



# THE UPPER SARANAC LAKE ASSOCIATION

# MAILBOAT

FEBRUARY 2024

## History of Sekon (Formerly named Fishrock camp)

By Eilen Mansfield



Fish Rock Camp, ca. 1912

Detroit Publishing / Library of Congress

Upper Saranac Lake has a rich history of Great Camps built between 1890 and 1925 by prominent wealthy Jewish families. Isaac Newton Seligman, a New York banker, built the first Great Camp and named it Fishrock. Ike, as he was known, purchased a parcel of land in the south basin in 1890. Arnold Brunner, a New York City architect, is credited with the camp design. The camp comprised twenty major structures including six lodges, two boathouses, smaller cabins, staff quarters, and support buildings. A striking feature used throughout the camp is a roof known as a “jerkinhead”, a type of folded down gable borrowed from medieval German buildings. Each lodge is a variation on the rustic theme — a main room, four bedrooms and baths. The word “camp” has a broad definition in the Adirondacks. It is a dwelling, anything from a lean-to to a mansion, so the magnificent structures became known as Great Camps. Our homes on the lake are not just residences or vacation homes, they are camps.

An important part of Sekon’s history is the story of the Seligman family. Joseph Seligman, Ike’s father, was born in Germany on November 28, 1819. When Joseph was seventeen, he boarded a steamship in Bremen Germany and sailed to America. He came with a good education and a little money sewn into his clothes. Joseph was one of the first German Jews to migrate before the Civil War. He moved to Pennsylvania’s coal country and started his first business as a foot peddler. Soon he progressed to horses and wagons and then to retail stores in several big cities. Joseph had seven brothers and three sisters. He brought them all to this

country to help him with his business. The business grew into one of the largest banking enterprises in the United States.

All through the Civil War Joseph backed the Union, making substantial donations to the cause. In addition, he sold millions of dollars of bonds in Europe. After the war dozens of German Jews migrated and joined the New York City financial sector. Although the Jews were accepted in the financial world they were not included in the society of the Grand Old Families. Antisemitism was growing in the United States and in Germany. In 1877, Joseph Seligman and his family were barred from the Grand Union Hotel in Saratoga Springs because he was a Jew. This created a precedent and hotels and clubs in the Adirondacks adopted antisemitic policies. The controversy simmered and caused a national scandal.

The sons of the Seligman brothers had little interest or talent for banking. After the death of his father and later his uncle, Ike became head of the firm at age 39 since he possessed both the interest and the talent. He played a pivotal role in financing the Panama Canal and helping rescue Venezuela from economic collapse. Ike’s interests were not limited to high finance. In 1874, he was a star oarsman on the Columbia College rowing team that beat Harvard, Yale and nine other teams on Saratoga Lake. Ike was a leading reformer lobbying for child labor laws, clean government and better housing for the poor. In addition, he played the piano and was an accomplished artist. He filled the Fish Rock Guest book with delightful drawings of wildlife, lake views and guests having

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# President's Letter

Larry Koch

I always think of February 1 as the dead of winter. It is also the midpoint between leaving the lake in late September and going back about Memorial Day. So, it's a time to start looking forward instead of back. Looking forward to catching up with good friends and family, fishing, boating, swimming, golfing, tennis, participating in fun events and enjoying the lake and the Adirondack mountains. Your lake association is working hard this winter *to enhance lake life* for all this summer.

Talking with several wooden boat owners, they again are planning to get together for the annual parade on July 4. While the parade itself is not an Association organized event, the Cultural Affairs Committee is planning a wooden boat display and party at the Back Bay Association docks located next to the state boat launch ramp where the parade usually culminates. Several years ago, the association conducted a very family-oriented party, same location and timing, and it was a bucket of fun for everyone. We anticipate an even better party this year, so *we are looking for 10 wooden boat owners to commit to participating in the party*. You will find more information on the party elsewhere in this Mailboat.

There are *two* ad-hoc committees this winter working on the future. *One* is developing a new website that will be cleaner looking to better inform you of association activities while making it easier to renew your membership each year. Expect an automatic renew option and electronic event sign up. Look for more information on this project and the new website in March.

The *second* ad-hoc committee is working on the long range (5 years out) strategic plan for the association. The last strategic plan was done in 2018 and we have accomplished many objectives from that plan. The committee will be sending out an *all-membership survey in mid-March via email*, so keep an eye out for it not long after you read this.

