

The Family Business

Elizabeth Kent Gay was the Co-op's sole female co-founder. Her daughters talk about her leadership – and theirs – supporting Vermont's small rural communities

In early July, 1939, Harmon Kelly went to talk with a few of his Calais neighbors about forming a rural electric cooperative. After a few weeks of planning in living rooms and at the Grange Hall in Maple Corner, Washington Electric Co-op was incorporated by Harmon Kelly, Lyle Young, and Elizabeth Kent Tarshis.

That last incorporator – who soon after became Elizabeth Kent Gay – had vast organizing and organizational gifts, and the kind of understated leadership style that prioritizes listening over talking. She had a profound influence not only on the cooperative that continues to supply electricity to Central Vermonters but on strengthening and shaping the identities of the villages of Calais.

She also lived a full and fascinating life – both cultured and humble, adventurous and observational, peripatetic and rooted in Calais.

Nearly 80 years to the day from that first July conversation about forming WEC, and just up the hill from where the conversation took place, *Co-op Currents* sat with two of Gay's daughters to learn about their mother. Janet Ancel, a former attorney and social worker, represents Calais, Marshfield, and Plainfield in the state legislature and is well known statewide in her role as chair of the House Ways & Means Committee. Olivia Gay, known to many and referred to here by her nickname Ogay, has for years been

a community organizer in Calais, and has worked for the state in community development and microbusiness.

Like their mother, the daughters are committed to the economic health and unique identity of their hometown. Gay and Ogay together founded and worked on multiple community committees and projects.

"I always felt as though I went into the same business as her, in the same way sons go into the same businesses as fathers. That's a thing that people recognize, but I don't know if people think of women doing it in the same way. I learned at her knee, literally," reflected Ogay.

The early years

Elizabeth Kent Gay was descended from the Kents of Calais, where her father was from, and she grew up in Brookline, Massachusetts, just outside Boston. She studied at prestigious schools – Bryn Mawr in Pennsylvania, and Cambridge, in England. There, Gay's first husband, Lorie Tarshis, studied economics with John Maynard Keynes. "That was a very heavily intellectual time," reflected Ancel. Keynes' circle of friends, famously known as the Bloomsbury Group, included Virginia Woolf and other artists and scholars. "It didn't suit my mother for various reasons," said Ancel. "But, then, she did become a hippie."

continued on page 6



Olivia Gay (or Ogay), left, and Janet Ancel, right, are two daughters of Elizabeth Kent Gay, WEC's only female incorporator. In this special 80th Anniversary story, they shared Gay's life story and the legacy of her community-building in Calais and beyond, and her impact on their own lives and leadership.

New Energy and Cost Saving Incentives Available to WEC Members

100 percent renewable electric cooperative partners with Efficiency Vermont to help members monitor energy use, conserve energy and switch from fossil fuel appliances. Plus, new weatherization incentives for moderate-income families

WEC is pleased to announce several new opportunities for its members to conserve energy, save money, and update old fossil fuel appliances with energy-efficient electric ones.

This summer, Efficiency Vermont also unveiled a new program to make comprehensive weatherization more affordable for middle-income Vermonters. Now, Central Vermonters with a household income of \$95,600

or less for a family of four (\$76,000 for a family of two) can recoup half of the cost of a comprehensive weatherization project, or up to \$4,000. Efficiency Vermont says comprehensive weatherization can save homeowners \$500 each year in home heating costs, while vastly decreasing emissions.

WEC helps its members access incentives offered by partners

continued on page 7

Washington Electric Cooperative
East Montpelier, VT 05651

Inside

Juicy new incentives from Efficiency Vermont and through WEC's Button Up program. Time to weatherize and upgrade! Above and on p. 7.

It just makes Sense: New energy monitor helps members monitor their household electricity use. P. 2.

The town of Coventry's property tax valuation of WEC's generation plant could have big implications for the Co-op. See more in the President's and General Manager's Message on p. 3.

Refund season: The Co-op Difference means members get revenue returned over time. Know anyone on the list? Have them contact the Co-op for their refund checks. P. 4.

Patty Richards and Barry Bernstein, standing, talk with members at the 2018 Community Meeting held in Groton. Please join WEC's Board, staff, and fellow members at the 2019 Community Meeting on October 24. More information on p. 8.

Sense Home Energy Monitor Helps You Spot High Energy Use Patterns

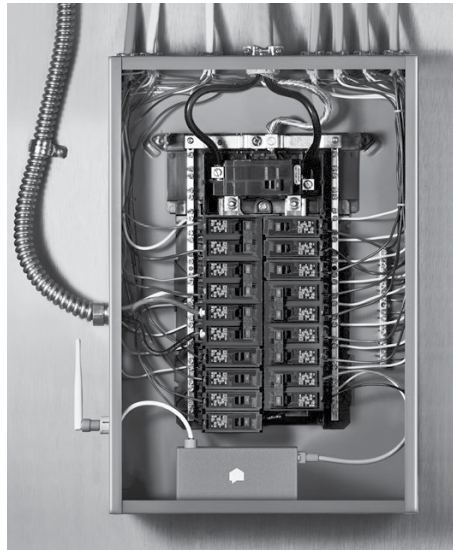
Currently offered to WEC members at discount with free installation

Sometimes, the biggest energy users in our homes become invisible to us. For example, the dehumidifier in the basement that is always on. The fluorescent lights in the barn. The laptop that is always plugged in.

The Sense home energy monitor makes these devices' energy use visible. The monitor, which is installed in your home's electrical panel, gives you insight into which of your home devices are using energy, how much, and when. Once the device is installed, you can track your home energy use via a smartphone app. The monitor will alert you to which appliances use the most energy and the times of day your household energy use peaks.

These insights usually lead to changes, either turning devices off more frequently or swapping out old

appliances for more energy-efficient ones. The team at Efficiency Vermont says installing a Sense monitor tends



A Sense monitor installed on a circuit breaker panel.

Courtesy Efficiency Vermont

to save homeowners an average of \$100 per year. Because Efficiency Vermont and WEC are now offering the monitor at a \$199 discount, plus free installation, you can expect to recoup your investment after a year or 18 months.

WEC members can buy a Sense energy monitor for \$100; for members with solar, the bundle is \$150. To learn more, visit efficiencyvermont.com/sense or contact the Energy Coach at energycoach@wec.coop.

Where's WEC?

Roundup of where Right of Way crews are currently working to keep your power reliable:

- Crossett Hill line
- Middlesex three-phase line
- Chelsea-Williamstown line
- East Orange Road
- Danville Hill



Did You Know?

Phone scammers sometimes pretend to be from WEC or other utilities. Scammers attempt to intimidate and scare people into giving them money by saying they need to provide a card number now or their power will get shut off immediately.

Remember, WEC will never threaten immediate shut-off. Plus, we're pleasant on the phone!

If you get a scam phone call: do not engage with the caller. Hang up immediately. Call WEC anytime if you have a question about your service: 802-223-5245 or 800-932-5245.

