



Echoes from Our Lake

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
WALKER LAKESHORES LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION
SEPTEMBER 2019
VOLUME 145

In the beginning there was only the holy darkness, the Ein Sof, the source of life. In the course of history, at a moment in time, this world, the world of a thousand thousand things, emerged from the heart of the holy darkness as a great ray of light.

And then...there was an accident, and the vessels containing the light of the world, the wholeness of the world, broke. The wholeness of the world, the light of the world, was scattered into a thousand thousand fragments of light. And they fell into all events and all people, where they remain deeply hidden until this very day.

The whole human race is a response to this accident. We are here because we are born with the capacity to find the hidden light in all events and all people, to lift it up and make it visible once again and thereby to restore the innate wholeness of the world. It's a very important story for our times. This task is called tikkun olam in Hebrew. It's the restoration of the world.

And this is, of course, a collective task. It involves all people who have ever been born, all people presently alive, all people yet to be born. We are all healers of the world. That story opens a sense of possibility. It's not about healing the world by making a huge difference. It's about healing the world that touches you, that's around you.ⁱ

Fifty years ago – not long after the firehouse was built, my parents, Ken & Carolyn Fisher—now both gone, built our little house at what we called “Fisher’s Cove” on Walker Lake. We had so many wonderful times there, as a family and individually, with friends and girlfriends, and I’ve had so many wonderful swims in the silky waters of Walker Lake, that this little patch of earth has taken on a quality of pure goodness. My 100-year-old stepmom Millie calls it “a healing place.”



*Foundation being laid for Walker Lake Volunteer Firehouse
(courtesy of Deluccia family photos)*

Not living at WL year-round, we left management of Association affairs to the good folks there – the Karl Reids of the world. We blithely thought that all would forever stay as it then seemed to be: well and properly managed by those whose only orientation was the well-being of the community.

Two years ago our sleepy complacency was rudely interrupted, and we awoke to a new reality: the vessel to which we (all) had entrusted our futures and fortunes here had been broken – “scattered into a thousand thousand fragments.” Along came Janice Hahn and a trusty band of brothers and sisters who set out to restore the “innate wholeness” of this place – and largely succeeded. But their work remains unfinished and the inevitable bumps in the road shook some off the wagon.

Now more of us are called upon to step up, to fill vacancies, take the reins, “find the hidden light” in our neighbors and take responsibility for our neighborhood and for one another. This is not about “healing the world by making a huge difference.” It’s about “healing the world that touches us, that’s around us,” that part of the world that we have an immediate responsibility for. This is, of course, “a collective task” – it takes all of us. And, what was true some 50 years ago when Robert F. Kennedy said it in my presence, remains urgently true today: “This is not a time for sleeping.”

— Bob Fisher

¹ As told by physician Rachel Naomi Remen to Krista Tippett, host of NPR’s On Being, from Tippett, Krista, *Becoming Wise – An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living*, pgs. 24-25

A Note from Your Treasurer



Toward the goal of gaining better control over properties in arrears in our community, your Board of Directors recently passed an important change to the Red Book.

In Rules and Regulations in the front section of the book –

III. Ownership Responsibilities

B. Assessments, Arrearages, and Liens

1. Landowners who have not paid their assessments by April 1 will incur a finance charge. Those who are in arrears on that date will be subject to referral for collection and for liens. If necessary, court action will be taken. These property owners forfeit their landowner rights.

This is an important change to the timeline for when a property is defined as being “in arrears” and subject to action – reducing that period by an entire year.

This is a significant step forward in assuring that all property owners are sharing in our common costs.

— Carol Gillen, Treasurer



The Following Events are Presented by the WLLA Program Committee

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

(All events take place in, or originate at, Clubhouse, unless otherwise indicated)

Walker Lake Happenings

As the days of sunshine and summer wind down and fall and winter blow in, we have some activities planned for you at Walker Lake. The Program Committee would love for you and all your friends to enjoy the following:

SIP & PAINT – Saturday, September 14, 7 p.m.