The Safety Committee has inherited a project from the past. The fireboat is now 18 years old and in need of some TLC. Working with the Tupper Lake Fire Department, the committee is researching what it needs and what, if any, next steps are in store. It just began its work so more information will be available in the May Mailboat. There will be a couple of questions in the Strategic Study survey so please be sure to complete the survey as soon as you get it.

Yes, it's been a busy winter but that foretells a better summer on the lake. I can't wait!

Best wishes for a healthy, safe winter wherever you are!

Larry Koch  
President

## Website Update

Lynne Perry, Communications Chair

As Larry wrote in his President letter, the website is currently receiving a much-needed technology update, including improvements in event registration, membership enrollment and updated page formats to provide the latest information. Please look for an email over the next few weeks announcing the release of our new website. As you review the website, please take the opportunity to renew your membership at the same time and also check out the "member-only" web pages. We know that you will enjoy the website. We also appreciate your patience as some portions of the existing website have been disabled.

With special thanks to Michael Tardif, Liz Evans and Ellen Bonheim for their time and expertise to bring the website to us and to Mike Bonheim, Dave Powalyk and Larry Koch for their support.

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THE USLA MAILBOAT  
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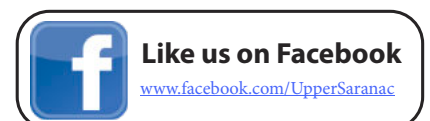
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Photo of the mailboat, "Saranac", courtesy of the Adirondack Collection, Saranac Lake Free Library

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# History of Sekon

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fun. The guest book signatures are the same names that fill the pages of Stephen Birmingham’s book “Our Crowd: The Great Jewish families of New York.”

In 1903 the camp burned down along with spruce and pines, leaving an open space. The sweeping lawns remain today. Amazingly under the direction of engineer William Corbit Hill, the camp was rebuilt in a year. In 2011, Marsha (Stanley) and Tom Curley invited Elizabeth Eisenstein, a granddaughter of Ike, to visit Sekon. During her visit she recalled memories of spending summers at camp and described her grandmother as very formal. She would caution guests



Harris and Ewing Collection, Library of Congress

Isaac Newton Seligman, 1915.

“Breakfast is at eight — don’t be early — don’t be late.” Marsha learned that Elizabeth Kahn, another granddaughter, had the original Fishrock guestbook. With her permission, Marsha and her photographer compiled a copy of the book. Virginia was overjoyed when she received a copy. The

original was small with rough paper and difficult to read. The copy was large, clear and colors bright. She felt she was truly enjoying the guestbook for the first time. You can also view the guest book on the following link to the Saranac Lake Historical Society. [https://localwiki.org/hsl/Fish\\_Rock\\_Camp\\_Guest\\_Book](https://localwiki.org/hsl/Fish_Rock_Camp_Guest_Book)

In 1917 Ike died after falling from his horse. He was riding to New York City from a summer home in Irvington NY, a ride of about 25 miles. For many years his wife, Guta, continued to summer at camp. As the era of Great Camps was fading, the property was sold in 1944. In the next few years, it changed hands several times until it was purchased by W. Vladek Wily in 1953. Wily ran the camp as a lodge and changed the name to Sekon, which means “welcome” in the native tongue. In June of 1964 Charles Vosburgh, a real estate developer from Cortland NY, acquired the camp, subdivided the property and held an auction on July 11, 1964. Everything was sold; from lodges, antiques and paintings of well-known artists to kitchenware, linens and tools. Cars, trucks and boats were also sold. The new owners needed to make some changes to the buildings. Kitchens were cleverly added and changes were made without losing the charm and integrity of the compound.

When my husband, Bill, and I purchased our camp at Sekon in 1998, some of the funds came from an investment in Seligman securities. When we learned that the camp was built by Isaac Seligman, we knew we were in the right place.

