



celebrating

75
years

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greenchimneys.org

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Learning, Adapting and Looking Ahead

To be honest, I'm a pretty cool guy. I'm a teaching barn apprentice, I do the school morning announcements two days a week, and I'm a swimmer. If you don't know me, I'm Markus Goss, a student who likes to keep his status neutral in the social hierarchy known as high school. But I wasn't always so mature, as with all humans. I punched walls, broke furniture, I broke a vintage Mickey Mouse watch that I could have sold for a hundred dollars in the near future. And once, I punched right through the glass cover for the hutch in my old house. I was eight.

The day program [at Green Chimneys] helped me a little but once I went into residential, things turned around for the better. I had to live with seven other guys in a dorm. Because of the expectations and the environment, I had to adapt. I learned coping skills and I had tons of staff and peers helping me and through it all, I turned out better for it.

If introspection is a sign of growth and maturity, Markus has certainly achieved that. At 17 years old, Markus is a very good student, possesses a wide range of skills, and enjoys strong relationships with peers and staff. Now in his senior year at Green Chimneys School, Markus takes a long view of his experience and is able to

look back on memories, moments, and people that helped to shape the person he is today.

Markus arrived at Green Chimneys, 7 years old and struggling with anger. It was a tough start; he had difficulty maintaining himself in class, and sometimes felt scared in his new environment. He shares that it took time for him to understand the impact of his behavior but he slowly learned skills to help him gain some control of his reactions and self-regulate in the moment. "One day in second grade, I was

Green Chimneys has grown a lot since 1947. Today, with strong roots, we are blooming. See page 5.



For the Good of the Children: Nature-Based Then, Now & Always

From Executive Director
Dr. Edward Placke



Long before it was fashionable, Dr. Samuel Ross, Jr. introduced children to the outdoors, teaching them about animals, nature, and their environment.

Sam, known even then as "Rollo," was a remarkable young man with a vision of pairing children with animals and nature-based settings to address their needs and strengths. This vision was driven by his own childhood experiences and the desire to share what he had learned to be true: animals and nature can provide the deepest sense of acceptance, comfort, and inspiration to grow.

Together, Sam and his loving wife, Myra, developed a school and accompanying enrichment programs that grew into an agency now recognized worldwide as a leader in therapeutic education and animal-assisted therapy. These elements combine with a comprehensive clinical program providing trauma-informed treatment to youth who struggle with mental health, helping them to build their ability to cope with challenges, and transition to adulthood. For 75 years,

Green Chimneys has thrived on this model, providing hope and a brighter future for thousands of children and their families.

As an innovator in education and clinical treatment for children with special needs, we take great pride in sharing our decades of experience with educators, practitioners, academics, and others to advocate for the integration of nature-based principles in mental health settings. Our belief in the power of the human-animal connection is at the heart of our services and the reason for establishing The Sam and Myra Ross Institute, which is dedicated to research and implementation of evidence-based practices in human-animal interaction and therapeutic interventions.

It is our responsibility—and our gift—to honor the vision of Sam and Myra Ross. We are so proud to celebrate this milestone year. Please join me in acknowledging the heroes that built Green Chimneys, our dedicated staff and supporters, and those who we anticipate will lead Green Chimneys far into the future.



Fred Rogers



Paul Newman



Jim Fowler



Chevy Chase



Richard Gere



Dr. Jane Goodall



Soledad O'Brien



Mary Carillo



Neil Patrick Harris



Guiding Light

In the span of 75 years, Green Chimneys has been fortunate to meet many a celebrity, top environmentalist, accomplished humanitarian, animal advocate, educator and athlete. We are forever grateful to those who support our children and animals, no matter their star status. Without a doubt, one pair will always outshine the rest: Green Chimneys Founders Samuel and Myra Ross. Their vision of establishing a school on a farm and their commitment to serving children and families continues to inspire. We honor their legacy through the delivery of therapeutic education, clinical services, and nature-based programs.



