



Liberty-Water Gap Trail Extension

Liberty Trail page 4



Native Plants

Native Plants page 5



Martin Tower page 11



Green camping page 15

## Portland High School Alumni Scholarship Fund Gets \$400,000.00 Donation

By Walter Emery  
BA

first class graduated from the school on the hill. Following the high school's closure, the school served elementary school students from Portland and parts of Upper Mount Bethel Townships until finally closing in 1969.

The school's Alumni Association. Even after the closing of the school the Alumni Association continued to gather annually until the late 1990's. Beginning in 1964 the Alumni Association established a scholarship fund to provide for an award to a former Portland School student when he or she graduated from Bangor Area High School. The first award of \$40 was presented to a member of the Class of 1965, and has continued every year since. After Portland School closed in 1969 the award was presented to a student residing in the former service of the school, namely the Borough of Portland and Upper Mount Bethel Township. Many alumni contributed to this fund, especially Mrs. Sadie Wise Stauffer, Class of 1923, who matched many of the early donations and left a legacy in her will. This fund grew to a total of \$35,000, the interest of which still supplies the award.

## Totts Gap Arts Fair and Muse

By Michael Ortoski / Totts Gap Arts Chair

BANGOR - Totts Gap Arts (TGAI) co-founders Jim and Angeline Gloria held their annual 'Arts Fair' on Sunday to a very well attended event despite the rain.

For the first time in 5 years the festivities were held inside and not under their 'Big Tent'. But everything ran smooth and the show went on.

Over 300 works of art were on display throughout the art center from the surrounding schools of all ages. The judging was done earlier in the week and awards were given out in between dance routines in the dance room.

Every Student who entered their art work left with a bag full of art supplies and goodies.

Set up in the art room were 5 venders who brought their craft work for show and sale.

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## Kirkridge Welcomes Their New Associate Director

By Jean Richardson - Executive Director - Kirkridge Retreat

BANGOR - We are happy to welcome Justine Johnson as our new Associate Director to Kirkridge. Justine offers experience in hospitality and operations management, volunteer facilitation, partnership creation and program development. Justine returned two months ago from a year in Viet Nam where she worked as an International Collaboration Officer with Tra Vinh University. We are delighted to welcome her to the staff at Kirkridge.

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Muse Photo by Lois Silver's photos



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## Kirkridge

Continued from page 1

She and her husband Joe Germick will be living at Kirkridge in Quietways.

### Letter from Justine Johnson

Hello! I've officially been here two weeks and I'm already smitten! Originally from Wisconsin, I've had the privilege of being able to serve many non-profit organizations and universities in the United States and abroad. I have a stretch of diverse work and life experiences, mostly based in social justice and equity and I cannot wait to share with you as that continues at Kirkridge.

My first week has been full of walking the land, connecting with staff and community members, and learning the history while looking ahead to what the future holds. It's a daunting task to be in a special place that people hold dear! To make sure I take in each deep breath, rejoice in each new relationship made, and honor those who have created and continue to create a meaningful space and place here on the mountain. Very practically, I am also working on remembering where the water pump at Nelson Lodge is or how the tricky door at the Farmhouse works! I've had memorable experiences so far and I'm very much looking forward to making more and more.

I'm grateful to be here and look onward. One of my first tasks is to archive documents of the last 25 years. This will give me a deep-dive in to Kirkridge's most recent history. From there, I hope to look at how Kirkridge can continue to strengthen relationships and create and sustain new connections. I'm also hoping to be present and hold space for people here, get out on the trails and encourage others to do so, and learn from those who are transformed through the thin spaces created by Kirkridge's natural spaces, intentional communities, and uniquely crafted buildings.

As I learn my role, I would love to hear from you. Please do not hesitate to reach out, share, and think big with me! If you'd like to see Kirkridge through my lens, please follow us on Facebook or Instagram as I share my 'firsts'!

All my best, from the mountain,

Justine Johnson

P.S--A great time to join me at Kirkridge would be the "Holding and Loving the Mountain: A Volunteer Work Retreat" from May 13-16. I hope to see you there!

## Portland High School Alumni Scholarship

Continued from page 1

After many years of independence the Portland High School Alumni Scholarship Fund was brought under the umbrella of the Bangor Area Education Foundation in 2016. Soon thereafter the Fund was informed of a legacy from a former Portland School alumnus. Michael Moreken, of Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania, a former resident of Portland, named the Scholarship Fund in his will. While Moreken did not graduate from Portland High School, he did graduate from Portland Elementary School in 1948. His will provided the Scholarship Fund with just under \$400,000, which the Foundation has invested to provide a lasting scholarship in the name of Portland High School. Beginning this year, a graduating senior from Bangor Area High School will receive a scholarship of \$4000, renewable for four

years, for a total of \$16,000. In addition the original award given to a resident of Portland or Upper Mount Bethel will be continued annually with a one-time payment of \$1000.

Applications for both were made available in the Bangor Area High School Guidance Office, and were due by April 30. Collectively 43 applications were turned into the School.

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# Blue Valley Times

900 N. Main Street., Bangor, PA 18013

Published Weekly/Every Tuesday

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Phone: 610-452-9234

Email: [bvtimes@rcn.com](mailto:bvtimes@rcn.com)

News / Advertising Deadline

12 noon Fridays

Owner - Michael Ortoski / Michele Hanna  
Publisher - Michael Ortoski  
Sales - Michael Ortoski  
Asst. Editor - Anne Brown

Graphic Design / Photography - MM4 Corp  
Feature Writers - Peg R. Berger  
Interns from Pen Argyl, Bangor and  
Stroudsburg H.S.

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