

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, GROUPS

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

See Section VII of the 2023 Aquatic Center Manual, available on the Resident portal and Touchtown, under the heading “Aquatic Center”

ARCHIVES

The mission of the WRRR 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 Tuesday afternoons

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 WRTV/Computer 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: computer help and programming/managing WR's in-house TV Channels 918 and 919.

Computer Help: We can help you with your computer problems.

Programming and Managing channels 918 and 919:

Our committee programs our in-house information TV channel (918 or 124.1, also known as WRTV-1). 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. Just set your TV to channel 918 (or 124.1). 919: We are also responsible for programming WRTV-2 (919 or 124.2), which runs special programs (Saturday night movie, Monday night concert/talks, archive, etc). Most of the time, however, this channel displays photos of residents to help us get to know each other (without masks!) You'll notice the name doesn't display immediately when the photo comes up, allowing you to exercise your recall!

We welcome suggestions for either 918 or 919. You can contact the wrtv committee by sending an email to wrtv@wakerobin.com

Several committee members take turns working on the PowerPoint programs running WRTV channels 918 and 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, to be a resource for residents who need advice, material and supplies and to develop friendships through working together

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, stationery, books, office supplies, over-the-counter drugstore needs, and a selection of seasonal and holiday items. The shop is maintained by resident volunteers, who do all the buying, selling and accounting.

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 handchimes, 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

Remembrance Committee. The Remembrance Committee is made up of two teams. A Circle of Remembrance Team and a Written Remembrance 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.

SILVER GROUP

Participants design and create jewelry from sterling silver for their own use or for sale in the Gift Shop.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

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.

Oil and Acrylic 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.

Watercolor For Beginners

A 6-weeks long course on Fridays, from 2:30-4:30PM. Students will learn the basic techniques of watercolor, including: color theory, composition, perspective, matting and matting and framing. They will also experience painting from life, by doing still life and landscape painting in plain air.

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

Keeping WR's 4.5 miles of woodland trails user safe and tick free. Adding wood chips for cleaner, softer footing where possible, removing blown down limbs and trees from across the trails, maintaining clear signs, and updating printed trail guide maps.

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.

UKULELE GROUP

More than a ukulele group, this is a fun-loving group of residents learning and playing and singing and sharing a variety of music. The group now includes guitar, banjo, harmonica, dulcimer as well as ukes. We meet weekly on Tuesday in the Maple 1 lounge. We welcome new participants.

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.