ASK THE ENERGY COACH

Energy Coach Says: Time to Weatherize

A new Efficiency Vermont incentive means big weatherization savings for middle-income Vermonters. WEC's added to our Button Up incentive menu, too. To learn more, email energycoach@wec.coop.



Got something to say?

Letter to the editor, comment, or a story tip? Drop us a line at currents@wec.coop or Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 8, East Montpelier, VT 05651, Attn: Co-op Currents.



Energy Tips

Do your part for conservation by unplugging your wireless devices when the recharge is complete.

Co-op Currents

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WEC is part of the alliance working to advance and support the principles of cooperatives in Vermont.

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The Board of Directors' regularly scheduled meetings are on the last Wednesday of each month, in the evening. Members are welcome to attend. Members who wish to discuss a matter with the Board should contact the president through WEC's office. Meeting dates and times are subject to change. For information about times and/or agenda, or to receive a copy of the minutes of past meetings, contact Administrative Assistant Dawn Johnson, at 224-2332.

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President's and General Manager's Message

WEC's Budgeting Balancing Act

Also: Coventry's property tax increase, community events, rate redesign update, broadband feasibility study begins

2020 Budget Process

Barry: As we're sitting here, and we've had a couple of fall-like evenings and days, my mind starts going to what's coming up for WEC over the next four months.

Patty: What Barry is referring to is that in October and November, we are knee deep in work planning our budget.

Barry: It's the time of year the board starts to review budget data so we can have a healthy and thoughtful discussion about our 2020 budget and understand what, if anything, might affect our rates.

Patty: There are a lot of factors and moving parts to the budget. We have had several cost drivers that have caused increased rates over the past five years, such as rising transmission costs and lower revenues from the sale of renewable energy certificates [RECs]. Some of these cost drivers will continue. The net metering pace has slowed in the last two years, but we're still seeing a strong pace of new installations. That affects us in terms of declining revenue. Transmission congestion constraints in the Northeast Kingdom still impact us, but less so than in prior years.

Barry: Let me add something. When renewable generation displaces renewable generation, it puts upward pressure on rates to no environmental advantage. WEC's generation is already 100 percent renewable. We still see a robust number of our members signing up for residential net metering, and in our northern section, we still see lower payments for power produced at the Coventry plant. It's lessening thanks to positive steps from GMP-Énergir and VELCO to reduce the displacement of renewable by renewable, but it's still occurring.

Patty: That is true. While some areas are stabilizing, there are new issues we're facing. Those include the Emerald Ash Borer – which we've covered in depth in *Co-op Currents* and will continue to address – and Coventry's property tax reassessment. I'll talk more about that in a minute.

So, we don't know what the impact of all of these will be. We have to roll all these up and see what comes out at the end: if there's rate pressure or not.



The town has issued an increase. We went from a valuation of \$8 million to a valuation of \$16 million. That's going to hit us fairly hard. We don't feel their numbers make sense, so we're challenging it.

—Patty Richards

Barry: And we always talk about the reality of increased intensity and frequency of storms. We don't expect those to lessen in coming years. Staff are talking about ways to be proactive so we can reduce the severity and length of members' outages through increased Right of Way [ROW] clearing, as one example.

What's happening in the REC markets, Patty?

Patty: REC markets have recovered some. They're in the mid- to high-20s now.

Barry: That's great. At one point, they were almost worth nothing, and at the high point, they were worth \$50. So that impacts our whole budget.

Patty: It's tough to pull out a single item and say this will be a big impact, because there are all these offsetting impacts. We have to assemble all the data and look at it as an entire package.

Barry: It's a balancing act. That's what we do in the budgeting process. We add up all the additions of cost, we look at the savings, and we look at the impacts to see what we need or don't need for a rate increase. We balance wanting to keep our rates as low as possible and keeping our high reliability standard for keeping our power on and all our employees safe.

Patty: The other thing to think about is we want to continue to offer new services and be mindful of what our members want us to be doing as an electric cooperative utility. So there may be new services coming out of the budget process, where even if it's an increase, such as in ROW clearing or taking out ash trees leaning toward our lines. Increased work in the ROWs will help us keep the lights on, which is our highest priority. We want to continue being quick and relevant, innovative, and responsive to our members.

Community Events

Barry: We're also looking at a couple of opportunities for members to talk with us and see part of our operations.

Patty: We are excited to have our annual Community Meeting on Thursday, October 24, at the Cabot School.

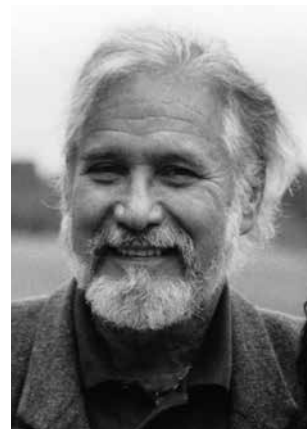
Barry: The open house at Coventry is September 14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We hope our members saw this in the last issue, and if you pick this issue up on Friday or Saturday, we hope you'll come up for it.

Rate Redesign

Barry: We had a meeting at the Old Brick Church in East Montpelier next to the Co-op office in August where the PUC [Public Utilities Commission] took member comments about our proposed rate redesign. Tony Roisman, the PUC chair, was very open to hearing what our members had to say. He shared he was familiar with cooperative principles as he had been president of the board of the Hanover Food Co-op.

Patty, I know we've been working on the rate design for quite a while, and it was filed on May 1. How's the process going?

Patty: We're in full swing. We had a round of questioning from the Department of Public Service, which is the state's consumer advocacy arm. We held a workshop with the PUC in July where I explained what we're doing and why we're doing it. All three PUC commissioners were in attendance. It's what we've been talking about with our members for the past several months: encouraging use of our renewable electricity, helping our members transition off of fossil fuels, and making these changes as equitable and affordable as possible. That's in service of reducing carbon emissions and helping lead our state



We add up all the additions of cost, we look at the savings, and we look at the impacts to see what we need or don't need for a rate increase. We balance wanting to keep our rates as low as possible and keeping our high reliability standard for keeping our power on and all our employees safe.

— Barry Bernstein

and fellow utilities in the fight against climate change.

The PUC commissioners were very engaged and interested. The proceeding will wrap up in October, and after the conclusion the PUC will render their decision.

Barry: They've all been great to work with. We're hopeful we'll have a decision by the end of the year, then.

Patty: Yes.

Coventry Property Tax Valuation

Patty: One of the big things on our minds for our 2020 expenses is what's going on with property taxes in Coventry. The town has issued an increase. We went from a valuation of \$8 million to a valuation of \$16 million. That's going to hit us fairly hard. We don't feel their numbers make sense, so we're challenging it.

If the town doesn't change its mind, we're looking at a budget increase of \$117,000 in 2019. That's a significant tax increase – almost a 1 percent rate increase all on its own – and it will continue into 2020 if we don't get relief. It's a whopper of an impact. It's a whole new issue.

Barry: The town of Coventry's valuation is also impacting our sister co-op VEC's distribution lines, and VELCO transmission lines. We're concerned not only about the cost but the consistency of methodology. The town of Coventry wants to vary significantly from the state's valuation process used throughout other towns in Vermont.