Mighty Return of Peregrine Falcons

The Peregrine Falcon is known and admired around the world for its incredible speed, rarely surpassed by any other bird. These crow-sized falcons reach speeds of up to 180 mph in pursuit of prey. The worldwide peregrine population is more extensive than any other bird—they are found in North and South America, Eurasia, Africa, and Australia, preferring open country, high mountains, and tall buildings to construct their nests on ledges 50-200 feet off the ground. They mate for life and usually return to the same nesting territory each year.

Not long ago, the peregrine falcon faced an uncertain future. Classified as “Endangered” by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), they were eliminated as a nesting species in the early 1960s due to the discovery of pesticide residues in their prey. The release of young peregrines bred in captivity in the 1970s and 80s led to their return in 1983, nesting on two bridges in New York City. The population grew steadily and by 2003 there were close to 50 pairs. New York City may now have the largest urban population of peregrines in the world. Nests can be found on every Hudson River bridge south of Albany, as well as several bridges further upstate and on cliffs in the Adirondacks.

Their resurgence has been so successful, the DEC has proposed reclassifying the peregrine from “Endangered” to “Special Concern,” still warranting attention but no longer threatened or endangered. Green Chimneys Wildlife Specialist Paul Kupchok, a member of the statewide falconry commission that has been advising the DEC on the reclassification, is one of many devotees awaiting the final decision to be made.

Green Chimneys will highlight the peregrine’s remarkable comeback at the 28th Annual Birds of Prey Day this June. Joining the celebration will be our six resident peregrines, along with the 75+ other birds that call our Farm & Wildlife Center their home.

Set Your Sights



At long last, Birds of Prey Day is back! Mark your calendar for Sunday, June 5, 2022.

Help us celebrate 28 years of Green Chimneys’ famous annual tradition dedicated to children, the environment and magnificent birds of prey.

- Over 100 raptors
- Free-flying demos
- Top wildlife experts
- Live animal presentations
- Family fun and hay rides



Come for the owls, hawks, and eagles. Stay to explore the Farm & Wildlife Center, peruse crafts and goods by local artisans and vendors. And get back to making memories at this outdoor, in-person event. Online ticket sales start soon. Learn more at: greenchimneys.org/preyday

Hit the Green for a Great Cause

The Samuel B. Ross, Jr. Green Chimneys Golf Classic

Monday, August 8, 2022 • Sunningdale Country Club • Scarsdale, NY

Tickets and sponsorships are available; visit greenchimneys.org/golf



Learning, Adapting...

continued from page 1

having a hard time. I don't remember how it happened, but somehow, I started breathing in and out," Markus recalls. "That's how I added deep breathing as one of my coping superpowers."

Markus also quickly incorporated the Farm & Wildlife Center into his coping skills. Drawn to the animals from the very beginning, Markus recognized that they helped him maintain his calm: "They seem to know when you're stressed." A natural animal connection grew into long-term participation in animal care and farm activities, including 40 Learn & Earn farm jobs and more recently, an apprenticeship in the Teaching Barn, an earned position that features a high-level of responsibility and independence.

"This is Markus' second year as a farm apprentice but he's been a steady and dependable helper at the farm for much longer. Not only is he a good worker, he's very empathetic towards the animals," says Program Assistant Danielle Powers. "He is responsible and really takes pride in his work at the farm, whether it's cleaning stalls or helping trim sheep hooves. There's really nothing he won't—or can't—do."

Over the years, Markus discovered other skills and activities that served as important outlets. Swimming and basketball became favorite pastimes and through basketball, Markus met one of his greatest influences, Teaching Assistant Gui Martins. Through some old-school shooting hoops and casual coaching, Gui became a trusted adult and mentor to Markus, often providing support and guidance when peer issues arose. "He helped me get physically, mentally and emotionally stronger," says Markus. "He gave me inspiration, he gave me hope, he was a light that I really needed."

"I started working with Markus in his Junior year and I'm convinced all his time in the library helped his writing skills flourish," recalls Gui. "Markus wrote his own novel, *Markoreus The Fallen*, and I couldn't be more proud. He's an incredibly artistic individual and beyond his amazing novel, he is also a great artist. Markus is constantly improving, always seeking advice, and learning from his mistakes to become the successful young man he's striving to be."

