

Wake Robin Residents Association

Committees and Activities 2024

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 over 60 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 Jena Necrason (jnecrason@wakerobin.com), Program & Events Coordinator.

A current list of committees and activities, with the name of a contact person for each, is available at the front desk or on the Wake Robin website.

WRRR Activities/Committees Descriptions
October, 2024

ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE

The mission of the Committee on Accessibility is to assure that people with disabilities have access and opportunities to participate in the Wake Robin community. In addition, there will be sharing of ideas, tips, tools, etc. that residents have found useful in living with their challenges. To accomplish this, three sub-committees have been formed to involve residents and address this mission: 1) Hearing, 2) Mobility 3) Vision

APIARY COMMITTEE

Our mission is to preserve, protect and maintain the health of the honey bee hive(s) at WR. In addition, we donate most of the honey to Marketing (for new residents, and to the WR Gift Shop to support WRRR).

AQUATIC COMMITTEE

- A. Establishes Rules for usage of the Aquatic Center including pool, spa, and dressing rooms.
- B. Posts monthly log sheet that tracks daily Bromine levels entered by Environmental Services.
- C. Tabulates monthly pool usage data.
- D. Maintains the public console in the library to sign up for swimming times.
- E. Maintains the online sign-up sheet.
- F. Periodically reviews certification guidelines with PT.
- G. Tests and certifies all IL residents desiring to be a Certified Swimmer or Safety Monitor (evaluation by PT might be warranted. PT might then require that the resident in question only swim when 2 certified IL are swimming, one of whom must be a SM).
- H. Emails Security contact information of first-time certifications (excluding Linden Residents) so that E-Key can be upgraded for badging into the AC. (security@wakerobin.com)
- I. Prior to certification of Linden Residents, checks with Alexis to confirm doctor's approval. Notifies security to de-authorize Linden Resident's E-Key.

J. Posts appropriate signage.

K. Maintains lists of currently certified individuals.

L. Tracks and evaluates statistics that point to possible changes.

M. Revises Aquatic Center Manual as needed.

N. Brings Aquatic Center and its advantages to the attention of all new residents.

ARCHIVES

The mission of the WRRRA Archives, as part of WR history is to document the origins, development, activities and achievements of WR. In fulfillment of this mission, the archives will collect, preserve and make accessible records of enduring value and will coordinate a records management program for the orderly disposition of the records of the Association and the residents.

BILLIARDS

Our Billiards table is located just inside the lower door to Butternut. All our welcome to play, but please use the sign-up sheet under internal events at front desk. The key to the cabinet containing balls and some cues is available for sign-out at front desk. Any family member over the age of 12 is able to play with a resident.

BIRDING

Many at WR enjoy observing the birds that share the campus with us in all seasons. A small group coordinates activities, keeps a bird list and offers information about birding.

BRIDGE

Open to all Bridge player, this group meets Wednesday afternoons in Hornbeam.

CARD MAKING

The Card Makers create new designs from used greeting cards, expressing artistic abilities with glue, paper and scissors and exchanging ideas in a light-hearted, social environment. All

materials are provided. The group meets weekly, supplying the Gift Shop with appealing cards at affordable prices.

CHORUS

The Chorus is a group of residents who enjoy singing together. There are no auditions. We aim to please those who like to sing, as well as those who listen.

CLIMATE ACTION TASK FORCE

The committee examines numerous means by which WR can reduce its energy, reduce its carbon footprint and otherwise operate in sustainable ways.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

The committee assigns, on an annual basis, small garden plots, near the Maintenance Building, to residents who enjoy growing their own flowers and vegetables. Priority is given to apartment dwellers. The committee assists WR's landscaping staff with building and repairing raised beds, cares for tools and supplies compost.

COMPUTER/WRTV COMMITTEE

The Wake Robin Computer/WRTV Committee wants to make sure that you know about some of the services our committee offers – just in case you are not aware of them already. We are one committee with 2 functions: resident computer help and programming/managing WR's in-house TV Channel 919.

Computer Help:

We can help you with your computer problems. Email us at wrcomputerhelp@gmail.com or, if you can't access your email, call Steve Silverman @ 802 862 9488

Programming and Managing channel 919:

Our committee programs our in-house information TV channel 919. It changes daily to display menus, current and upcoming events, and timely and important information. It runs 24/7 and is an easy way to get a handle on the activities of the week ahead without having to use your computer or smartphone. Additionally, Channel 919 shows the WR movie Saturday night, as well as special programs.

We are also responsible for managing the resident photo file on Channel 918 when live streaming (CUP, etc) is not taking place.

You can contact the WRTV committee by sending an email to wrtv@wakerobin.com. Several committee members take turns working on the PowerPoint program running WRTV channel 919. It's fun, and there is opportunity to be innovative in designing the programs. If you are reasonably computer competent, please consider joining our committee whether to work on WRTV or to help other residents. It usually involves a commitment of no more than an hour per week.