Broadband

Barry: Something I find very exciting is finding what role WEC can have in bringing high-speed fiber/broadband to our members. We've been in discussions with EC Fiber & CV Fiber, the two community utility districts [CUDs] that represent many towns in our service territory, to try to collaborate and cooperate with them to make it happen at the least cost of providing service to our members.

Patty: We're hoping to soon embark on commissioning a feasibility study

continued on page 8



WEC Returns \$750,000 to Members in 2019 Equity Distribution

Capital credit refund program the difference between cooperative and for-profit utility structures

For the second year in a row, WEC is distributing \$750,000 of its members' investments in their electric cooperative back to the membership. Unlike for-profit utilities, whose excess revenue goes to enrich shareholders, cooperatives return that money to their members.

This year, the Board will refund eligible members on the Co-op's lines in years 1995 and 2018. An additional amount will be returned to members on the lines in 2013 whose rates included what's called a Contribution in Aid of Construction.

All individual refunds will be reduced by any uncollectible or delinquent amounts owed to the Co-op, and no early retirements will be made to the estates of deceased members. WEC will issue this year's refunds in November, 2019.

How it works

Credits are allocated to Co-op members for those years in which WEC's revenues exceed its operating expenses. Formally, they're called capital credits: capital is the investment made by the member in the cooperative; the credit is the amount over what the cooperative needed that is earmarked to be returned to the member.

The credit a member receives for a particular year is determined by two factors: the amount of excess revenue the Co-op received, and the amount that member paid for electricity.

WEC's practice is to divide distributions between first-in-first-out (members on the lines decades ago) and last-in-first-out (members from the most recent year the Co-op took in excess revenue). The idea is rooted in cooperative equity: new, longtime, and former members all get to benefit from refunds from their time on the lines.

Former members must have a minimum \$20 capital credit distribution. Earlier this summer WEC sent Capital Credit Patronage Refund Authorizations to eligible

former members. Listed below are the names of people or accounts whose authorizations were returned as undeliverable. **If you know any person on this list or their rightful heirs, please have the former member or beneficiary contact Washington Electric Cooperative directly, at 802-223-5245.**


Eligible current members receive refunds as a credit on their November electric bills, regardless of the amount.

Co-op Community Fund

Approximately 14 percent of WEC members currently choose to donate their refunds to WEC's Community Fund. Any current or former member may direct their refund to the Community Fund, as a one-time gift or in perpetuity.

The Community Fund supports small not-for-profits serving Central Vermont communities. The people served by these organizations are often WEC members. The all-volunteer Fund is managed by staff and a volunteer board committee and has no administrative costs.

"All the money in the Community Fund comes from generous members who donate their capital credit refunds. Every dollar we collect goes to nonprofits in our service area that support our Central Vermont community," said General Manager Patty Richards. "Many people find that donating their capital credits lets them give back a lot of money without seeing a chunk leave their checking accounts. And the money we donate makes a big difference to these nonprofits and the causes they serve."

In 2018, generous refund donations from Co-op members allowed the Community Fund to give \$45,089 to 77 causes in Central Vermont. A year-end report on 2019 Community Fund activities will be published in *Co-op Currents* in 2020. 