According to his social worker Jenna Eckna, Markus has grown the most in his interaction with others, having worked hard to better understand himself and

how he engages with peers, and anyone he comes in contact with. "Staff in school and in the dorms have provided amazing support to Markus; the modeling, the consistency, the regular feedback has been very meaningful for him," says Jenna. "He values it and draws upon it regularly, and he can advocate for himself, asking for help when he needs it."



The one thing I would tell future residents and students of Green Chimneys is that you have to keep going. Learn all you can and accept the situation, don't fight it. It's not that bad. Hang in there and always remember what's at the end of the rainbow of life, because this time of your life will shape all that will happen when you're out of this place. Keep doing great things and keep learning and adapting, you've got this.

Unique Addition



What could be more fun than having a camel come visit you during your school day? How about three camels?! With the addition of Arabian camel, Bunni (pronounced *boo-knee*), the camels are once again bringing smiles and fun to the Brewster campus.

Every camel has its own personality and Bunni has some special ways of connecting with everyone. Bunni is naturally curious and will often walk right up to human visitors, greeting them with a gentle sniff and a grumbly bellow to say hello! Alongside his Bactrian camel buddies, Sage and Phoenix, Bunni has been seamlessly incorporated into the therapeutic camel program.

All three camels are now helping students gain confidence, learn new skills, and discover their own strengths through activities, such as leading, grooming and trail walks. The camels bring out everyone's natural curiosities and help to break down emotional barriers. One can't help but look at the camels and start to ask questions; "Do they spit?" "What's in those humps?" "Don't they get cold?" These questions are the start to conversations

had between students and staff, which then paves the way for more therapeutic connections.

For many years, having two Bactrian camels seemed like plenty. But when the opportunity to add a third camel of a different breed arose, farm staff jumped at it. An Arabian (one-humped) camel brings variety to the camel herd. This encourages more students to connect and work with the camels; those who might be intimidated by Sage and Phoenix's larger sizes can find it more comfortable to work with a smaller camel such as Bunni. While Sage and Phoenix may sometimes appear standoffish, Bunni's sniffing and gentle nudges actively invite the students to engage with him during sessions. Often times, this interaction helps students open up and respond with smiles and laughter, and lets the connection begin.

When we first visited Green Chimneys, we were a little broken. Jamie's school experiences to date had been volatile and challenging. He was supposed to be going into third grade.

Moments after we arrived on the campus, the two gentle women who would take us around the campus focused their full attention on Jamie, not me. One said, "Jamie, do you know why you are here today?" He responded shyly, "To see the animals?"

"Yes," she said, "but also to see if you like us and if you would like to go to school here." Then they offered him a choice of a stuffed animal that he could keep. He chose a small black bulldog.

My heart eased quite a bit at this interaction, for it revealed the Green Chimneys spirit to me right away. They understand children, they empower children, they listen to children, and most important of all—they love children. As we settled in for the introductory remarks, there was an interruption; a recent graduate had returned to visit. He'd received his first paycheck and wanted to donate it to Green Chimneys as a way of saying thank you.

An auspicious start, indeed.

In the years that followed, Green Chimneys provided a safe haven for Jamie and for our entire family. After years of urgent phone calls from schools due to behavioral outbursts, we would instead get gentle notes saying things like, "Jamie struggled a little today but was able to turn his day around," or "We needed to help Jamie re-direct today."



Parent Perspective

By Cathy Bonczek

For us, as the parents, there was no blame, just an outreach and a problem-solving approach.

Jamie learned about reading, writing and arithmetic. But he also learned to trust teachers and advisors. He learned how to help fellow students get through their hard days. He learned to ride horses and to swim safely. He learned how to speak in public and perform in a circus. He learned to respect animals, both wild and domesticated. He learned how to let a hawk rest on his arm and he initiated the role of wildlife intern at the school. He learned how to advocate for himself and to express the complicated emotions that would rise up and get in the way. He learned self-control and social skills. He even learned how to fine tune a transmission, because the school recognized his passion for cars and got him an internship at a local gas station.

We learned that we had a village to support us, as well.