COSMOS

COSMOS is a creative journal featuring the work of Wake Robin residents. *COSMOS* offers us a delightful way to learn about our neighbors—through their poetry, stories, memoirs, art, and humor—thus enriching our sense of community. *COSMOS* is published in Autumn each year. Requests for submissions appear each January, along with guidelines for submission.

DECORATING COMMITTEE

The mission of this committee is to act as resident consultants to the Administration on matters of interior decorating on the WR campus.

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE

English Country Dance is a Wake Robin program that promotes fun, light physical exercise, mental acuity, and social interaction among all residents. Participants enjoy wonderful music and superb professional instruction. Over three, eight-week sessions, participants dance to both traditional and contemporary tunes and learn a variety of diverse dances. The class fee covers the cost of the professional instructors. Both new and returning participants are welcome to join this light-hearted activity at the outset of each trimester.

FIBER ARTS

The group's purpose is to enjoy and explore a variety of fiber arts and to develop friendships through working together. The fiber arts studio offers a creative and welcoming space, with materials and supplies available to all residents.

FILM CLUB

The Film Club shows foreign, independent and classic movies to WR residents, with time to engage and learn about the films in group discussion.

FLOWERS COMMITTEE

Members of the Flower Committee provide and care for fresh flowers in the Lobby, Lounge, and the Maple Leaf Dining Room entrance. The committee maintains a perennial bed and annual box growing flowers during the growing season.

FRIENDS OF LINDEN

With the support of Wake Robin Administration and the Wake Robin Residents Association, we will create, sustain, and support activities and programs that offer mutual help and support among residents of Hornbeam, Butternut, Maple and the cottages and residents living in Linden. Our goal is to provide a framework that will support the understanding that we are ONE community of neighbors and that will enrich all of our lives here at Wake Robin.

FURNITURE

On an ongoing basis, acquire, store, advertise and sell at reasonable prices to WR residents and staff, furniture donated by residents, as well as to the public at the annual WR Tag and Book Sale. All donated furniture becomes the property of the WRRRA until sold or disposed. All sales are final.

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 WR.

GIFT SHOP

The gift shop provides a convenient place for residents to buy items like greeting cards, chocolate and other candy, books, office supplies, and a selection of seasonal and holiday items. The shop is maintained by resident volunteers who do all the buying, selling and accounting. Gift shop hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 11a-3pm; Thursdays 10:30a-3p; Sundays 12 P-2p

GOLF COMMITTEE

The committee's goal is to arrange golf outings for interested WR residents and staff golfers to enjoy the sport and get to know each other.

GREENS COMMITTEE

The Greens Committee promotes environmental awareness at WR. The committee provides information on community recycling and composting in coordination with Environmental Services. It sponsors field trips to recycling and composting facilities, and hosts occasional programs on environmental issues.

HANDBELL ENSEMBLE

The Handbell Ensemble is made up of residents who play four-octave sets of handbells and hand-chimes, under the direction of a professional leader. The group practices weekly and presents two concerts each year.

LAWN GAMES

The Lawn Games Committee provides opportunity for residents to exercise, socialize and view bocce, cornhole and croquet on the west lawn of the CC. Other games may be added as interest arises

LIBRARY

The Jean Conner Library has a collection of over 5,000 books, DVDs, magazines and periodicals. Located on the south end of the Community Center, the Library houses fiction, non-fiction, biographies and large print books. Mysteries and DVDs are located on the ground floor of Butternut. The Library also has a public access computer and a large print magnifier available for use. The Balsam Library is for the benefit of Health Center residents and is located at the north end of Spruce.

LIFE TRANSITIONS COMMITTEE

MISSION

To provide programs, discussion, and education for life's transitions involved in aging.

GOALS

Create a positive forum for supporting smooth transitions to and within the WR Community.

Advocate for programs and services for residents and their families that address quality of life and issues associated with aging and end of life, in a sensitive and supportive environment.

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 this group, welcome.

MIDDLETON CONCERT

Its mission is to select annually, a high quality young chamber music group on the way up, to present a concert for WR.

MOVIE COMMITTEE

The role of the Movie Committee is to choose the movies for Saturday night in the Meeting Room, and on Channel 919. As well, the committee recruits and trains projectionists and purchases DVDs for the movie library in Butternut.

MUSIC/MUSIC TRANSPORT

The Music Committee arranges concerts at WR by professional and amateur musicians and schedules transportation for residents to off-campus music events.

NAME TAGS

Wearing a name tag is a WR 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.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITY GROUP

This group organizes hikes and other outdoor activities for residents at WR.

