

August 1, 2010

Dear Kinhaven Family,

It is with tremendous gratitude for her years of dedicated leadership, mixed with deep sadness, that the Kinhaven Board of Trustees announces Nancy Bidlack's retirement at the end of this year. Illness has forced an early retirement, but Nancy remains at the helm throughout this summer's sessions.

During her 40 years at Kinhaven, Nancy participated as a member of the cello faculty, served as Director of Admissions, established and directed the two-week Junior Session, and lead the entire program as Kinhaven's Executive Director. In addition, she performed the role of chamber music coordinator, a position central to Kinhaven's philosophy and pedagogy, for over 30 years. As the programs' executive director over the past six years, Nancy instituted the guest conductor program for Senior Session and added a composer-in-residence position to the faculty—recalling the tradition of founder Dorothy Dushkin composing pieces for faculty and student performances. Fund raising was a central concern of Nancy's, and her efforts were crucial to the Board's successful Capital Campaign, which raised over one million dollars for the construction of new student and faculty housing and rehabilitation of several other buildings on campus, and to the Annual Fund, which enabled countless students to attend Kinhaven on scholarships. Her efforts and achievements have made a tremendous contribution to the livelihood of this extraordinary institution.

At our July board meeting, the trustees established a search committee and laid out an ambitious timeline for selection of a new director, who we expect will assume this vital leadership role in time for the demanding recruitment schedule that begins this winter. Nancy and Jerry have been, and will continue to be, invaluable resources while we search for and transition to a new executive director.

We are well aware of the challenges that face us in the months ahead, but we are very optimistic that the combined efforts of the board, faculty, and broader Kinhaven community will carry us into this next era with the remarkable spirit and high quality that has been and will continue to be a hallmark of this institution. We ask for your support and welcome your comments as we move forward.

Sincerely,

Susan Mesner
President-elect
Kinhaven Board of Trustees