## Upper Saranac Lake Association Treasurer's Report 2023

	-----2023-----			2024
REVENUE	APPROVED	ACTUAL	VARIANCE	APPROVED
Dues	25,000.00	23,190.00	-1,810.00	24,300.00
Contributions	5,000.00	6,630.00	1,630.00	5,000.00
Events				100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,000.00</b>	<b>29,820.00</b>	<b>-180.00</b>	<b>29,400.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Executive	6,500.00	6,807.49	307.49	5,800.00
Communications	10,400.00	13,434.24	3,034.24	10,400.00
Cultural Affairs	2,500.00	1,561.01	-938.99	2,500.00
Environmental	2,800.00	162.00	-2,638.00	2,600.00
Government Affairs	1,000.00	0.00	-1,000.00	500.00
Membership	3,600.00	1,977.08	-1,622.92	3,500.00
Safety	2,000.00	400.00	-1,600.00	500.00
Zone Chairs	4,000.00	1,461.56	-2,538.44	3,600.00
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,800.00</b>	<b>25,803.38</b>	<b>-6,996.62</b>	<b>29,400.00</b>
<b>Beginning Balance 1/01/2023</b>		<b>61,836.65</b>		
<b>Ending Balance 12/31/2023</b>		<b>65,853.27</b>		

Respectfully submitted,  
M. Jay Kapolka, Treasurer, USLA, Inc.



# Seeking Participants for Lakeshore Wildlife Study

## WHO SHARES YOUR SHORELINE?

Seeking Participants for Lakeshore Wildlife Study



The Upper Saranac Foundation in collaboration with the Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) are seeking shore owners to participate in a shoreline wildlife study. The AWI has been awarded funding from the Lake Champlain Sea Grant to support a study of shoreline biodiversity on USL. AWI hopes to document the diversity and abundance of wildlife using the lakeshore environment and understand the benefits to wildlife from recommended management practices. The intactness of uplands surrounding lakes has direct consequences for water quality, with shoreland manipulations such as development, agricultural use,

vegetation removal, and creation of impervious surface all contributing toward increased runoff, pollution, sedimentation, and declining water quality.

Shorelines are also critical habitats for wildlife and natural corridors of movement through the landscape, frequently supporting higher levels of biodiversity than surrounding habitats. AWI seeks landowners amenable to wildlife surveys on their shoreline and will share data with participants. Email [mglennon@paulsmiths.edu](mailto:mglennon@paulsmiths.edu) to learn more and get involved.

# Upper Saranac Foundation

*It still is, and always will be, about Water Quality.*



## Upper Saranac Foundation: A Look Back at 2023

Guy Middleton, Lake Manager

As the Upper Saranac Foundation (USF) turns the page on 2023 and looks ahead to a bright 2024 and beyond, let's take a moment to celebrate our cooperative accomplishments.

### Bartlett Carry Dam

After five years of planning, grant writing, and fundraising, work has begun on the Bartlett Carry Dam. The project began when the USF initiated an engineering review after a sinkhole appeared during a high-water incident. The primary goal of this project is to secure the dam's future, preserve and protect Upper Saranac Lake (USL), and ensure that all safety and regulatory requirements are met. Preparations to date include hiring an engineer, performing tests and analysis, surveying, developing an emergency action plan, engineering assessments, obtaining permits, enhancing site access, and hiring a contractor that has begun work. The dam renovation is scheduled to continue through next summer with an anticipated completion by the fall of 2024.

### Water Quality Monitoring:

USF, in collaboration with the Adirondack Watershed Institute, continued water quality monitoring and analysis of seven tributaries and the two basins of USL. Data collected is used to identify potential problems such as emerging harmful algal blooms (HABs). This analysis also observes trends in water quality over time that guides management; providing recommendations to protect the watershed against future threats.

In response to this year's HABs, the USF enacted its Emergency Action Plan of taking water samples for analysis and submitting data to the state departments of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and Health. The USF also sent notification emails to over 1,300 watershed users and notices to USF social media followers. The USF advised lake users to be on the lookout for the blooms and of the potential dangers associated with them.

## Government Affairs Committee

Larry Koch, Chair

The Government Affairs committee has been monitoring several local activities this winter. For one, it seems the Town of Santa Clara Short Term Rental Ordinance has come together with applications. We noticed 8 properties had already registered by the January 9th town board meeting. There are surely more rentals to sign up this winter. We heard the local owner group contesting the Deerwood lot 9 development lost their legal appeal though there seems to be more developments coming in this year. The ongoing struggle between the Upper Saranac Marina and the APA/DEC and local community seems never ending so we hope some solutions can be found this year that everyone can live with.