PET COMMITTEE

The mission of the Pet Committee is simply to ensure the protection and safety of “all who are part of the WR community - residents, staff and guests”. Further, it is to help residents and their pets enjoy a safe and healthy environment. To this end, it often serves as an intermediary between pet owners and the Association, Corporation and other residents.

PICKLEBALL

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport at WR and throughout the country. Forty residents have been playing and most had never played before moving to WR. All residents, at all skill levels, are encouraged to give it a try.

Pickleball is easy to learn, good exercise and a great way to meet your neighbors. There are organized sessions 7 days a week from the end of April into November. Paddles and balls are provided at the court.

We are happy to introduce beginners to the sport in a one-on-one session or at scheduled open play. Several times during the season we have a professional pickleball instructor come to WR for additional opportunities to learn the game.

20 residents also play in several groups during the winter at The Edge Fitness Center in South Burlington.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Program Committee plans a variety of programs, educational, entertaining and enriching, for the WR community. Responding to resident interest 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

The WR Puzzle Library is now to be found in multiple locations - in the Community Center living room, on the first floor of Butternut, the second floor of Hornbeam, in Maple and in Linden. All residents are welcome to drop in to any of these, and participate in putting together the puzzle spread on the table. Or, either residents or staff, may at any time borrow puzzles from the collection in any of these places, take them home to put together on their own, and then return them when they have finished with them.

RACIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP

Provides opportunities to learn about the experiences of Black people, indigenous people and people of other racial and ethnic groups in the U.S.; explore bias; and increase acceptance and appreciation of diversity.

REFUNDABLES

Resident volunteers regularly collect refundable bottles and cans from cottage and apartment Green 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 Charlotte redemption center, generating funds for the WRRRA.

REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE

The Remembrance Committee is made up of three teams. A Circle of Remembrance Team, a Written Remembrance Team and a Memorial Gathering Team.

The purpose of the Circle of Remembrance Team is to lead the celebration-of-life memorial service of a resident who has died. The Circle of Remembrance Team will work with the family and friends of the deceased to organize an appropriate celebration.

The purpose of the Written Remembrance Team is to create a tangible body of memories that honors a resident who has died. The Written Remembrance Team collects memories and thoughts from friends and neighbors of the deceased and staff.

The Memorial Gathering Team offers a third option of remembering and celebrating the life of a resident. The key characteristics of Memorial Gatherings are that they are less formal than circles and have no programmatic component.

SILVER GROUP

Participants design and create jewelry from sterling silver for their own use or for gifts.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT & SCHOLARSHIP

Working in conjunction with the HR Director, the committee distributes funds contributed by the residents to further continuing development of staff skills through certification programs provided both in-house or by accredited educational institutions and either on-line or in-person professional organizations. It is just one of the ways that we support our outstanding staff.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The WR Social Committee's mission is to bring residents together to enjoy themselves in out-of-the-ordinary social settings and to introduce newcomers to the community.

STUDIO ART - DRAWING

The drawing group has been meeting weekly in the Studio Art Room. The group does not have a drawing instructor. We have continued to use the 32" Smart TV that the group purchased last year for instruction from the many free YouTube videos that are available. Last winter and spring, we enjoyed doing figure drawing with a fully-clothed live model who was a volunteer Wake Robin resident. This summer, we went outdoors to do urban sketching, drawing with pencils and ink and coloring our sketches with watercolor paints. This fall, we have been back to working together in the studio doing drawings from online photographs and videos and sharing our work with each other. We have been working with graphite, charcoal, ink and watercolor and practicing concepts in drawing. Members of the group are encouraged to bring in an idea for a project which we could talk about and work on in the art room together or at home. Our goal is to support the creative work of each participant and encourage each other with group discussions, so we are learning from each other, exploring media, techniques and ideas about drawing that we find interesting and challenging. We are basically a self-guided group, open to ideas from our members.

STUDIO ART - OIL PAINTING

Residents, both experienced and new to oil painting, meet on Monday mornings from 9 to 12 in the art studio. We use oil and water based paint, acrylic, oil sticks or other related media. You will have the opportunity to learn by practice, to share ideas and to enjoy being creative. The recently refurbished studio offers good lighting and ventilation and has an extensive library of art books ranging from “how-to” to historical. “Open studio” times are available to all painters and silver-smiths when the studio is not in use by a scheduled group. There is also an art storeroom where general art supplies are stored and where cubbie holes for storage of personal art supplies are available for participants who are enrolled in a group.

Although no formal instruction is offered, first time artists are welcomed. Some limited supplies are available for beginners who wish to experiment. More experienced artists are happy to offer advice to first time participants, if requested. Participants refine their skills by sharing ideas, critiques and suggestions from fellow artists.

The goal is to provide the opportunity for a creative experience that is pleasant, constructive, non-competitive and fun. With the consent of all present, music may be played at low volume and the room will be reasonably quiet.