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Sallie Grossman	J Norman Hughes	John Leahey	Mary Mcintosh	Kristian Page	Jeremy Robinson	Howard Spooner	Gerald Walbridge
Donald Guadagnoli Md	Leslie Hughes	Lisa Lee	Michael Mckenna	Martha Page	Bonnie Robtoy	June Spooner	Christopher Walsh
Giovanni Guarcello	Lloyd Hulbert	Paula Leeper	Michael Mclane	Jay Paige	Mary Rode	Forrest Spooner Estate	Deborah Walsh
Christian Guggemos	Dana Hunt	Kevin Lefevre	Thomas Mcmahon	William Paine	Sarah Rodriguez	Terry Spoonire	Denise Wands
Donald Guilmette	M Kelley Hunter	John Leggett	Thomas Mcmahon, Jr.	Richard Palisoul, Sr.	Alona Rogers	Ralph Spoor, Jr.	Marion Ward
Estate	Ruth Hutchins	Jonathan Leibold	Joynel Mcphee	Bryan Palmer	Fay Ann Rogers	Jeffrey Squires	W Wardsley Estate
George Gumbrell, Jr.	Tammy Hutchins	Juliette Lemay	Barbara Meaney	Marilyn Palmer	Joyce Rogers	Anita Stark	Randall Wasley
Stuart Guy	Wendy Hutchins	Deborah Leno	Charles Meeks	Fonda Papineau	Kimball Rogers	Ivy Stark	Mona Wasow
Edward Habeck III	Jacqueline Isaak	Lilli Lenz	C Padma Meier	Jeffrey Paquette, Sr.	John Roggensack	William Starr Estate	Mark Waters
Jeff Hackmann	Anthony Izzo	Leona Wheeler Estate	Travis Melkonian	Stacy Paquette	Arthur Ronner	Cynthia Steed	Wayne Watker
Nina Haddad	Robert Jackson	Ellen Leonard	Donna Melvin	Todd Paquette	Harriet Ross	Gretchen Stein	Timothy Watkins
Zozuf Hadley	Stanley Jackson	Milford Leonard	Katherine Menard	Heather Paquin	Douglas Rossi	Nancy Stein	Bryant Watson
Phoebe Haggett	Stuart Jackson	Carolyn Leshure	Robert Menard	Marion Parauka	Mark Rossi	Angeline Stender	Barbara Watts
Michelle Hagman	Paul Jaeger	Robert Lessig	Tara Mendes	Robert Parent	John Rossier	Alan Stephens	Daniel Webster
Noah Hahn	Peter Jamele	Rosanna Lester	Melvyn Merchant	Isobel Parker	Boyd Rossignol	Richard Stephens	Lori Webster
Dennis Haile	Melissa Janes	Corinne Levarn	Barry Merritt	Jennifer Parker	Donna Rossiter	Harvey Stetson	Michael Webster
Michael Hale	Gabriel Jarrett	Fredric Levine	Robert Merritt	Lyman Parker	Anna Rouelle	Craig Stevens	Jennifer Weed
Kristin Hall	John Jenkins	Brice Lewis, Sr.	Richard Messer	Michelle Parker	Alfred Rouelle Estate	Mae Stevens	Susie Weiner
Raymond Hall	Sandra Jenkins	Norton Lewis	Priscilla Messier	Eva Parks	Stanley Rounds	Candace Stewart	Daniel Weiss
Angela Hallock	Amy Jenner	Wenbo Li	Metlife Home Life	Michele Parnick	Norbert Rousse	Nicholas Stewart	Deborah Weiss
Jeremy Halper	Erik Jensvold	Kim Lilley	Anne Miller	Kenneth Parrot	Robert Roux	Lewis Stiles	Stephen Weiss
Robert Halpin	Sarah Jerome	Julian Locke	Lawrence Miller	Arthur Parry, Jr.	Danielle Roy	Ella Stillwell	Michelle Welch
Charles Hamelin	Joanne Jewett	Norman Locke	Robin Miller	Joel Parry	Jody Roy	Ronald Stoeckel	Patrick Welch
Borden Hance, Jr.	Gregory Johnson	Eugene Long	William Miller	Christopher Paterson	Axel Stohlberg	Axel Stohlberg	Stanley Welch
May Hanks	Harold Johnson	Paul Lonsdale	Melanie Mills-Brown	Kenneth Paton	Gregory Stone	Gregory Stone	Dwight Weller
Robert Hanley	Jeffrey Johnson	Sabrina Lorah	Robert Miner	Christopher Patton	Harvey Stone	Harvey Stone	Bert Wendel, Sr.
Donna Hannett	John Johnson	Charles Lord	Austin Minor	Armenthia Paul	Roy Rutledge	Joseph Storto	Roderick Wentworth
Winifred Hansen	Lanae Johnson	Marian Lord	Elizabeth Miskolczi	Harry Paul	Shirley Rutledge	Carla Straight	Ronny Westcott
Lisa Hanson	Pauline Johnson	Sandy Lord	Richard Missner	Douglas Payne	Erla Ryan	Gerard Stratthaus	Dean Westover, Sr.
Angela Hardy	Robin Johnson	Michael Lori	Lanny Moller	Logan Pearl	Gary Ryan	Lisa Stratton	Daniel Wetmore
Christine Hardy	Vinnie Johnson	William Loring	Lorraine Monmaney	Philipp Peatman	Charles Ryerson	Robert Stratton	Mary Whalen
Viola Hardy	Walfrid Johnson	Ann Lovald	Kenneth Monte	Samuel Peck	Scott Sainsbury	Alvin Strayhorn	Gerald Wheeler
Mary Harney	Kenneth Johnston	Lisa Lovelette	Frank Montgomery	William Peckham, Jr.	Victor St Germain	Joseph Stridsberg	Herbert Wheeler, Jr.
Diane Harriman	Allison Jones	William Loving	David Moody	Norman Peduzzi	Suzanne Sales	Jon Stryker	Lucy Wheeler
Claudette Harrington	Corey Jones	Carol Lowell	Dwight Moody	Brian Perdue	Mary Sallerson	Donald Suarez	Richard Wheeler
Dean Harrington	David Jones	Neil Lowell	Eleanor Mooney	Timothy Perkins	Edward Salomaa	Merritt Sugarhouse	Helen Wheeler Estate
John Harrington	Dean Jones	Paul Lowney	Helen Moore	Renee Perras	Gary Salter	C Theresa Sullivan	Lawrence Whitcomb
Fredrick Harris	Deborah Jones	Hilda Lucas	Mavis Moore	Amanda Perreault	Beth Sanborn	Robert Sullivan	Frank White
Susan Harris	Henry Jones	Patricia Lucas	Pearl Moore	Courtland Perry III	Peter Sangermano	William Sullivan	Sherry White
John Hart	Marie Jones	Lylehaven III	Roger Morey	Linda Perry	Jason Sanville	Debra Ciesluk	Thomas Whiteley
Leann Hart	Warren Jones	Donald Lumbr	David Morgan, Jr.	Linda Perry	Jennifer Sarazin	Ethel Sweeney	Charles Whitten
Lillian Hart	Veronica Jordan	Nelson Lyford	David Morin	Marybeth Perry	Gaynor Sargent Estate	Rheagene Sweet	Thomas Wies
Mark Hart	Laura Jorstad	Vincent Lyn	Grace Moroch	D Persons	Ronald Sarquiz	Sidney Sweet, Jr.	David Wild
Ray Hartson	John Jose	Douglas Lynch	Anita Morreale Estate	Russell Persons	David Sassi	Clyde Sweetser	David Wild
Peter Haskins	Bruce Joslyn	Catherine Lyndes	Kenneth Morris, Jr.	Douglas Petell	Monica Saunders	Mark Sweezy	Christopher Wilder
Dale Hatch	Bernard Dunbar, Jr.	John Lynn	June Morrison	Sonia Peters	Stephanie Saunders	Helen Symons	Wayne Wilder
Margaret Hatch	Helene Jurkiewicz	Laurie Lyon	Cyane Morse	Alfred Peterson	Evelyn Savidge	Alden Szulc	Heather Wilke
Marguerite Hatch	Marjorie Justice	Prescott Lyons	Linda Morse	Mary Pettibone	Catherine Savioli	Elaine Taffe	Dean Wilkinson
Ralph Hatch	Peter Kaminski	Richard Lyons	Lucille Morse	Kenneth Phillips	James Sawyer	Thomas Tafuto	Delene Willey
Lynn Hathaway	John Katz	Robert Lyons	Patricia Morse	Ben Pierce	Edward Sawyer Estate	Hallie Tamez	Gwen Williams
Glenn Hawkes	James Keene	Michael Macarilla	Jessie Moses	Walter Pierce	Michael Schaffrick	Michael Tanner	Steven Williams
Wanda Hawkins	Gail Keith	Gloria Macaulay	Scott Moses	Emily Pike	Thad Schenker	Roger Taplin	David Williamson
Melvill Hawley	Meghan Keith-Hynes	David Maccougall	Richard Moses Estate	Francis Pike	Norman Schibuk	David Taylor	Kendall Willis
