



KIRKRIDGE

RETREAT and STUDY CENTER

Thank You For Your Support At Our Fall Festival And Fundraiser!

By Jean Richardson

KIRKRIDGE - What a beautiful showing of the Generosity of Spirit from our community!

Thanks to the Kirkridge community, we were able to raise funds at our Fall Festival & Fundraiser to continue our commitment to widening our circle, building community, and creating space for deep inner and outer work. In case you weren't able to make our Fall Festival & Fundraiser or want to relive the amazing night, you'll be able to watch the program (below) again and again, thanks to the virtual format of our gathering.

We loved our time together, and we encourage you to spend the time watching the Fall Festival & Fundraiser to learn how Kirkridge has continued to provide transformational and life-giving experiences during COVID-19.

Many people shared how Kirkridge has helped them find hope, renewed their sense of spirit, and created space for continued justice work. Here are some comments shared at the event:

"Thank you all, ever so much, for such uplifting and inspirational presence, poetry, music, leadership, testimonials and program descriptions, shout-outs, comments and for your clear-eyed, and wholehearted focus on the mission of Kirkridge to create space for being, and becoming a people of hope, compassion, justice, and service. I am proud and grateful to be connected to you and to Kirkridge."

"Finding this caring community was a godsend during a very dark time in my life. Having to deal with this time of isolation alone was very difficult. Through the virtual programs I have met so many different people from all over the world. I have grown, I have tried new experiences. It has truly helped me maintain my sanity."

"During this COVID season, Kirkridge has given me creative ways to express hope. Every program I have been part of has inspired, nourished, and opened the spirit with healing creativity and compassion. Thank you for all you are doing!"

EPA Qualified Outdoor Wood Furnaces

A new generation of clean

When John Hanley built his 4,000 square foot log home in a small Ohio township 17 years ago, he chose propane for heat and domestic hot water because it was an economical choice.

But, when propane prices increased and his annual fuel bill reached \$6000, he dropped the thermostat to 63°F to manage his costs. His wife, however, suffered with severe arthritis and lowering the ambient temperature caused her discomfort.

He began looking for a more affordable home heating solution. His research led him to outdoor wood furnaces.

Today's outdoor wood furnaces, also called wood boilers or wood-fired hydronic heaters are a clean, cost-effective alternative to the safety, mess and health concerns of indoor wood burning, while also providing a ready supply of domestic hot water.

The outdoor furnace heats water in an insulated water jacket surrounding the firebox. The heated water circulates through underground pipes to a forced-air furnace, boiler or radiant floor heating system that distributes even, adjustable and comfortable heat.

Hanley knew some townships placed restrictions on the installation of outdoor wood furnaces to address smoke emission issues. It was important for him to set a good example in his own community

by choosing a unit that was EPA qualified. Central Boiler, an American-owned company in business since 1984, helped create the EPA Hydronic Heater Program. Their E-Classic was the first outdoor wood furnace meeting Phase 2 of the program.

Central Boiler's new E-Classic models utilize a three-stage gasification technology and a self-regulating thermostatically controlled system that burns wood so completely that combustion efficiencies approach 100%. This means the owner burns less wood, with very little residual ash and virtually no smoke. By minimizing the emissions, this cleaner generation of outdoor furnaces is the optimum choice for people concerned with the environment.

Hanley chose an E-Classic to heat a 2,500 square foot barn/garage in addition to his home and hot water. Now, Hanley's wife keeps the ambient house temperature at 76°F. "She's happy and she has endless hot water for her whirlpool bath," he says.

Company reliability was also a factor in his choice. "Central Boiler stands behind their products and this sort of warranty service is really important to me."

Finally, because he cuts his own wood, he has eliminated his home heating costs enabling him to redirect the money saved to their children's university educations.

"This furnace is the way to go. You can't beat it," says Hanley.



In 2002, concerns regarding smoke emissions from outdoor wood furnaces prompted a number of manufacturers to form the Outdoor Furnace Manufacturers Caucus and ultimately partner voluntarily with the EPA to create a program that gave homeowners choices for cleaner, more efficient models. EPA states that outdoor hydronic heaters that are EPA Phase 2 program qualified are 90% cleaner than unqualified units.



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SO NOW WHAT?

HELPING PARENTS & CAREGIVERS NAVIGATE A SCHOOL YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

You and your family are in the middle of what is already an unprecedented start to the school year, not to mention all we experienced last spring. You're processing lessons already learned, adjusting to new ways of preparing your kids and often figuring it out for yourselves.

A lot of us are asking...So Now What?

The **So Now What?** virtual series brings the country's leading experts in education and childhood development, including PBS Kids, Common Sense Media, Learning Heroes and UPMC Children's Hospital, together with parents and caregivers to share and learn from one another. We will cover a range of topics specific to this moment in time, including social emotional wellness, mental health, learning resources, communication, tech safety and much more.

Together we will navigate the start to this new, uncharted school year, and make plans for what comes next, no matter what tomorrow brings.



WHEN:



Every Wednesday evening
in September 2020

All sessions are FREE and open to all!

WHERE:



Sessions are held
virtually via Zoom.us

HOW:



To register, please visit:

<http://bit.ly/SoNowWhatSeries>

A collaboration with



America's Most Recycled Product Isn't What You'd Expect

By Bill Burr

SLATE BELT - This America Recycles Day (November 15), the world's most recycled product is hidden in plain sight. It's not the aluminum can. But it is in millions of garages, school buses, solar-powered homes, distribution centers, and hospitals. "The world's most recycled product is the battery that starts your gas-powered or electric car," says John Connell, Vice President of Crown Battery Manufacturing's SLI Products Group. "Lead-acid batteries are more recyclable than an aluminum can, and it's never been easier to recycle them."

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), lead-acid batteries are 99.1% recycled (collected) -- compared to 49.2% of aluminum cans. That's the highest recycling rate of any product in North America. Lead-acid batteries are also the most recyclable product; 99% of their material can be recycled for reuse. Thus, one lead-acid battery can make new batteries for decades -- for greener energy storage and less waste.

By contrast, many other spent batteries go straight to the landfill. For instance, experts estimate that 19 out of 20 lithium-ion batteries will end up in a landfill (Source: Chemical & Engineering News). At the country's flagship lithium-ion recycling plant, only 60% of lithium-ion battery materials are recycled. And new lithium-ion batteries use virgin-mined material.

"It's easy to recycle lead-acid batteries," says Connell. "Just drop them off at a local battery dealer, recycling center, or car repair shop. They'll handle everything, and you might even get a credit toward your next batteries."

How do you recycle car batteries (and other lead-acid batteries)? Lead-acid battery recycling is safe, easy, and available nationwide. Contact a local recycling center, the nearest auto mechanic, or visit www.earth911.com or www.recyclerfinder.com.



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