It must be pointed out that the Upper Saranac Lake Association is pro-development and restoration so long as it conforms to existing law, fits well in the surrounding landscape and is agreeable with both the developer and the local community. While easier said than done, often, if the sides in these disputes could do more listening and less legal work, everyone might benefit.

Last November's local elections changed much of the Town of

### Environmental Advocacy

The USF provided input to Santa Clara and Harrietstown to guide land use management decisions as well as NYSDEC and Adirondack Park Agency Unit Management Plans for the Fish Creek and Rollins Pond Campgrounds and the Saranac Lake Wild Forest, which includes the Upper Saranac watershed. The USF has actively been engaged with its partners calling for the state to fulfill its legal obligation in conducting a long-overdue carrying capacity study for the Saranac Chain of Lakes.

### Funding

In 2023, USF applied for and received over \$65,000 in grant funding for watershed protection that was dedicated to AIS removal and lake management projects.

### Invasive Species Prevention and Management

USL and Fish Creek Campground Watershed Stewards inspected over 3,000 boats and educated nearly 6,000 visitors about AIS. Watershed Stewards performed 391 boat decontaminations at USF's Decontamination Station on USL, and intercepted 10 confirmed AIS.

The USF worked cooperatively with volunteers on terrestrial invasive removal projects, native pollinator gardens, and performing early detection surveys to identify new introductions. We continue to work with private boat launches to convey AIS spread prevention outreach measures for launching compliance.

The USF Dive Team concluded another successful season of aquatic invasive species (AIS) hand-harvesting management — the second year operating our own crew. In the past, the USF contracted for this service. Running our own operation reduces expenses and provides a direct management approach, further increasing efficiency.

Santa Clara town Council. Mickey Webb, long time Town Supervisor retired after many years accomplishing a lot for the town. He was replaced by Robert Curry who also lives at the north end of the lake. There are supposed to be four town council members and the Town Supervisor on the council. As of the January 9th town board meeting, there is a vacant town council seat. The main requirement to fill this one-year term vacancy is town residency and acceptance by the rest of the town board. If the Town of Santa Clara is your legal residence, think about spending a year learning new things and making a difference for your neighbors. If you are interested, send your request to [santaclaratownclerk@gmail.com](mailto:santaclaratownclerk@gmail.com) or send it to Town Clerk, 5359 State Route 30, Saranac Lake, NY 12983.

Government is a never-ending process of developing ideas, discussing options and creating policy. We will stay tuned for future developments and react appropriately.

Members: Dave Powalyk, Anne Sheerin, Cindy Rosenwald, Neil Kolsky, Lynne Perry



# Navigating the Waters of Road Salt Pollution in the Adirondack

Ruth Smith

Since the 1940s, road salt has been used in the United States as the most common method of snow and ice removal and road maintenance in cold climates. As highway systems expanded throughout the country, there was a need for better road maintenance as motorists started to expect snow and ice-free pavements, even after snowstorms (*Road Salt Use in the United States*, n.d.). Road salt use dramatically increased and doubled every five years during the 1950s and 1960s (*Road Salt Use in the United States*, n.d.). Looking at the Adirondack region, it wasn't until the 1980 Winter Olympics that road salt use soared when local organizers decided they needed to keep the roads clear for the thousands of people visiting the region. Their plan called for approximately six times the amount of salt that had been used in years past (Rivard, 2020). Before this unprecedented amount of salt was used on Adirondack roadways, most regional roads were not usually cleared all the way to blacktop when it snowed. People often drove slower in winter conditions, equipped their vehicles with snow tires, and highway departments added sand to roadways to increase traction (Rivard, 2020). Since this increased usage of road salt at the time of the Olympics, the region has continued to use very high amounts of road salt, which has led to the major issues related to excessive road salt that we see around the Adirondack Park today.

But why does it matter that road salt usage has increased? Road salt, also known as sodium chloride, has been shown to contaminate and damage forest and aquatic ecosystems, corrode local infrastructure, such as bridges, and accelerate the rusting of vehicles. It has contaminated local wells, leaving residents without clean drinking water and damaging many home appliances and systems attached to their water supplies. While many people argue the benefits of utilizing road salt to clear roadways and make winter travel safer, there are many hidden costs to its use and the lasting effects it has on our environment. And this issue goes far beyond the salty water that runs off directly into ponds, lakes, rivers and streams; the significant economic and health implications associated with road salt in ground water impact individuals, families and communities across the region.