Join us for an amazing Sip & Paint evening at the Clubhouse featuring a Peacock Design. Go mild or go wild with your choice of colors to bring out the creative artist in you... Cost: Members \$15; Nonmembers: \$18. Price includes all supplies; wine or drinks are BYOB. Please sign up and pay at the Clubhouse prior to the event. Sorry, we can't accommodate more than 15 people and the last two S&Ps were sell outs, so, first-come, first-served. Walker Lake, Hinkle Estates and Maple Park residents are welcome.



NATURE WALK – FREE – Saturday, October 5, 11 a.m. – Clubhouse parking

Clare will be taking us on a beautiful walk that's open and free to adults and youth. The sights, sounds and wonderful fresh air of fall will be awe-inspiring. While you're walking, you may learn to identify trees and bushes by their leaves; and you may notice: animal tracks, animal droppings and antlers, fruit, nuts and berries, moss on logs and rocks, animal homes – dens or ground holes, creek beds, rocks and minerals, insects, turkeys, lizards, the shedded skin of snakes and much more. Bring a bottle of water, a camera and wear good walking shoes/sneakers with closed toes. Those under 18 MUST be accompanied by a parent.

HALLOWEEN PARTY – Saturday, October 19, 7 p.m.

Fly over on a broom or float like a ghost, just don't be tardy to the Walker Lake Halloween Party@! Leave the tricks at home, but bring some treats to share. There will be games, light snacks and drinks. Those under 18 MUST be accompanied by a parent.

DRIVE-IN MOVIE and KIDS PARTY –

Ages 2-12 – FREE – Saturday, November 9, 1-3 p.m.

Come create your cardboard car to park at the drive-in. We'll be watching a car-theme movie, possibly *Disney Cars*? (Final movie to be determined; please email the office with any suggestions.) Popcorn and water will be available. Sign up will be required in order to have the supplies necessary. Parents must accompany children. *Mater's TALL Tales* in the illustration will not be the movie shown.



HOLIDAY PARTY – Saturday, December 14, 5 p.m.

Please bring yourself and a pot luck dish to the Holiday party and wear your ugly sweater! Last year there was an overwhelming turnout and the food was scrumptious. Let's keep the tradition going!

HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST

Doors, doors, and more doors to decorate. Get the family together and decorate your front door or even your garage door. Check out Pinterest for lots of ideas. Let's see who will win the Door Decorating Contest! Judging will be Tuesday, December 24 between 2 and 5 p.m. Sign up at the office with your address. The cost is \$5 to be paid when you sign up and prizes will be awarded. We must have at least 10 homes signed up to have this event.

— The Program Committee

Protecting Walker Lake

We were anticipating a lake drawdown in 2019. However, the inspection of the outlet drawdown system including the pump & pipe will take place via a camera and scuba divers without having to lower the lake. The Lake Committee is recommending a drawdown of Walker Lake in fall 2020 to allow lakefront property owners to remove sediment from the lake bottom in front of their properties.

To provide lakefront property owners and others in Walker Lake a better understanding of the process of a lake drawdown, a meeting with Kiley Associates, our engineer, will take place on Saturday, **October 26, 2019 at 10 a.m.** at the Walker Lake Clubhouse. We encourage you to attend the meeting. We will discuss the lake drawdown and maintenance dredging permits that will be needed. In addition, we will explain lakefront property owners' personal responsibilities with respect to removal of sediment from their properties.

Walker Lake has completed submerged and floating aquatic plant treatments for 2019 as well as water quality monitoring through our lake consultant, Aqua Link. Aqua Link will be conducting a fisheries study in the fall of 2019 to assist in fish stocking for 2020.