Jamie graduated from Green Chimneys this past June. The ceremony was wonderful, warm and happy with everyone celebrating the success of these amazing students.

We are now celebrating Jamie's acceptance into college, and he will begin his next adventure in the fall. As we looked at schools, the highest compliment he could give was "they remind me of Green Chimneys."

Above Jamie and a Harris hawk, April 2021

Below Jamie and his parents at Green Chimneys High School Graduation, June 2021



Family-Centered First

Families are the experts on their children, and we approach each child's treatment plan with this in mind. We know from decades of experience that strong family and community connections are essential to positive growth and change and a sense of well-being. As such, we partner with parents and guardians to identify shared goals and communicate through each student's journey. To learn more about our therapeutic day school, visit greenchimneys.org/school

My how Green Chimneys has grown!



EXPANDING WITH INTENTION

From an 11-acre dairy farm in 1947 to a school spanning two campuses in Putnam County, Green Chimneys has grown to better meet the needs of our students.



NATURE AS A PARTNER IN EDUCATION & THERAPY

Nature-based programming is the foundation of our practice. Helping children learn from and care for the world around them has been a part of our process since day one.



447

Interns have long been valued members of our community. Since 2000, 447 individuals from all around the world have participated in internships in multiple program areas.



300

Our 300 animals and wildlife play a supportive role in nature-based therapies and education activities for children with special needs.



550

Our campuses comprise 550 acres for students to benefit from walking trails, opportunities to fish, boat, participate in outdoor adventure, gardening, and more.



18,000

In a typical year, more than 18,000 work hours are volunteered. From corporate service days to individual shifts, volunteers make a difference at Green Chimneys.



Over the last 75 years, and thanks to strong roots established by Founders Samuel and Myra Ross, Green Chimneys has served countless children and families. Like bright rays of light, staff, funders, and friends have been crucial to innovation and growth. Today, we plant seeds of opportunity for children with special needs through therapeutic education and residential treatment, and enriching recreation and clinical support to the community.



CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN

Tools may have changed with the advancement of technology, but our purpose remains the same. Green Chimneys is steadfast in its work to help students learn and build critical skills.



INNOVATION OF HUMAN-ANIMAL INTERACTION

From the start, Dr. Ross ensured that animals were a part of the school experience. Since then, Green Chimneys has been recognized worldwide as a leader in nature-based education and animal-assisted services.



25

We are proud that 25% of our staff have served for 10 or more years. Our staff is made up of dedicated professionals and specialists committed to helping the children and animals of Green Chimneys.



250

With expertise in special education and clinical services, such as behavioral health, occupational and speech therapies, our 250 students receive customized care in their daily school setting.



2,100

From recreational fun at summer camp and swim class to clinical services including family counseling and a youth shelter, Green Chimneys serves over 2,100 youth in the greater Putnam County community each year.



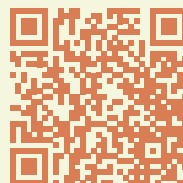
75

We welcome 75 individual volunteers on a weekly basis. Some help to care for our animals and gardens; others mentor or tutor students. All are very appreciated!

Tour the memory garden.

Visit our 75th Anniversary webpage! Explore the many who have helped us flourish. Enjoy historical highlights on our Green Chimneys timeline. Simply scan the QR code with your mobile or go to greenchimneys.org/75th-anniversary.

Your support sustains us! Plant seeds for the future by making a tax-free donation today. Take advantage of the enclosed envelope or go to greenchimneys.org/seeds.



A Century of Service



In celebrating our 75th anniversary, we recognize two long-term employees who, together, have dedicated more than a century of service to Green Chimneys: Anne Marie Wittlin and Barbara Crapa.

Anne Marie (right) joined Green Chimneys in 1969 for her first position in Housekeeping. Over the course of five decades, she served in many functions and departments ranging from supporting our founders, Sam and Myra Ross, in Administration and Admissions to a role as clinical secretary. Today Anne Marie is a School Administrative Assistant on our Brewster campus.