Last September, New York State released the [report based on the work of the Adirondack Road Salt Reduction Task Force](#) authorized by the Randy Preston Road Salt Reduction Act in 2020. Among numerous recommendations included in the report, the task force suggests the current salt reduction pilot programs on roads around the Adirondacks be studied and more undertaken to identify improved winter road maintenance practices. It also highlights the importance of training of highway departments about alternatives and best practices for winter road maintenance to end frequent and heavy use of salt, as well as outreach and education for the general public.

The report states “The goals should be to instill a shared understanding of the need for an effective winter maintenance program, the impacts of excessive road salt applications, bolstering support for road salt reduction measures and alternative removal approaches from a wide set of targeted public audiences, fostering a willingness among the public to support salt management, and garnering support from elected officials to facilitate implementation of best practices, while also considering public safety” (*Adirondack Road Salt Reduction Task Force Assessment and Recommendations 2023*, n.d.).

The Adirondack region is fortunate to have advocates dedicated to addressing the complex issue of road salt contamination, and AdkAction ([adkaction.org](http://adkaction.org)), a non-profit committed to fostering positive change within our communities and finding ways to ensure people and nature thrive together, is making significant strides in this arena. AdkAction's commitment to environmental stewardship is clear through its Clean Water, Safe Roads Network—an inter-municipal community of highway department operators and leaders working together to share knowledge, resources, and best management practices around the topic of reducing road salt use. Launched in March of 2022, this Network provides targeted education and outreach opportunities to empower highway departments in New York State's Lake Champlain Basin, which includes Upper Saranac Lake and its surrounding watershed, to adopt improved winter road maintenance practices. Participating communities are working to decrease sodium chloride pollutants and material loading, such as excess sand, into precious water resources and limit the broader aspects of personal harm and economic impacts that are associated with increased levels of salt in the environment.

Participants in the Clean Water, Safe Roads Network receive valuable training and support to adopt improvements and changes through one-on-one consultations with AdkAction's dedicated professionals from WIT Advisers. Some of the winter road maintenance improvements adopted by communities include the use of live-edged plows for more effective snow removal, calibration and automatic controls of salt/sand distribution systems on trucks, brine treatment of roadways before storms, prewetting of road salt and precise temperature/weather monitoring of roads. AdkAction also provides custom water quality maps to communities to benchmark sodium chloride levels across their associated geography, making it possible to track improvements over time.

More recently, AdkAction has initiated the Clean Water, Safe Roads Public Outreach and Education Campaign, ([adkaction.org/salt](http://adkaction.org/salt)) supported by a grant from the North Elba LEAF program, and in partnership with the Ausable River Association and the Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute. This comprehensive effort encourages responsible salt application practices for households, businesses, and municipalities in the Adirondacks. Both residents and visitors to the area can learn about the ways road salt can contaminate nearby water bodies, harm aquatic life, and damage cars, bridges, and drinking water and actions they may take to address such issues.

AdkAction's work is just one part of a region-wide movement to address road salt pollution and focus on best management practices. Local watersheds in the Adirondacks are critical to the health and vitality of our region and areas such as Upper Saranac Lake are among our most pristine waterways. The Lake and its surrounding watershed are contained within the Towns of Harrietstown and Santa Clara, and the towns maintain town and county roads during the winter. They generally use sand to treat these roads, with 8-15% rock salt added to prevent freezing of the sand. The New York State Department of Transportation provides winter maintenance for State Routes 3 and 30, which travel along the western and southern regions of the lake, using treated salt, and of state of the art spreading equipment that is routinely calibrated to ensure prescribed rates of application. While all of these groups work to control the use of road

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# Navigating...Road Salt

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salt, its use in winter road maintenance practices and associated systems employed by the towns and New York State may have a direct effect on the wellbeing of the people and environment in this area.

The southern end of Upper Saranac Lake is located in the Town of Harrietstown, and recent improvements at the town highway department have broad impacts influencing the town as a whole. An [Adirondack Daily Enterprise article from June, 2023](#), reported on the completion and benefits of the new Harrietstown salt/sand shed on John Munn Road in Saranac Lake. Completed the previous year, the shed was used throughout the winter of 2023, and significantly reduced road maintenance material costs by half and supported improved operational efficiencies, as well.