Terri Hay	Amber Kelley	Ronald Macie	Jane Moz	William Pilbin III	Margaret Schifert	Frederick Taylor	Virginia Willis
Larry Haynes	Leslie Kelley	Roger Mack	Barbara Mraz	Antonio Placa	Steve Schlipf	Nichole Taylor	Kathy Wilmott
Elizabeth Hayslett	Kevin Kelly	Diane Mackay	Daniel Mucherino	Betty Plante	Frank Schlosser	Maurice Teitelbaum	Cindy Wilson
Shawn Hayward	Mary Kelton	Stephen Mackay	Ramiz Muckanovic	Renee Plante	Eleanor Schneider	Jon Terhune	Edward Wilson
Peter Hazelton	Douglas Kemis	Jane Mackenzie	Jeremiah Mullen Estate	Cheryl Plaster	Rodney Schneider	Chaya Thanhauser	Nicole Wilson
Robert Healey	Marcia Kemp	Stephen Mackenzie	Patrick Mullikin	Helen Plattner	Esther Schumaker	David Therrien	Richard Wilson
Donald Heath	Marie Kenefick	Wallace Macnow	Ellen Munger	Elisabeth Podesta	Lucille Schwarz	Georgette Thibeault	Thomas Wilson
Parker Heath, Jr.	Lisa Kent	Edgar Magoon, Sr.	Robert Murac	Nyna Polumbaum	Nola Seften	Timothy Thibodeau	Otto Winhold
Richard Heath Estate	F Ray Keyser, Jr.	Jerrold Magoon	George Murphy, Jr.	Todd Pole	Lynn Sellyei	Roger Thivierge	Steven Winkler
Ernest Hebert	Omar Khan	Lori Magoon	Harold Murphy	Dana Pooler	Cecilia Setien	Alison Thomas	Heidi Winter
David Heft	James Kiefer	Robert Magoon	James Murphy	Arthur Pope	Diane Sevigny	John Thomas	Serena Wintle
Lucille Heft	Allen Kimball	Patricia Mahony	Marie Murphy	David Poplawski	Greg Sewell	Judson Thomas	John Wires
William Hein III	Pamela Kinder	Alyson Mahony	David Murray	Ute Porcello	Lori Shatney	Kathleen Thomas	Janet Wiseley
Clif Helbert	William Kindestin	Amanda Males	Nancy Murray	John Porter	Steven Shearer	Trudy Thomas	Warren Wiseman
Margaret Helburn	Tammy King	R Mallary III	Philip Nadeau	Charlotte Potok	Connie Shepard	Constance Thompson	Peter Wishinski
Gary Henderson	Scott Kirkpatrick	Lisa Maloney	Madhavan Nair	Ruth Potter	Francis Shepard	Robert Thompson	Hugh Witham Estate
Robert Henning	Lee Kitchen	Joseph Manavola	James Napoli	Therese Powell	Charles Sherman	Philip Thorne	Joseph Wnukoski
Fred Henrikson	Christine Kijer	Jessica Manchester	Rhoda Neader	Roger Powers, Sr.	Patricia Sherman	Michelle Thresher	Guenther Wolf
Bernard Henry	Christine Klaine	Jim Mangene	Carroll Nelson	Wilfred Powers	Anne Shields	Andrew Thurston	Gregory Wood
Tom Henry	Douglas Kliefelter	Albert Mangino	Karl Neubauer	Patricia Prechtl	Shields Family Trust	Diana Thurston	Harriet Wood
Anna Herbert	Leo Knapp	Thomas Mangum	Benjamin Newman	Brenda Preston	David Shipman	Pamela Thurston	Patricia Wood
Julie Herbert	Florence Knowles	June Manley	Grant Newton	Carl Preston	Betty Shor	Germaine Tibbetts	Susan Wood
Sylvia Herman	Deborah Knowlton	Kelly Manning	Joyce Newton	Sugar Properties	Sheri Shumway	Patricia Tierney	Stanley Woodard
James Herrick, Jr.	Kimberlie Koalenz-Rosa	Maple Corner Waters	Ginger Nichols	Robert Prosser	John Shuttle	Scott Tighe	David Woodbury
Cynthia Herriott	Arlene Kohl	Robin Marciello	Kevin Nielsen	Alan Protas	Brent Sicely	Shirley Tillotson Estate	Gordon Woodbury
Thomas Herzog	Lawrence Kokoszka	Marion Mark	Etsuro Nishiyachi	Annie Proulx	Michelle Sicely	Rose Toffing	Joanne Woodward
Marilyn Heskett	Donald Kramer	David Markwood	Gregory Noble	William Provencher	Jane Simard	Marion Tohey	Shelly Woodworth
Gregory Hetzler	Cindy Kurutza	William Marone	Lara Noble	Steve Pryce	Rick Simmons	Edith Tousignant	Matthew Wootton
Donna Hickory	Patricia Labadie	Christine Marsh	Lorenzo Noel	Elizabeth Pulsifer	Isabelle Simpson	Bruce Towle	Christine Wright
Penny Hidy	Joseph Labbie	Douglas Marsh	Maryann Nolan	Kathleen Purcell	Peter Sinclair	Susan Towle	Florence Wright
Robert Hierons	Gerard Laberge	Jill Marshall	Phiip Norman	Anders Pytte	Joanne Sinon	Charles Tracy	Jeffrey Wright
Amy Higgins	Hughes Labrie	Catherine Martin	Shawn Norman	John Quagliano	Christopher Slade	Tracie Trepanier	Nancy Wright
Arthur Hill	Robert Lacasse	Herbert Martin	Northeast Aeral Const	Annette Quesnel	Barbara Smith	Aldis Trombley	Dianne Wyeth
Camellia Hill	Robert Lacasse	Robert Martin	Northland Tel Co Of Vt	James Randall, Sr.	Barry Smith	Joanne Trombly	Karen Wynkoop
Rodney Hill	Walter Lacillade	Mary Martin Estate	Catrina Noyes	Jamie Randles	Benjamin Smith	Nichols Trust	Bartlett Yates
William Hill	Joan Laclair	Joseph Martineau	Michael Nuttner	Sikander Rashid	David Smith	Clove Tsindle	Don Yates
James Hiner	Gordon Ladd	David Mascoveta	Dorothea Nye	Heinz Rathmann	George Smith	James Tullar	Steven Yates
Henry Hinton	Bertha Lafogg	Victor Masi	Jason Nye	Raymond Raynor	Jonie Smith	Lisa Turner	Edward Yoder
Lisa Hiscox	Robert Lagerstedt, Jr.	Terry Maxfield	David O'Brien	Barbara Reed	Karl Smith	Daniel Unverzagt	Margie Yoder
Harry Hoblin Ii	Russell Lahart	Anita May	Richard O'Brien	William Reed	Kenneth Smith	Martin Upmal Estate	James York
Clara Hodgdon	Frank Laing	Frances Mayer	Sandra O'brien	Brenda Reese	Kenneth Smith	Charles Vaczy	J Peter Young
Heather Hoehl	Peter Lakatos	Christy Mayes	David O'donnell	Darien Regan	Philip Smith	Edith Vail	Jackie Young
David Hoffman	Luciano Lalli	Mark Maytum	Sheila Oliver	William Reid	Philp Smith	Michael Vandenburg	Judy Young
Marion Hoffman	Gordon Lambert	James Mazzonna	Nelson Olmstead	Theresa Remick	Richard Smith	Claire Vasquez	Marcia Young
J Kent Holden	Lamoille Valley Rr	Ronald Mazzucca	Kathy Olsen	Sharon Resnick	Sandra Smith	Siro Vazquez	Roland Young
Jessica Hollyer	Michael Lamp	Mark Mcallister	Kelly O'meara	Peter Revers	Sarah Smith	Roberta Veech	Wayne Young
Patrick Holman	Roger Lamson	George Mccarthy	Jennifer Omelianoff	Alfred Richard Estate	Stuart Smith	Perry Veillette	Thomas Zaremski
June Holmes	Anita Landa	George Mccarthy	Gina Ordway	Elizabeth Richardson	Trent Smith	Joanne Vermette	Victor Zdon
Raymond Holmstrom	Lorraine Landers	Joseph Mccarthy	Deborah Ormsby	Joseph Richardson	Wayne Smith	Thomas Vermette	Mark Zedick
Tim Holst	Joshua Landis	Lucy Mccarthy	Frank Orner	Raymond Richer	William Smith	Vermont Sports	Nancy Zeno
Lynn Hood	Wilfred Langevin	Maurice Mccracken, Jr.	David O'rouke	William Richmond	Trevor Smolen	Apparel Inc	W Christian Zschau
Marilyn Horton	David Langford	Kevin Mccue	Ronald Ortoli	Ryan Ricker	Marvin Snyder	Vermont Institute For Self	
Alex Hotchkiss	Melissa Langmaid	John Mccullough	David Ostrom	William Ricker	William Snyder	Steven Somers	
Sarah Hotchkiss	Robert Langone		Richard Otten		Steven Somers		