In 1973, Barbara Crapa joined the Green Chimneys team as a Receptionist. Since then, Barbara has held various positions, including payroll clerk, bookkeeper and eventually joining the Human Resources department in 1998, where she continues to work as a Human Resources Associate.

In addition to their daily responsibilities, both Anne Marie and Barbara are always willing to lend a helping hand, volunteering for activities and providing invaluable support to special events. As our longest-term employees, Anne Marie and Barbara have been instrumental in helping Green Chimneys achieve its 75-year milestone. We thank them for their years of commitment!



Through the Eyes of a Child

By Brandy Miller, Nature's Nursery Farm Teacher

Outside the brown shack, there's a man with a fuzzy hat. His gloves wave us toward a large maple tree. There's snow on the ground and smoke in the air. Under my boots, the ice crunches and the maple tree hugs a plastic bucket. Resting his hand on the tree, the man talks about maple sugaring.

Alive with sap, the tree lets the man drill a hole to share its sap with me. There's a bucket that catches the sap, and the man tells us that inside his shack is where he cooks it. Pulling a latch, he leads us to where it's small and warm. Large pots make it feel like a kitchen.

Boiling the sap is important, but the man explains that the fire is too hot for our skin. Raising my hand, I shake my head yes when he asks about pancakes, and I pinch my fingers together as if they are sticky with syrup.

Placing a cup in my hand, he asks if we want to drink maple sugar tea. He smiles and my fingers turn warm. The tea is smooth and it slides inside of my cup. Holding it to my nose, the tea smells like candy. The inside of my mouth turns sweet and I lick my lips.

Turning my head toward the large maple tree, I imagine the sap moving through its body, sliding thick into the bucket. I imagine the man crunching his boots through the cold every day, swinging the bucket through the snow, setting the fire with smoke from the hot pot filling his face.

When the man comes back around and offers more tea, I hold up my cup, and I see the maple tree alive from outside and watching me.

Learn more about our preschool program at greenchimneys.org/preschool



Maple sugaring is one of many great nature-based lessons taught at Boni-Bel Farm & Country Store. The farm and retail space offer vocational education opportunities to Green Chimneys School students, too.

Plan your visit to purchase a bottle of Green Chimneys maple syrup. Open Monday-Saturday from 9am-5pm. Located at 301 Doansburg Road, Brewster, NY. For more information, visit greenchimneys.org/countrystore

Clickin' with Your Chicken



Clicker training is an animal training technique rooted in the idea that behavior that is rewarded, or positively reinforced, is more likely to be repeated in the future. This method of positive reinforcement marks a desired behavioral response with a device that makes a distinctive “click-click!” sound, followed by a reward, in this case, a treat. By pairing this clicking sound with a reward, we are able to provide a simple structure for human-animal interactions that is easy to understand and follow so all involved parties can communicate clearly and effectively.

Clicker training has been utilized for a wide range of species at Green Chimneys’ Farm & Wildlife Center. For Bantam rooster Hei Hei, clicker training has been an effective tool for learning complex behaviors, such as identifying different colors that encourage creativity, taking initiative, and a willingness to engage in both humans and animals.

Why a chicken, you ask? Chickens have incredible memories and a surprisingly sophisticated communication system with well over two dozen sounds and calls, each having distinct purpose and meaning.

Through clicker training, we are able to focus on Hei Hei’s successes rather than mistakes, which allows him to learn without the fear of doing something wrong. These opportunities give Hei Hei the chance to take initiative and come up with creative solutions when figuring out what staff and students are trying to say. With repeated success, Hei Hei will even start to anticipate and respond by guessing what on earth students and staff might communicate next. In other words, he is actively seeking to connect with us during these training sessions!

For staff and students, participating in Hei Hei’s training is a fun way to connect while developing clear communication skills; students often need to work together to master the timing between cue, clicker, and treat. It is a thrilling experience for our students to see Hei Hei succeed, and with each success, students continue to build confidence in themselves, their peers, and in Hei Hei.



Above From chickens to llamas, students are participating in clicker training. Student Christian practices target training with llama Lance at an animal behavior science after school program.