Please feel free to talk with one of the leaders with questions regarding joining the oil painting group or using the “open studio” space independently.

STUDIO ART - WATERCOLOR

Residents with some experience in watercolor painting are welcome to join those who enjoy working independently on their own watercolor projects in a contemplative atmosphere. In these weekly group sessions, we encourage each other, offer informal help, and provide critiques when desired. The Watercolor Group meets on Friday mornings from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm in the Wake Robin Art Studio. The number of participants is only limited by the space available. We warmly invite those interested to contact the coordinator, Sally Conrad at: conradsally7@gmail.com

Watercolor also offers a variety of classes for residents with different levels of water color painting experience. Introductory, intermediate, and advanced watercolor classes are offered at intermittent times during the year by professional teachers in Wake Robin’s Art Studio. Funded by the Dorothy Warren Bequest, all materials for introductory watercolor classes are provided to participants at no cost. Materials for intermediate and advanced classes are provided by class participants themselves. Class size is dictated only by space available or requirements of the teacher. For more information about class schedules and availability contact Joyce Wong at: joyce08wong@yahoo.com

STRUMMERS (formerly the Ukulele Group)

This is a fun-loving group of residents learning and playing and singing and sharing a variety of music. The group includes ukes, guitars, banjos, and harmonica; and we would welcome fiddles, mandolins, whatever. We meet weekly on Tuesday afternoon in the Maple 1 lounge. We welcome new participants.

SUGARING

Organize, maintain and safely operate WR Sugaring Operations throughout the year. There are numerous activities needed to accomplish these goals beyond the spring time production period; i.e. firewood production, equipment maintenance, to include evaporator and Sugar House, chain saws and splitter.

SUGGESTIONS & CONCERNS

This committee provides a central point of contact for WR residents for submitting suggestions and concerns, confidentially expressing and airing them, filtered for action by the committee and/or passed to appropriate staff person/dept. for handling, thereby reducing number of items/issues residents take directly to staff.

TAG SALE

The WR Tag and Book Sale is a community-building program that increases recycling of residents' unwanted items; offers low-priced shopping to benefit staff; and raises funds to support WRRRA activities. The annual sale in June draws hundreds of shoppers. All year long resident volunteers collect, price and box donations; move packed cartons to storage; 'glean' items for the TAG SALE from vacated homes; and represent WR to the wider community. After the sale, leftover items are donated to other worthy causes.

TENNIS COMMITTEE

Tennis has a deep history at WR. Two HarTru courts were established here by WR founders, Mary Jane and Stokes Gentry. Offering group play; instruction for either beginners or those who want to polish up their game; as well as regularly scheduled sessions with a ball machine, this group is eager to welcome new participants.

TRAILS

Work to keep WR 4.5 miles of trails clear of encroaching vegetation, remove downed limbs and trees where possible or reroute trails as needed, build boardwalks to cross wet areas, maintain signs and trail markers and keep the trail map updated.

TRAINS

This activity is for all interested in railroads, model railroading, excursions, DVD's on railroads and the history of Vermont railroads and elsewhere. There is a holiday working display that Participants plan and help run.

TRILLIUM

Trillium is the WRRRA newsletter, issued quarterly. It aims to catch the pulse of life at WR, by reporting on people, issues and activities in the community. It includes regular columns by the WRRRA President, WR CEO and Corporate Board Chair.

VT. HUMANITIES BOOK GROUP

Vermont Humanities Reading and Discussion provides books and discussions of those books, facilitated by trained and specifically educated leaders in 16 sessions throughout the year.

WAKE ROBIN CONNECTS

An email-based discussion forum, aka "listserv." Supported by the Wake Robin Residents' Association, it offers ease of communication among residents and enhances connections within the Wake Robin community. Wake Robin Connects allows residents to send one email that will reach everyone here who has asked to join the listserv community. A single "digest" (all messages collected and sent in the same email) is sent out each day at 4:00 AM. Residents can respond or send a post at any time; clear instructions are at the bottom of each digest. Added information and directions for subscribing are available on our flier, posted on both Touchtown and the Resident Portal.

WALL ART

This committee has the pleasant job of selecting, framing and hanging pictures and other select pieces of wall art for the corridors and other public spaces throughout the WR campus. Pictures

are chosen from websites that provide high quality prints and selects frames from local galleries or framers. In choosing art work, the committee works with residents residing in the locations where the pictures will be hung. The goal is to hang pictures that residents will enjoy seeing on a regular basis, The committee maintains a database that identifies the artist, the name of the work, its size and where it is hanging.

WOODSHOP

The shop and its equipment are available to all qualified residents. Work may be for individual residents' own projects, residents' repairs, projects for the Wake Robin community, or for the benefit of the broader Shelburne/Burlington community.

