Vocalis Youth Choir

Thursday, December 4 • 2–4 pm

Staff Appreciation Party

Monday, December 8 • 4 pm

Edanse Ballroom Dance Demo

Tuesday, December 9 • 4 pm

Lita Moses book reading

Wednesday, December 17 • 7 pm

Berkshire Sings

Thursday, December 18 • 7:15 pm

Film by the Heubergers: *Love of a Lady*

Sunday, December 21 • 7 pm

Kimball Farms Chorus

Holiday Concert

Monday, December 22 • 4 pm

Book reading with Kevin O'Hara

Christmas Stories, Vol II

Wednesday, December 31

New Years Eve

Wanda Houston Concert • 4 pm (Ticketed Event)

Cocktail Party/Buffer • 5–7 pm

A New Year's Eve Musical Celebration • 7:30 pm

New Trips Policy Is Set

A new policy, effective December 1, requires those signing up for Kimball Farms trips starting January 1, 2026, to pay a \$10 refundable deposit to hold their place. The fee will be refunded to those who take the trip or who cancel at least 48 hours in advance. Those who do not cancel at least 48 hours before the trip, or who fail to show up the day of the trip, will forfeit the \$10 fee, which will then go into a Trips Committee fund.

The policy was established to reduce the number of incidents when residents sign up for a trip and then fail to show up on departure, depriving those on the waiting list of an opportunity to go on the trip.

The book on the bridge will continue to describe trip offerings, but the sign-up book will now be located in the Administration Office. To sign up, see Lisa in that office (she's there Monday to Friday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.). If Lisa is away, Michelle will take your information.

Residents may also call the office (7085) to get their names on the list, but the \$10 fee must be paid within 48 hours of signing up or the spot will be released.

The new policy will only affect special Independent Living trips as well as those to Tanglewood, Barrington Stage, South Mountain Concerts, and the Metropolitan Opera at the Mahaiwe in Great Barrington. It will not affect regular transportation requests, such as those for medical or hairdresser appointments, grocery shopping, or church attendance.

Observer Spotlight



Dining services director Michael Paglier serves a visitor at the Holiday Fair luncheon.



Ruth Heuberger ponders the purchase of a nostalgic notebook from Anita Kergaravat's booth "Brittina's Treasures" at the Holiday Fair.

Photos by Charles Bonenti



At left, Walter Shenko, 101, a World War II veteran, serves himself at a November 11 breakfast for Kimball Farms veterans. At right, an early snowfall on a Kimball Farms porch.



Newly formed knitters' circle held its first gathering in Parlor D November 18. About a dozen attended.