

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Rocky Mountain Village Estates • January 2021

Meet Linda Kirkpatrick

It all started with the effort to build a barn. Specifically, an ambulance barn – the Evergreen Fire/Rescue station that sits near the big “S” curve along Highway 73, on the south side of town – originally constructed for an all-volunteer ambulance service in the 1980s.

From that successful beginning, Linda Kirkpatrick’s career as a volunteer, fundraiser, journalist, public relations and publishing luminary, and community leader flowed; and the result has been a life as beautiful and meaningful as the many works of art that adorn her home here in Rocky Mountain Village.

Growing up on a small farm along the Hudson River in New York State, Linda’s passions for the arts and the outdoors led her on many exciting adventures. “In high school I was probably the only teenager who would skip school to take a bus 60 miles into NYC to attend Broadway plays on Wednesday afternoons.”

After graduating high school at age 17, Linda moved to Boston to continue her education at Katharine Gibbs. “While I was in college, I often went deep-sea fishing out of the Bronx, with an uncle who owned a boat that carried about 150 passengers.”

As so often happens, a visit to Colorado resulted in a permanent move to the state in 1968. “As a single young woman, I came to Colorado for a summer but ended up falling in love with the place – loving the climate and the friendliness of the people. In corresponding with friends all over the country, I developed my love for writing and was often told I should work for the Chamber of Commerce because I spoke so highly of Colorado!”



“I married and became a stay-at-home young mother, raising 2 children. Divorce when the children were young thrust me into the business world as an executive secretary, and I enjoyed being with people who could talk about things other than raising kids.” It was while employed at a Denver oil company that she met John, whom she married in 1981. They were married 39 years until his passing six months ago.

Linda’s love for art and for John were fused in a romantic bit of serendipity. “On my lunch hour I had gone into a gallery in downtown Denver to inquire about a painting in the window.” (The painting, which graces a special place on the wall of Linda’s living room, is a beautiful, snowy image of the Maroon Bells). “The first time I went to John’s house, that painting was on the wall without our ever having discussed it!”

Art was a shared passion, as was travel. Together, they visited 26 different countries, with Morocco and Cuba being her favorites “mainly because of being able to stay in the homes of locals.

First doing her volunteer work “down the hill” for about 20 to 30 hours a week, Linda’s initial Evergreen-area effort (the ambulance barn, which was dedicated to her in 1985) led to meeting “a lot of Evergreen people,” and a subsequent chain of volunteer opportunities.

Linda’s curriculum vitae, spanning 4 decades, is brimming with accomplishments and well-deserved accolades. Highlights from her CV include the aforementioned ambulance barn – spearheading and single-handedly conducting the community campaign to build it; co-chairing the community campaign to save Noble Meadow from

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“Nothing in the universe can stop you from letting go and starting over.”

- Guy Finley

Memo from the Manager

The Annual Owners meeting will be held via Zoom this year. You should all have received your packets by now. If you would like to attend and have not provided your email address to the office so you can be invited, please do so by January 10 — send to rmve2@comcast.net.

There is no plan for anyone to come to RMVE to administer Covid-19 vaccinations so you should check with your doctor to find out how to get yours.

RMVE has a new emergency phone number to be used in case of a building emergency or no water or heat in your unit discovered after the office hours of 8-4, M-F. Please make a note of it — 303-883-1430.

-- Kathy

Parkside Wednesdays

With permission from RMVE management, Parkside Café will continue to offer takeout dinner deliveries to Rocky Mountain Village on Wednesdays until further notice. Parkside accepts phone orders from residents the day of between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm for deliveries between 4:30 and 5:30.

WELCOME!

Margaret Faust – 108 • Genesee

LeaVern Dabbs – 219 • Genesee

Terri Tucker – 402 • Genesee

Linda Kirkpatrick continued

development (now part of Elk Meadow); coordinating the effort to acquire land for the creation of Buchanan Park where she walks daily; and co-founding Leadership Evergreen, a program dedicated to stimulating leadership in the community.

On the PR and publishing front, Linda has lent her talents to numerous causes and publications. For six years, she was the owner and publisher of *Upbeat*, a monthly newspaper focusing on volunteerism and community involvement. She also founded and published *JustAroundHere.com*, an online community newspaper profiling hundreds of area residents and publicizing area events. In addition, she designed and published fundraising brochures, newsletters, and other materials, mostly for nonprofits, and edited books for area authors.

The list of awards and mentions in books Linda has received through the years is as impressive as the works that inspired them. Her most recent honor was her induction into the Jefferson County Historical Commission's Hall of Fame in 2020.

A resident of Bergen House since 2018 and editor of *The Village Voice* for the past 5 years, Linda enjoys both the opportunities to get to know her neighbors – “They are friendly and caring and appreciative” – and the proximity to conveniences, particularly the nearby parks and trails. Linda is currently serving a second term on the board of directors.

If a life well-lived could be viewed as a work of art, Linda's would certainly qualify, as beautiful and inspirational as the landscape of the Maroon Bells that decorates her home.

Profile by Jeff June, photo by Carolyn Alexander

Wishing you all the best in 2021