



The Birthday Girl: Barbara Kerr (at center)

members hold true to their personal visions and have great successes, courageous personal stories and sustainable journeys of their own, some of which are recounted in the following paragraphs in their own words...



Jim Scott-

**KCSLC Board member since its inception Jan. '02
Retired Sr. Electronic Design Engineer**

Barbara Kerr's Center provided a residence site for 10 years. There I gained expertise in alternative, solar and sustainable practices for sanitation, cooking, food drying, water harvesting, water heating, home design, oven design, home power photovoltaics, wind/solar well pumping, water distillation and rocket stoves. I am establishing a rural residence in Alaska for sustainable, self-reliant, energy efficient, low cost Arctic permaculture incorporating local resources. It is intended as a family Ark prepared for the climate, energy and resource crisis coming this century, leaving most of the planet outside the Arctic Rim uninhabitable desert. I am now active in an Alaska-wide preparedness coalition.

Clark Hockabout-

**KCSLC Board member for seven years
Co-owner of Lodestar Gardens in the Concho area**

In my personal quest for a more sustainable life, Barbara Kerr was the first example of a sustainable system in action. Today I am working towards creating a completely sustainable homestead and presently use many of the sustainable practices that Barbara Kerr uses at the KCSLC. I use: photovoltaics, wind, and solar water pumping and heating as alternative energy sources; organic gardening, food processing methods, composting, rainwater harvesting, and recycling. Since first reading Thoreau's Walden Pond in high school, it has been my dream to live as self sufficiently as possible.

Happy Birthday, Barbara, Center and Board: Barbara Kerr's Sustainable Dream Team Toasts to BK's 85th Birthday, the Center's 8th anniversary, and to the Green Revolution in the White Mountains

by Barbara Hockabout, KCSLC Board Member

On the occasion of her 85th birthday party in Taylor, Arizona, seven Kerr Cole Sustainable Living Center (KCSLC) Board members will toast to Barbara Kerr and her remarkable history as a pioneer in solar cooking, long-time practitioner of sustainability, and to her many personal achievements. Many of our readers have already had the opportunity to take a tour of the Center, to see the brilliant and simple innovations, and the many awards for her contributions to science and humanity, both local and international, that hang on Barbara's office wall. They will sit around Barbara's kitchen table, a humble hub for so many people over the past 25 years. Visitors from all over the world have been inspired here to live more intentionally, more harmoniously with our Earth for having had a conversation with Barbara and for their time at KCSLC.

During that birthday party there will be a second toast to the part the Center has played over the past eight years in the deepening of sustainability in our White Mountains area. The Center provide tours, classes, courses through Northland Pioneer College, free information on how to live more sustainably and cheaply, instructions in constructing solar batch water heaters, a variety of solar ovens, water distillers, and devotes space for experimental new innovations. Evidence of a growing consciousness to live more intentionally with our environment is conspicuous: Earth Day Celebrations, a Green Festival and interest in recycling reaching a feverish pitch.

And finally, a third toast to the Board members themselves, all of whom met under Barbara's roof because they shared a common vision for the center—sustainability education, outreach and networking. While they serve as the foot soldiers for Barbara Kerr and the Center's vision, they too are sustainable practitioners, experimenters, implementers, and educators. Barbara and her successful sustainable residence inspired them to learn more, deepen their practices, share their journeys and discoveries with others. Their enthusiasm is a tribute to Barbara Kerr. The glasses are raised once again. (And for the record, apple cider is the toasting medium for this party.) Board

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Barbara Hockabout-
KCSLC Board member for seven years
Co-owner of Lodestar Gardens in the Concho area,
Northland Pioneer College faculty

As the editor of two of Barbara Kerr's books, autobiographical in nature, I had the privilege to learn about those moments in her life spanning over 60 years which sculpted her vision and informed her independent personality during a socially constricting time for women in our society. Her compassion, courage and intelligence set a standard for the future. Having known Barbara Kerr, I have been inspired to explore sustainability in its broadest applications in the academic, professional and personal arenas of my life. I have included sustainable units in my NPC courses, worked on NPC's newly formed Sustainability Committee, I am pursuing a degree in Sustainability Communities from NAU, and implement sustainable practices at our homestead and market garden operation.