The Family Business

continued from page 1

More on that later. Back stateside, they summered in Calais, where interest grew in forming the rural electric co-op that would become WEC. The cooperative model appealed to Ancel's economist father, she said, but since Tarshis was a Canadian citizen, Gay became the incorporator. "And she did all the running around," said Ogay. "She drove around and got the signatures."

Ancel pointed out that "this was an era when women didn't typically become the president" of an organization, and that in a mixed group, Gay often served as the secretary. "She had every bit of ability to be the brains behind it, but it wasn't an era when that was possible."

Eventually Gay and Tarshis split up, and after a custody hearing, Gay returned home to find that her house had burned down. Her father had given her a small property in Kents' Corner, so she bundled up her family and moved there. "She had a divorce, three kids, her house burned to the ground, lost everything, and ended up in a house that barely had plumbing," said Ancel. "So, that's not easy. Can you imagine?"

After a brief second marriage that produced Ogay, Gay had four children and not much money. But she had creativity, and she was good at organizing her life – and other people. "So, she sold socks, and started a co-op, and sold real estate, and organized, and it was all about connecting and creating a community for herself, because she needed it," explained Ancel.

And she knew building community benefited others too. "Opening space for people," said Ogay. "I think that was a through-line for her, too."

A life spent exploring and organizing

The basis of cooperative design acknowledges that a group of folks is stronger when they agree to share resources. Building community is something extra. That's when people in the group start getting back something greater than what they contribute materially – the feeling of being seen, understood, and in a sense, at home. Adding that element, according to her daughters, was Gay's gift.

"She was a magnetic personality, and she had the quality of making you feel like you were the most important person to her. She later became a therapist and a counselor, and she had a quality of listening and attentiveness that people do, who are influencers or organizers," said Ancel.

Gay had an entrepreneurial streak



Sisters Olivia Gay (Ogay) and Janet Ancel share a laugh on a beautiful summer morning in Calais, remembering their mother, WEC co-incorporator Elizabeth Kent Gay.

and a lifelong interest in writing. She co-wrote several books with her mother, Louise Andrews Kent, including the Mrs. Appleyard series – cookbooks and stories set in a barely-fictionalized Central Vermont village. In the early 1950s, she started a town newsletter, the *Calais Independent*.

That newsletter helped give Calais a platform to identify itself – and showcased Gay's political skills, "bringing people together and developing ideas and making connections," Ancel said.

"That kind of organizing is what I learned from her," said Ogay. Years later, Gay and Ogay started the Calais Economic Development Committee, to draw attention to the qualities of Vermont's smallest towns, and published a brochure called "Calais Invites You To Visit." Ancel pointed out that elements of the brochure had roots in the *Calais Independent*, from many years earlier.

Ogay added that Gay helped start the Calais Fall Foliage Festival in 1960, which was an outgrowth of a meeting with Washington Electric Co-op about rural development. In the early 1960s, Gay organized a training for the newly formed Peace Corps. "They were training for Turkey, and they were in the Fitches' field. She loved the young people, she loved the adventure of it, she loved the camping, she loved Turkey, she loved everything about it. I don't know if I've ever seen her so happy and in her element as that summer," said

Ancel.

But soon after, Gay left Calais. In 1964, she went to Berkeley to study for her Master's in Social Work, and embraced the counterculture then reaching full bloom. "Orange shag carpeting, beaded curtains, encounter groups at the house, caftans," even psychedelics, noted Ancel, who was studying at Stanford at the same time. Gay also received a PhD at the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology (now Sofia University). Back east, she lived for a time in Hanover, New Hampshire and worked as a social worker and as a therapist.

Always deeply connected to Calais, Gay also worked with Ogay to plan Calais's bicentennial celebration in 1981. She also bought the old schoolhouse her children attended, with the idea of turning it into an antique store.

Both sisters agreed that these different periods of Gay's life show her to be a seeker – not out of hunger, but out of endless curiosity. "When you're talking about the hippie period, that was also about communities," Ogay pointed out. "She was a lifelong Episcopalian, but she had a Hindu name and a connection to a Catholic nunnery."

A story Ancel tells about when her own children were small gives insight to Gay's personality. Decorating Christmas cookies with their grandmother meant Ancel's kids had free reign: here were the cookies, here were the decorations, and if they wanted to load up a single

cookie with frosting and decorations, that was fine. "She was unflappable. Mess didn't bother her, chaos didn't bother her, and she loved being with them," Ancel remembered.

In 1985, Gay went on one long last road trip, visiting family in South Carolina and Wyoming on a winding path west. When she reached California, she was hospitalized and died from previously undiagnosed pancreatic cancer. She was just 71.

The Master Plan

Ancel has a journal of Gay's called the Master Plan. The entries within span decades: they include gifts given and received, checklists, precise monthly budgets: all of the little daily operations that, if well maintained, allow room for life's big pictures to develop.

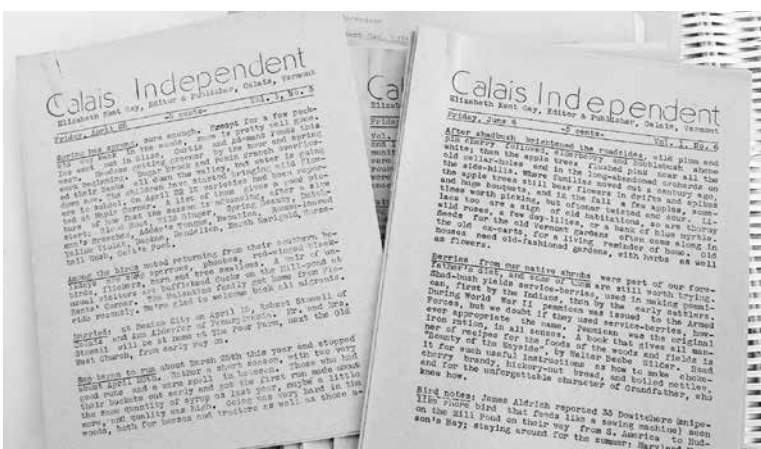
And room to dream big. Ogay recalled a project with her mother that required a big plan on newsprint, "like a visioning exercise up on the wall. One of my friends came over and said, 'What the... Are you people actually going to do all those things?!'"

"I remember having conversations about relationships and values, big things, from a very young age. She treated children with enormous respect, which was one of her strengths," said Ancel. "She was endlessly interested. Her being present in the conversation was out of this deep natural respect for the person she was talking to."

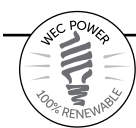
The sisters recall that the woman they called Mother – never Mom – didn't tell them what they ought to do. Gay's habit was to listen and observe, but she never "interfered in the game," as Ancel put it. That was a tactic not just with family, but with everyone.