Highway Superintendent Dan Martin explained that the shed's covering prevented losses due to rain and freezing, which had been significant issues when storing salt outdoors. Previously, 10% to 15% of the salt supply was lost to rain, and an additional 30% to 40% became unusable during the season. Now, the protected salt can be added more precisely to relatively dry sand as it is needed. This translated to annual savings of \$20,000 in sand and \$30,000 in salt, reduced labor costs and minimized wear and tear on equipment. The 336,960 cubic foot shed was funded by a \$250,000 State Water Quality Improvement Project grant with costs split evenly between the state and the town. Its completion represents a significant step in the ongoing efforts to reduce the environmental impact of road salt and the costs associated with winter road maintenance.

In addition, the Harrietstown Highway Department crew recently participated in a training session sponsored by AdkAction to learn how to calibrate the sand/salt distribution systems on the trucks used for winter road maintenance. Calibration and associated controls allow the driver to measure the precise amount of material being applied, resulting in more accurate and efficient deicing with less total salt and sand used.

The majority of the Upper Saranac Lake area is located in the southern end of the Town of Santa Clara. A town highway department garage and office are located on State Route 30 near Saranac Inn, along with uncovered salt/sand piles there. State Route 30 makes up the majority of roadways traveling through the Upper Saranac area, with the remaining town or country roads that access the shorelines maintained by the town. Town Supervisor Robert Curry has indicated that the town is favorably considering the need

for a shed to cover the sand and salt piles used for winter road maintenance. Information associated with the installation of Harrietstown's new shed suggests that constructing a shed for the Santa Clara highway department would be beneficial in controlling material costs associated with its winter activities, and improve the overall efficiency of the winter road maintenance operations.

As stewards of Upper Saranac Lake and the surrounding area, it is our collective responsibility to become informed about issues related to road salt contamination, and understand how as individuals and as a community, we can address the harmful effects on ecosystems, infrastructure, and public health associated with the use of road salt over past decades. The Adirondack Road Salt Reduction Task Force Report includes several recommendations that have already been instituted through the ongoing work on the Clean Water, Safe Roads project at AdkAction. Participants in the Network are learning the *best practices for proven snow and ice removal*. Network members, as well as representatives of other regional communities and businesses can attend *snow and ice removal training sessions*. Members of the Upper Saranac Lake community can access materials prepared for the *Public Outreach and Education campaign* to learn the impacts of road salt, understand the benefits of adopting best management practices for winter road maintenance, and recognize how they can become part of the road salt reduction effort.

*AdkAction's Clean Water Safe Roads Network is grant funded by the Lake Champlain Basin Program and the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission.*

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Hannah Grall, ADK Action



Harrietstown salt/sand shed on John Munn Road in Saranac Lake

Photo: Ruth Smith

## IN MEMORIAM

### Jeanne Hart

Jeanne Kelly Hart, age 97, of Saranac Lake, died Sunday, Oct. 22, 2023 in Saranac Lake.

Born in 1926 in Jersey City, New Jersey, Jeanne was the daughter of John Ward Kelly and Anna Doran Kelly. She grew up in Hoboken, New Jersey and served as a cadet nurse in World War II, graduating from Jersey City Medical Center in 1947. In Hoboken, she met her husband of 69 years, James Vincent Hart, Jr. Jeanne and Jim were married in 1949 and raised their six children in Cedar Grove, New Jersey and their lake house on Upper Saranac Lake; they moved to the town of Saranac Lake in 1991. Jeanne was a parishioner of St. Bernard's Church as well as a member of the Art and Environment Committee, the Rosary Society and Catholic Daughters. She also volunteered at the Adirondack Medical Center and AMC Auxiliary.

Jeanne is survived by her six children, Lois and Bernard Barrett of Cape Charles, Virginia; James and Phyllis Hart III of Barre, Vermont; Kathleen and David Baker of Bakersfield, Vermont; Eileen and Michael Richer of Tupper Lake; Kenneth and Lauren Hart of Tupper Lake; and Tara and Stephen Horvath of Columbia, Maryland; as well as her 16 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren. Mrs. Hart was predeceased by her parents; her beloved husband and best friend, James Vincent Hart, Jr.; her brother John Kelly; and her granddaughter, Tessa Hart Horvath. A Mass of Christian Burial took place Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023 at St. Bernard's Church.