You might have been hearing about lakes & ponds having harmful algae blooms that can produce toxins affecting people and pets. These blooms normally occur from July to September. The Twin/Walker Creeks

Watershed Conservancy contracted with the Pocono



Walker Lake Otters, like the rest of us, seeking the sun

Lake Ecological Observation Network (PLEON) to conduct harmful algae bloom monitoring of Walker Lake. No significant such blooms were found in Walker Lake. The Conservancy will conduct similar sampling in 2020 with PLEON & PA DEP for Walker Lake. For more information on harmful algae blooms, here is a Penn State Extension learn now video for you to view - <https://extension.psu.edu/harmful-algae-blooms-habs>

Residents and guests enjoy fishing year-round. The Lake Committee continues to monitor and manage Walker Lake's fish population. It has conducted fish stocking over the years based on fishery studies completed by our lake consultant. Based on previous fishery surveys, we are recommending that our bass fishing continue to be "catch & release." Catch and release angling practices will preserve the existing population of bass greater than 12 inches, resulting in a steady increase of sizeable largemouth bass. We encourage all anglers to fill out a creel survey on the Walker Lake website - <http://www.walkerlake.com/>

To protect our fishery, we need to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. This starts with all anglers. Check your equipment before leaving any body of water. Inspect every inch of your boat, trailer and fishing gear. Remove and leave behind plants, mud and aquatic life. This helps to avoid bringing Aquatic Invasive Species into (Walker Lake), which can damage equipment and compete with our native species.

Learn more at <http://www.fishandboat.com/resource/aquaticinvasivespecies/pages/cleanyourgear.aspx>

— Peter Wulfhorst

Vanessa Carlton – One of Our Own

One of Walker Lake's own "children," singer-songwriter Vanessa Carlton, now a young woman living who knows where, whose debut single, "A Thousand Miles" reached top five on the Billboard Hot 100 and whose debut album *Be Not Nobody* was certified platinum, made her Broadway debut this summer.

Starting June 26 in performances at the Stephen Sondheim Theatre in New York, Ms Carlton played the role of Carole King, in *Beautiful*, the hit bio-musical that tells the story of the early life and career of the music star, using songs that King wrote.



Quilting – On the Wild Side

I am Christine Cancemi and have been a resident of Walker Lake since 1993. I am a member of the Walker Lake Women’s Club and The Milford Valley Quilters Guild.

I’ve been sewing since I was 8 years old and my mom taught me to sew on a Singer treadle machine starting with doll clothes. Eventually I was making my own clothes.

After moving to Walker Lake, I joined the Women’s Club and that is where I learned about quilting.

Last year at the Guild, we started a block-of-the-month project called “Be My Neighbor,” where you chose your own idea for your quilt and chose the fabrics as well.

Well, mine was made of calico prints for the houses and animals. Some of my houses were changed into different buildings: Shohola Animal Hospital, Seaside Aquarium, St. Francis Church, Calico Corners Quilt Shoppe, Paw’s Inn Hotel, Henny Penny’s Egg Farm, Miss Kitty’s Roadhouse, Walker Lake Clubhouse, a sailboat and many others.

The reveal was in April and my quilt won a ribbon for the category: *Living on the Wild Side*, which is where our furry friends would feel most welcome. The quilt was recently on display at the MVQG show in June with many other beautiful quilts made by members of the Guild.



The Outside Institute

Wild Geese

You do not have to be good.

You do not have to walk on your knees

For a hundred miles through the desert, repenting.

You only have to let the soft animal of your body

love what it loves.

Tell me about your despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.

Meanwhile the world goes on.

*Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain
are moving across the landscapes,
over the prairies and the deep trees,
the mountains and the rivers.
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,
are heading home again.
Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting --
over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.*

— Mary Oliver

“The forest doesn’t care how much you weigh; the wind doesn’t care how much is in your bank account,” says Laura Silverman, founder of The Outside Institute (TOI), an Eldred-based organization that seeks “to connect people to the healing and transformative power of nature.”

“All they ask,” Ms. Silverman continues, “is that you see and feel and hear in a different way.”

Laura’s connection with nature began when she was growing up in Santa Cruz, California, “living where the redwood forest meets the ocean.” Her formative years were spent, she says, “outside.” But she also had a “culturally rich” childhood as the daughter of two college professors, and she went to Harvard to study comparative literature.