Top left Bantam rooster Hei Hei

Summer Camp Culture Exchange

Though there’s still a chill in the air, Green Chimneys is gearing up for the 2022 season at Clearpool and Hillside summer camps. One of the most common questions from families during enrollment is if our large international team will be returning to camp this season and we are delighted to say, “Yes!” Cultural exchange has been an extraordinary aspect of our summer programs for decades, making the Green Chimneys Summer Camp experience unique for campers and staff, alike.

“Hosting staff from all over the world is a very special feature of our camps,” says Camp Director AJ Johnson. “Our campers not only enjoy all the exciting things that camp has to offer, they have the opportunity to learn about other cultures, traditions, and walks of life first

hand. Summer camp serves to provide new experiences, friendships, and ways to look at the world; opening our doors to a wide range of individuals does precisely that.”

This year the summer camp team will welcome over 100 international staff from more than 15 different countries. They



Camp spirit is universal: Counselors Tom from the United Kingdom (left), Juan from Colombia, and Paula from Argentina (right) are among the international staff returning to Green Chimneys Summer Camp this season.

come for a great summer opportunity, and to learn about the culture of the United States. For some, this will be their first time outside of their home country; others look forward to improving their English skills. Most importantly, all of them want to work with children and see summer camp employment with a diverse group of colleagues as an important stepping stone to future careers.

There is tremendous enthusiasm and camaraderie among the incoming staff, many of whom stayed connected as they waited throughout the pandemic to return. We look forward to our staff bringing the flavor of their home countries to our theme weeks, special events, and the day-to-day activities and interpersonal experiences that are so valuable to campers’ learning and growth. Explore more at greenchimneys.org/camps

Donor Corner: Newman's Own Foundation



Green Chimneys could never have thrived for 75 years without the help of thousands of individuals, foundations and corporations over many years who have supported, and continue to support, the Green Chimneys mission. Newman's Own Foundation has had a longstanding collaboration with Green Chimneys to bring support to children with special needs and their families—a relationship that started more than three decades ago.

This remarkable partnership began when our founder, Sam "Rollo" Ross, heard that actor and philanthropist Paul Newman was

planning to open a camp for children with life-threatening conditions. Rollo thought he could be of some help after running a boarding school and camp for several decades, and gave Mr. Newman a call. This one phone call established a relationship between two innovative thinkers and their thriving organizations that has been invaluable.

Thanks to Newman's Own Foundation, Green Chimneys has expanded its school and services, providing education and nature-based therapies to thousands of children. In 2010, in honor of this enduring partnership and the incredible

work that the Foundation continues to provide to children and people in need throughout the world, the Green Chimneys School complex was named The Newman's Own Education Center.

"Newman's Own Foundation has been a welcome and valuable partner in the success of our children for more than 30 years," states Executive Director Edward Placke. "We are truly proud and honored to recognize the Foundation as a Distinguished Partner as we celebrate our 75th Anniversary; we cannot thank them enough for all of their support."



Green Chimneys 75th Anniversary Gala *Sowing the Seeds for the Future*

Thursday, May 19, 2022 • Brae Burn Country Club • Purchase, NY

Each year this event raises critical funds for innovative education and animal-assisted therapy programs for children with special needs, as well as for the care of our animal partners. Please join us for a commemorative celebration as we recognize those who have contributed to Green Chimneys' success. For event details and to purchase tickets, visit greenchimneys.org/gala

Green Chimneys Gazette Spring 2022 Contributing Writers and Editors: Samantha Arevalo, Anne Cox, Kristin Dionne, Carol Grubman, Christopher Hahn, AJ Johnson, Michael Kaufmann, Jennifer Milillo, Brandy Miller, Jennifer Toussaint **Photographers:** Anne Cox, Jennifer Milillo, Jason Houston **Design:** Anne Cox

Impossible to Forget: The Enduring Legacy of Sam and Myra Ross

The legacy of founders Dr. Samuel 'Rollo' Ross and his wife Myra is as alive as ever at Green Chimneys and beyond, in the wider community of human-animal services. As mentors, teachers, colleagues and friends, the Ross power couple left enduring impressions across the globe, as influencers who shaped and impacted a professional field.