### John "Jack" Joseph Brennan, DVM

September 12<sup>th</sup>, 1929 – January 18<sup>th</sup> 2024.

John "Jack" Joseph Brennan—husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, veterinarian, poet, author, pilot and community supporter—peacefully left this world at age 94 on Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2024, having been surrounded by family and friends for several days. He and his wife Mary had summered on Upper Saranac since 1976.

Jack was born in the Bronx, and his family moved to Peach Lake, NY, an hour north of the City in the early 1940's. Jack entered Cornell University in the fall of 1947 and graduated in 1952 as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. Jack's (and his wife Mary's) devotion and service to Cornell was lifelong. In his later years, there was not a day when Jack didn't sport some kind of Cornell-themed element of clothing, whether a hat, pin, shirt or coat. Jack was all in!

During his senior year at Cornell, Jack attended a Pi Beta Phi event and met and became enamored of one Mary Louisa Shear. They became engaged upon graduation and were married in 1953, thus beginning a loving 64-year marriage.

Jack and Mary eventually made their home in Guilderland, NY, returning to Mary's roots in Albany County, NY to establish their own veterinary practice, Guilderland Animal Hospital. The practice grew to 8 veterinarians in 2 locations, becoming a community resource to dog and cat owners as well as local dairy farmers and horse owners. Towards the end of his career, Jack also was appointed track veterinarian for the Saratoga Raceway.

Jack and his wife Mary (who passed in August of 2017) became members of the Upper Saranac Lake community in 1976 when they bought their beloved Pinewood on the Saranac Inn property. Interestingly Pinewood was built in 1902, not as housing for the Inn, but rather as the personal summer residence of the Inn's Treasurer at the time.

Jack and Mary initially came up only on weekends and for an occasional week. But in 1994, Jack retired from his practice and they became "full-time" summer residents. They loved spending time gardening, sailing, canoeing, golfing and relaxing with friends on the lake. Jack loved "sponsoring" an annual golf tournament for his friends, the vaunted "Pinewood Invitational." Golf was involved, but a key part of the attraction was everyone crashing at Pinewood to enjoy great food and drink and community!

Jack was a dedicated father, attending almost all his kids' concerts, football games, wrestling meets, soccer games and ski meets (having helped found the Guilderland High School ski team so his daughter could compete!). Indeed, family was everything to Jack and Mary; they bought Pinewood to be a



family Mecca, and they couldn't have done a better job. Their three children, Peter (Beth) (living in Ithaca), John (Jean) (living in Alameda, CA) and Mary Ann (living in Albany), and then Jack and Mary's grandkids, Tom (Margaux), Mike

(Michelle), Joe (Jillian), Patrick (Sierra), Kathleen (James) and Julia, never missed making their way to Pinewood for family gatherings. Jack's family continues to own Pinewood and will continue the family mecca tradition, with Mary Ann serving on as Zone 2 chair for the Lake Association!

Throughout his life, Jack contributed mightily to the vibrancy of his community. In addition to numerous civic organizations in the Capital District, he was very involved in the Upper Saranac community. This includes helping to grade the safe boating course exams for youngsters (and needing to flunk two of his grandkids who shall remain nameless!)

Jack also loved to write. When James Herriot (whom he met on a trip to Yorkshire) published *All Creatures Great and Small*, Jack was inspired to share his own experiences as a country veterinarian in rural Albany County. In 2010 he published *This Vet has Tales*, telling about his career in his own hills and dales, including times he was paid in eggs and butter, and once with two piglets!

Jack stayed very active until the end, golfing with his links buddies and socializing with many long-time friends into his early 90's. We want to thank the many friends who visited, called, wrote and emailed him in his last few weeks to express their support and love.

Jack is survived by his three children and their spouses, his six grandchildren and their spouses, his five great grandchildren, and his numerous friends. We will hold a celebration of Jack's wonderful life later this spring or early Summer. If you wish to honor Jack, please consider a contribution to the Upper Saranac Foundation, or to either the John J. Brennan Sr./John J. Brennan Jr. DVM Scholarship, Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine, Box 37334, Boone, IA 50037 (the school is in Ithaca, but the processing center is in Iowa!), or a gift to the Guilderland Public Library, 2228 Western Avenue, Guilderland, NY 12084.