Ancel started her career as a young social worker with almost no supervision. So instead of finding a mentor at her hospital, she sought to process her experiences with Gay. "We spent lots of time together talking about what it meant to have a relationship with somebody

continued on page 8



Original copies of the *Calais Independent*, a community newsletter founded, edited, and published by WEC co-incorporator Elizabeth Kent Gay, from the early 1950s. Topics include notes on seasonal birds, fruits, and neighbor behavior. "Among the birds noted returning from their southern holidays are song sparrows, phoebes, red-winged blackbirds, flickers, barn and tree swallows. A pair of unusual visitors are bufflehead ducks on the Mill-pond at Kents' Corner. The Balentine family got home from Florida recently. We're glad to welcome back all migrants."



Get to Know Your WEC

Elaine Gonier, Member Services Representative

Have you ever wondered who is fixing that line up your road, or who you spoke to when you called in about an outage or a bill? Co-op Currents profiles Co-op staff in this feature.

What she does

Members calling or visiting WEC headquarters may recognize Elaine Gonier from the Member Services team. For 17 years, she's helped members calling in about their electric needs. In addition to that, "I do all the paperwork for the transfers, reconnects, new connects, and the cash every day," she explained.

Recently, Elaine also began supporting WEC's operations and engineering department. "On Tuesdays and Thursdays I'm in engineering down with the guys," she said. "I go out in the field."

One such project is WEC's work to identify and cut ash trees that could become a danger to power lines if they are killed by an Emerald Ash Borer infestation. Members with an ash on or near their property




that is leaning toward the power lines are encouraged to email Elaine with a picture: elaine.gonier@wec.coop.

Travel and experience

Elaine grew up locally, and lived all over the country before returning to Vermont. After high school, she joined the Navy and was stationed in Hawaii. She worked in payroll and had as much fun as she could. "It was the best possible placement you could have!" she said.

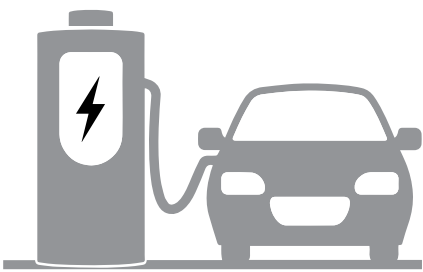
From Hawaii she moved briefly to Chicago and then to Florida, where she stayed for about 15 years before returning home to Vermont to raise her kids.

Home sweet home

Back home, Elaine lives in Williamstown. Her two daughters live relatively close by, so she gets to see a lot of her beloved toddler grandson. When she's not working for WEC, Elaine loves spending time with her family and friends and enjoying Vermont's beautiful outdoors, in particular hiking and kayaking. 

Button Up 2019 Incentives

Incentives for Transportation



WEC

Up to \$1,900 in member incentives towards a new plug-in Electric Vehicle (EV)

- \$1,200 for an all-electric vehicle (AEV)
- \$950 for a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV – gas & electric)
- An additional \$700 incentive is available for income qualifying members

Efficiency Vermont

- EV incentive not available

New Incentives

continued from page 1

like Efficiency Vermont. WEC also independently offers several incentives exclusively to its members through its Button Up program. Members are encouraged to contact Bill Powell, WEC's Energy Coach, for more information: energycoach@wec.coop.


"There is something here to help every WEC member save money and live a greener, healthier, more energy-minded life," said WEC General Manager Patty Richards. "These incentives keep getting more innovative and inclusive. There are so many ways our cooperative can cut carbon and reduce our peak, which leads to cost savings for all of us."

WEC is partnering with Efficiency Vermont to offer:

- The Sense home energy monitor, which monitors home energy patterns for high-use appliances and times of day;
- Enrollment in the PowerShift program; which leverages the thermal mass of members' hot water heaters as battery power, helping WEC save during peak energy events;
- Recently expanded weatherization incentives for middle-income Vermonters, to help lower home heating costs and reduce use of fuel oil and propane
- WEC members may take advantage of all Efficiency Vermont rebates available at efficiencyvermont.com/rebates.

WEC also now offers:

- Incentives to buy electric vehicles for all WEC members, with extra incentives for lower income members;
- Incentives for regular and commercial electric lawn mowers;
- \$200 off the cost of an electric bicycle, purchased in-state

WEC and Efficiency Vermont also continue to offer compound incentives on heat pumps and pellet stoves, furnaces and boilers. 

Incentives for Weatherization



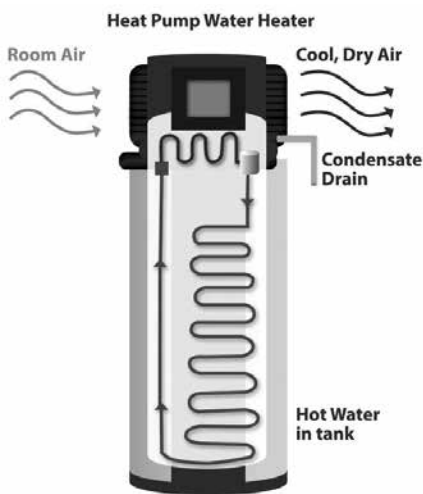
WEC

- Weatherization improvements to building shell: \$600 for Home Performance with Energy Star contractor

Efficiency Vermont**

- Weatherization improvements to building shell: up to \$4,000 for Home Performance with Energy Star contractor

Incentives for Heat Pumps



WEC

- Qualifying heat pump in "high performance" house
- \$250. (incentives for eligible heat pumps based on verified building shell meeting 2019 thermal performance standards; contact WEC Button Up for specifications)
- Heat pump hot water (HPWH) system
- \$250. (HPWH incentive available where a fossil-fueled (oil/kerosene/propane) hot water system is replaced)

Efficiency Vermont*

- HPWH incentive up to \$600
- Cold Climate Heat Pumps:

Equipment Capacity (mini-split)	EVT incentive 2019
≤2 tons	\$400
>2 tons	\$500

Incentives for Pellet Stoves, Furnaces, and Boilers



WEC

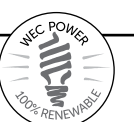
- \$250 for either a qualifying pellet stove or a wood stove. Stoves must be installed by qualified installer.
- Pellet furnace: \$500
- Pellet boiler: \$1000

Efficiency Vermont**

- Pellet stove: \$700 when installed by qualified contractor
- Pellet furnace: \$3,000
- Pellet boiler: \$3,000

**Offers subject to change. See EfficiencyVermont.com for current details.

802.224.2329 • energycoach@wec.coop



Manager's and President's Report

continued from page 3

and business plan to find what it would cost, what it would take, what partnerships need to come together to bring broadband to our members. The feasibility and business plan study is a really big first step.

Barry: The goal is to figure out what it will cost and what's the best role we can serve, because there are a number of parties in our service territory and the state who want the end product – which is high-speed fiber to our members' homes. We have to do it with utmost fiduciary responsibility, and we realize we don't have to be the company that connects the wire directly to our members' homes. That may be what we end up doing, but what we're trying to do is facilitate the end goal.