Maria Donaghy-
KCSLC Board member of one year
Artist, elder care specialist, recycling organizer

Barbara's lifestyle, the passive solar home she designed and her enrichment to so many people continues to confirm to me that one can manifest

one's desires as well as make a positive impact in the world. I update and distribute a recycling list for the area and have been a board member for about three years. I learn & apply as much as I can about sustainability in my home and recycle so I only go to the transfer station every three to four months. I'm part of the recycling group via the AZ Dept. of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and NPC's Sustainability Committee, and I try to educate the public with recycling & sustainability in the area via various festivals, projects, and courses. I am compulsive when it comes to recycling. My first public speaking on recycling was a class project at a University more than 25 years ago on making Christmas ornaments out of cat food cans. I've been this way all my life and appreciate being involved; it's really a need to be involved.



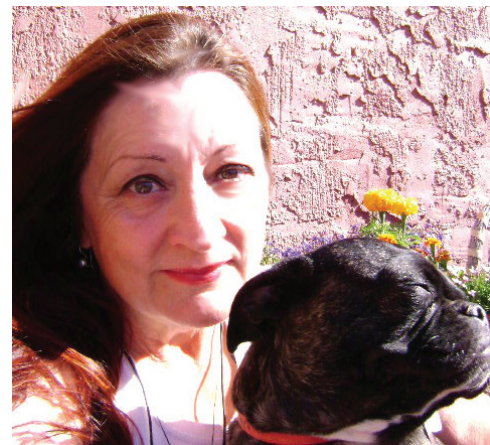
Barbara Rystad-
KCSLC Board member for three years
An accountant for a CPA firm, student of indigenous healers and ancient teachings for 30 years, community organizer

Barbara Kerr is a woman of great integrity holding fast, long and strong to her vision of a sustainable world and practicing the principles of sustainability with impeccable faithfulness. She is a role model for all of us. I recycle, grow edibles in my back yard, and assist non profits in their financial record keeping. I believe it is imperative that we all practice sustainability in our daily lives right now. I support those artists, activists, educators, and naturalists who express these sentiments and move us in a sustainable direction. All of us have the power to support worthy efforts to attain balance for our planet.

Monte Cunningham-
KCSLC Board member for seven years
Healer, author, global sustainability community organizer for 30 years, owns and maintains a sustainable residence outside of Snowflake

Barbara Kerr's Sustainable Living Center offered me the opportunity to work with others who share a commitment to bringing about a sustainable future. Working together toward this common goal in such a community enhanced my individual efforts which began so many years ago. I hold a focus that planetary survival can be attained through sustainable systems, but it is equally important that we are personally accountable. There are so many little ways we can practice sustainability that help to inculcate sustainable consciousness. I carry my own stainless steel thermos instead of

plastic bottles or cups. I use hand wipes for paper towels and water, a handkerchief or bandana instead of a box of paper tissues. We need to be informed on how we can play a part in advancing sustainability on the global, local and daily levels of our existence. The mission of the KCSLC centers on education and modeling sustainable practices. For decades Barbara Kerr has stayed the course in these and many more such practices.



Amber Faith-
KCSLC Board member 3 years
Professional artist, writer and prehistory scholar

Visiting Barbara Kerr's home in 2003 was a turning point in my life. For decades, I had farmed organically in fertile Indiana and Great Britain. That day, Barbara inspired my rethink of rural survival in the Southwest. She remains a guiding force and beloved friend. In 1996, I bought a passive-solar homestead in Snowflake designed by Bob Whittle in 1980. Bob helped Barbara build her now-famous house in 1982-83. Double blessings! Today, we use solar ovens, solar food-dryers, raised gardens, keep hens, compost and conserve water. Being a spiritual vegetarian since 1970, this works for me. Obey nature and prosper.

The Kerr-Cole Sustainable Living Center is located in Taylor, Arizona, 3 miles west on Paper mill Road. Our mission is to educate individuals and families to integrate sustainable living methods into their lives. Our focus is on: solar cooking and food drying; renewable energy; organic gardening; and other technologies and practices relating to the home environment. The center is committed to on-going research, development and testing of these methods, and to the sharing of this knowledge locally and globally. We demonstrate that living responsibly goes hand-in-hand with a physically and spiritually fulfilling life.

* Learn more about Barbara Kerr, the Center and valuable sustainable information at the Kerr-Cole Sustainable Living Center webpage.

* See the Spring 2010 NPC Community Education catalogue for information about how to register for the Introduction to Solar Cooking and Sustainability course April 16-17.