Not surprisingly, perhaps, Laura’s husband, George Billard, is an award-winning producer, writer, director, cinematographer and photographer. His latest film, *They Shall Not Perish: The Story of Near East Relief* is currently available on *Amazon Prime*. The documentary filmmaker is now working on a ten-part podcast series about the death penalty in Louisiana.

After she and George moved to Eldred in the mid-2000s, Laura, a freelance branding consultant who helps clients “devise or refresh messages that effectively convey their true voices and their unique offerings,” sought work that would bring a “richer meaning” to her life. When a proposed restaurant venture in Narrowsburg fell through, George counseled her to, “make a list of all the things you like to do best in life and figure out how to make a venture of it.” Thus was born The Outside Institute.

“I’d spent more than ten years learning about land ecology in our area, and wanted to share it,” Laura says. “I felt satisfied that, at 54, I’d finally found my true calling.”

For modest fees and sometimes for free, The Outside Institute offers guided excursions in nearby forests, marshes and meadows, often led by specialists in birds, botany and herbalism. Some excursions involve foraging: finding edible plants, including mushrooms, then returning to Laura and George’s home to enjoy a meal made from them. Some involve the Japanese practice of *forest bathing* – “walking mindfully through the woods, slowing the breath and engaging the senses,” a practice that Laura calls, “profoundly healing.”

TOI also offers on its website and at local stores Spring and Summer Field Guides that introduce the reader to the most prevalent seasonal flora, fauna and fungi of our region.

“There are lots of deterrents that folks have to getting out in nature,” Laura says. “Ticks, for example. But, you know, people bike or walk on our roads without undue fear of being hit by a car...because they take precautions. Same with walking in the woods: you protect yourself.”

Laura is concerned at how “profoundly disconnected” Americans – particularly children – are from nature and from an understanding of the “interconnectedness of everything.” Studies have shown, she says, that prison inmates spend more time outside than do screen-absorbed children.



Asked whether that lack of understanding of the interconnectedness of everything makes it hard for her to hope that humanity will quickly enough respond to the threat of climate change and all that goes with it, including species extinction, Laura responds emphatically, “It’s not a question of hope. For me, it’s a matter of doing the right thing, whether we have hope or not.”

And a right thing, for Laura, starts with “just stepping outside.” “There is no app for this,” TOI’s website says. “Step into the wild.”



“Find your place,” it might add, “in the family of things.”

The Outside Institute: <https://theoutsideinstitute.org/>

Do Not Feed the Bears!

Everywhere in Pennsylvania it is illegal to intentionally feed bears or to place any food, chemicals, salt or other materials that cause bears to gather or habituate in an area. In addition to protecting humans from bears expecting hand-outs from them or near their homes, the prohibition helps to protect bears from being eliminated as nuisance animals and from the spread of ailments such as mange, which is often fatal to the bears and can be spread to healthy bears that congregate in the same area as infected bears.



	WLLA MEETING CALENDAR 2019 All Meetings at the WLLA Clubhouse	
September 21 July Elected Board Sits General Membership 10 AM Board of Directors to follow	October 19 Board of Directors 10 AM	November 16 Board of Directors 10 AM
December 14 Board of Directors 10 AM		
Attendance at Meetings: In accordance with the WLLA Red Book Rules and Regulations, I. INTRODUCTION, B. PRIVILEGES, 1.e., page 3: Board of Director MONTHLY meetings are open to members only. Non-members may attend the three General Membership meetings in May, July and September. The July meeting is known as the Annual meeting.		

Check out the Updated Website

www.walkerlake.com has had several webmasters responsible for maintaining our website. Recently Michael DeVita handed this responsibility off to Marisa Boehme and John Schwenkler, who moved to a new platform called Wix. Feel free to check out the update, which should work well on your smartphone as well as a PC.

Newsletter Submissions

Contributions from our residents are what makes this Newsletter valuable. Please submit all content to the WLLA office by the end of the month prior to our quarterly release (i.e. November, February, May, August).

Want to advertise affordably here and in our Echoes from Our Lake Newsletter?
Please call the WLLA office for information.

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Walker Lakeshores Landowners Association Officers

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Vice President: Vacant

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Secretary: Rose Murphy

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