

Asheville Harmony Village Forming Team Members



Gita Larson, 65 began her life living in community: a mission compound in Saki, Nigeria, West Africa. When her missionary parents took her to her new home at age one, little did they know the impact of that adventure on her life. From the family-sized missionary group in Saki, to a small mission boarding school, to a group home in Louisville, and other shared living situations, she has formed community in VA, MD, CO, and SC. Professionally she has helped improve communities in the workplace, (often in health care but also in higher ed, business, non-profits, and manufacturing). She continues her Nigeria connection through a group called Nigeria Faithful Works, which helps partners there with humanitarian projects such as hospital water supplies, including the one her physician mom started. Her large family keeps her involved with adult children as well as lots of nieces and nephews. The heart of her community now is Quaker Meeting and friends across the continent she meets through her work with Quaker Quest, an in-reach/out-reach project of Friends General Conference. Gita enjoys reading, writing, painting, walks, talks, cooking for friends and family, and just hanging out.



Marcia Murphy, 63 was born and raised in Boston and then lived in Boulder, Colorado and Taos, New Mexico for 24 years before moving to Asheville in August 2008. Marcia worked for many years in a secretarial/administrative capacity for Prudential Insurance and the University of Colorado. She loves hiking, nature, travel, yoga and reading. Marcia has written one book describing her healing journey from a major illness and is currently at work on a second book with a similar theme.



Marcia Windham, in her 60s is a retired biology teacher at Hickory Community College. She now lives in Newton, NC. She has relatives here in Asheville and would like to move here. She remains active as a “River Keeper” and likes gardening, fungus, mushrooms etc. and also has a small dog that accompanies her to many places. She was part of a co housing group that split up when some wanted to be in a rural location while others wanted to live in an urban area.

Asheville Harmony Village Forming Team Members (Continued)



Pat Johnson, 67 is a semi-retired Physician Assistant who moved to Asheville in Dec 07 from Bethel, Alaska. She currently volunteers with the Red Cross and is active in the Asheville Friends Meeting (Quakers). Over the years, she has volunteered with numerous organizations and enjoys hiking, gardening, reading, crafts and music among other interests. Pat first became interested in community in the mid 70s. She hopes to continue learning and growing in community while maintaining some kind of service in her second half of life.



Ruth Laughlin, 73 is in relatively good health and divorced with one adult daughter. She is familiar with Elderspirit and was working with the group developing the second phase of Elderspirit in Abingdon before it was discontinued for lack of financing. Ruth lives in Boone NC where she ran a bed and breakfast that she is now trying to sell. Before retiring, she worked for Xerox in training and design. Active in the local Democratic Party, she belongs to a reading club, an investment club, delivers Meals on Wheels occasionally and does other volunteer work when the opportunity presents itself. Ruth thinks she is ready to be part of a co housing group. Her daughter in SC is eager for her to move to Asheville.