For decades, Green Chimneys has been a destination for professionals who believe that bringing people closer to animals and nature is a meaningful approach to human wellness. Where else can students with special needs ride horses, learn to fly a Harris hawk, train a shelter dog or harvest maple syrup, while attending school and learning to overcome their challenges?

Phil Tedeschi, Clinical Professor and Director Emeritus at the Institute for Human-Animal Connection of the Denver University Graduate School of Social Work, recalls:

"Sam's resolute certainty that exposure to animals could help children, reassured and echoed my own sentiment and observations. It was instrumental in my own commitment to getting the therapists that I was supervising out from behind their desks, unplugging the phone, and establishing genuine opportunities for children to encounter the many impactful ways animals can transform lives."

Elizabeth Ormerod DVM, the current United Kingdom Veterinarian of the Year and a board member of the International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organizations, worked with Dr. Ross for decades. "Sam Ross made a deep and lasting impact on me, he exuded warmth and wisdom, and truly cared about everyone. What would the world be like if we were all as wise, kind, and accomplished as Sam Ross?"

Former farm intern Andrea Makrandreou MD writes "Rollo and his wife Myra's love for the children and animals was tangible everywhere at Green Chimneys, and that's



what makes it such a great place. They built a whole village for children to feel safe, to grow, to heal, to overcome their difficulties and to develop tools to face future challenges."

Like so many, Esther Delisle, founder of the Canadian Institute for Animal-Assisted Therapy became a lifelong friend of Sam and Myra. As they aged, she would send them greeting cards on all the holidays. "The last time I met both of them was at the Human-Animal Interaction Conference held at Green Chimneys in 2017. When I hugged them for the last time they repeated the familiar sentence about my cards: "You never forget us." To which I replied, "How could I?"

Today the Sam and Myra Ross Institute carries on their work—and their legacy—by nurturing professional relationships in the expanding fields of Nature-Based Services via education, advocacy and research.

Dive into our latest published research at greenchimneys.org/theinstitute

Rollo and Myra believed in the importance of hands-on learning, not only for students but for those starting careers in education, social work, and nature-based program management.

For several decades, the Henry J. and Erna D. Leir Global Internship program at Green Chimneys has provided opportunities to individuals establishing a career in human-animal interaction (HAI).

Several tracks allow interns to focus on an area of interest, from equines to farm animals to gardening, and more. Interns gain valuable experience working with children and animals in a school and residential setting.

And thanks to the continued and generous support of the Leir Foundation, we continue to honor the Rosses' intention of nurturing future generations of HAI innovators, practitioners, and advocates.

Learn more at greenchimneys.org/leir-intern

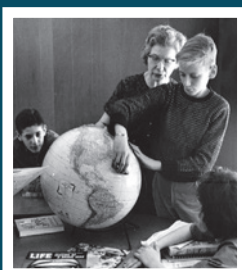
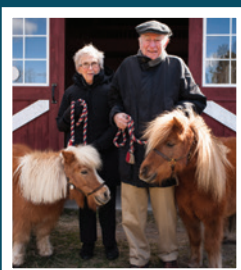


Miyako Kinoshita, Farm Program Education Manager (second row, far right), and Michael Kaufmann, Director of The Sam and Myra Ross Institute (third row, left), lead the Leir intern experience. With support from expert staff, interns benefit from interactive trainings, HAI topic-driven discussions, and career guidance.

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Happy 75th Green Chimneys!

We cannot begin to celebrate without first reflecting on Green Chimneys' very beginning. We are forever indebted to Founders Samuel B. "Rollo" and Myra Ross for establishing an organization committed to serving children and animals. Their emphasis on a nature-based approach to education created countless opportunities for children to build relationships, better understand the natural world, and discover possibilities for themselves. Our hope is that you will join the celebration. Please keep connected on social media or visit greenchimneys.org/75th-anniversary because, after all, we could not have reached this milestone without **you!** Thank you for supporting Green Chimneys children and animals.

Keep connected with us online:



Green Chimneys



@greenchimneys



Green Chimneys



Green Chimneys News