# The USLA Store is BACK!

All proceeds benefit the Upper Saranac Lake Scholarship Fund



Hoodies  
Green ADK  
Chair or  
Brown  
Canoe  
M, L and  
XL sizes  
**\$40 each**



**Cap \$20**



Youth Hoodies  
(Green Canoe only)  
S, M and L sizes **\$30**



**Car Decal \$5**



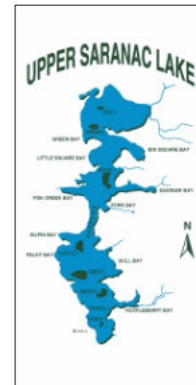
24" x 32" Centennial  
Quilt Poster **\$10**



15 oz. Etched Wine Glasses  
**\$8 each or Set of 4 for \$30**



22" x 37"  
Map Poster  
**\$10**



**Pre Order  
Towels**  
The towels  
will be  
available  
after a  
minimum  
of 50 are  
ordered.  
  
30" x 60" Towel  
(10.5 lb.) **\$30**

All prices include tax. Cash or check only; checks to be made out to USLA Scholarship Fund. Email orders to [uslastore@gmail.com](mailto:uslastore@gmail.com). Include size, quantity, name and phone number. Pick up or local delivery available.

## USLA Store

Ron Otten

USLA Store merchandise is currently available online and can be delivered to your home. Limited quantities of lake related merchandise will be available for order from the Village Mercantile in Saranac Lake. Items can be purchased online by going to the Upper Saranac Lake Association website and clicking 'USLA Store' icon on the home page or in the footer on any page. This link will direct you to the Village Mercantile website.

You can also go directly to the Village Mercantile website, <https://villagemerc.com>, click on the "Shop" tab and then USLA Scholarship Fund. Our merchandise is shown in the poster above. We have several new items including unbreakable insulated stainless steel wine tumblers and tee shirts with a map of Upper Saranac Lake not yet in our poster.

You can also purchase merchandise from the USLA Store at the Summer Upper Saranac Lake Association meetings. All proceeds from your purchases will go to provide scholarships to seniors at Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake Central Schools.

THE UPPER UPPER SARANAC LAKE  
ASSOCIATION  
**MAILBOAT**  
FEBRUARY 2024

Upper Saranac Lake Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 892  
Saranac Lake, NY 12983



## Cultural Affairs Committee Upcoming Events Preview

Sally Ward, Chair

Here's a peek at the diverse line-up of events planned for this summer. Look for dates and details in the May Mailboat.

### 'Welcome Back to the Lake Reception'

Admire some antique boats, bring the kids along for a crafts activity, and enjoy coffee, juice and donuts. The reception will be held at Back Bay following the July 4 boat parade.

### Fishing Clinic

Get the skinny on best places, times and equipment for boosting your catch rate on Upper Saranac and the surrounding ponds.

### Historic Camp Tour

Tour one of Upper Saranac's iconic great camps and find out just what it takes to own and renovate one of these treasures.

### Wine Seminar II

Back by popular demand! Following a sell-out crowd at last year's seminar, our wine guru will focus on a different varietal and region this year.

### Open Levels Yoga — 2 sessions

Join fellow USLA members to stretch and build strength in a nourishing practice which leaves the mind more peaceful and the body relaxed.

## Fifth Annual Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament

The USLA Scholarship Fund is hosting its Fifth Annual Summer Golf Tournament at the Saranac Inn Golf and Country Club on July 22, 2024. This tournament supports the annual scholarships that are awarded in honor of Chip Harrison to deserving seniors at both Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake Central Schools. Teams of 4 golfers compete for prizes in mens, ladies and mixed divisions.

There is also an opportunity to be a sponsor for the tournament. Hole sponsorships start at \$100 for a Sponsor, \$250 for a Bronze Sponsor, \$500 for a Silver Sponsor and \$1000 for a Gold Sponsor. All Sponsors will have a sign located on a hole during the tournament and will be recognized in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise. Many lake residents, camps and local businesses were sponsors of our last tournament.

More information can be obtained by emailing [uslascholarships@gmail.com](mailto:uslascholarships@gmail.com) or by calling 518-332-6329.