The board is getting excited about it, and members are extremely excited. In fact, at the annual meeting in May, we actually got applause from a large number of people attending the meeting. I personally am excited about this, and also cautious. Our manager wants us to keep a balanced, even keel and that's important because with every opportunity there's also risk.

Patty: My goal is to keep eyes wide open and do the best we can for our members in the electric space as well as the broadband space. I ask a lot of


questions about the challenges and the economics, which isn't always a fun job, but somebody has to do it.

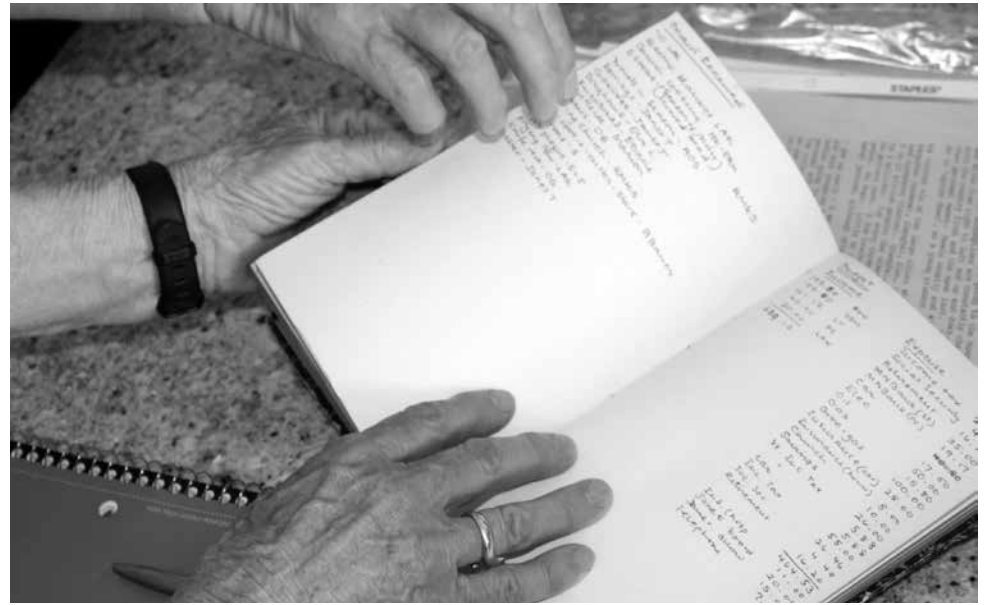
Barry: You're asking us to keep an eye on the big picture, and that's extremely helpful. You're asking for a safe and successful process.

Patty: And as a board, you have been great with the leadership and the vision to say, "Our members have asked about broadband and we need to look at this."

Barry: Our goal is to be in a place to make some decision sometime in the spring of 2020.

This broadband discussion, the upcoming Community Meeting, rate design, the return of Capital Credit refunds, which happens every fall – these are all examples of the Co-op Difference. These are all ways a co-op provides returns value to its members. Every year the WEC board looks at the availability of monies, and we've been able to return more than \$7.5 million to our owner-members. All the things we're talking about, it's why your Co-op is so important. We have been and will continue to be an innovative leader. There's a difference between being a member of an electric co-op and a customer of an investor-owned utility, and we're very proud of that difference.

Patty: Very much agreed. 



Olivia Gay (Ogay) and Janet Ancel look at the Master Plan – the daily journal kept by their mother, WEC co-incorporator Elizabeth Kent Gay. Known for her organizational skills, Gay kept track of everything: cash flow, gifts given and received, and far more.

The Family Business

continued from page 6

who had some form of mental illness," Ancel said. "She created space for you to explore what you needed or wanted to explore. She did that with everybody." One of the salient things she learned from her mother was "that if you listened, that what you discovered was that people had the answer."

The key to the family brand of leadership is in that kind of attentiveness and patience. Ogay said, "I think both Janet and I have that quality. It's probably what makes Janet a great legislator, because she has an incredible ability to pay attention. People in this district feel listened to."


Ancel added her sister not only recruited Ancel to run for office but also served as her campaign manager. Those skills come from Ogay's rich background in community organizing as well, she suggested. Ogay, who said her life's work is a natural extension of a childhood participating in community suppers and activities, made her life's work both hands-on and big picture. She served as an officer of the Community Center for many years, and also worked in community development at the state level. "That's all to the end of these

villages staying alive and vibrant. Lucky in Calais, we have three very vibrant villages here [Kents' Corner] and in Adamant, East Calais, and I suppose it's been important to me in the way I think people want things to stay the same."

Ancel nodded, and said she feels that way about some of her work in the legislature, like the Downtown Tax Credit Program, which pumps \$3 million each year into the downtowns of Vermont's villages. While she can't take credit for the program, Ancel said, "I've had a role in expanding it and working from a different perspective from the work you do, that you're really good at, and the work our mother did. It's all landing in a similar place."

"It's about strong communities," agreed Ogay.

And in Calais, Gay's legacy continues to unspool. "If she dropped down to earth today, she'd see the music and the plays and the art and the economic activity – she would have loved the calendar," said Ancel, referring to the famous, cheeky Men of Maple Corner calendar Ogay helped create to preserve the Community Center, "but she never would have felt a need to comment on it."

Ogay nodded. "She would just enjoy it." 

You Are Invited: WEC Community Meeting

Cabot School, Thursday, October 24.
Doors open at 5:30, dinner at 6, meeting at 7

Please join WEC staff, directors, and members at a dinner meeting and informational discussion. Reservations are required for the buffet dinner; not required to attend the informational meeting at 7. Dinner is free with your reservation. The menu includes an entrée (meat and vegetarian), sides, beverages, and dessert.

The Community Meeting will benefit the Cabot eighth grade trip to Washington DC. The address is Cabot School, Main Street, Cabot, VT 05647.

Reservations must be received at WEC by the morning of October 10. To reserve, please fill out the form and return it to WEC, Attn: Dawn Johnson, PO Box 8, East Montpelier, VT, 05651, email Dawn.Johnson@wec.coop, or call 802-224-2332. Thank you.

Dinner Reservation

(No charge for the dinner.)

2019 Community Meeting
Cabot School

October 24, 2019 • 5:30 to 8:00

Doors open: 5:30 • Dinner: 6:00pm • Meeting: 7:00pm • Wrap up: 8:00 pm

Name _____ Vegetarian Member or Guest
(Please print clearly)

Name _____ Vegetarian Member or Guest
(Please print clearly)

Name _____ Vegetarian Member or Guest
(Please print clearly)

Name _____ Vegetarian Member or Guest
(Please print clearly)

Address _____

Account # _____ Map # _____ Telephone _____

Email _____

Special needs (food or accommodations): _____

What the heck is a Capital Credit and why should I care?

Think of it this way: each member is an investor in an electric cooperative. In order for a business to succeed, investors need to provide capital. By paying electric bills and fees, members provide WEC the capital it needs to succeed.

In years when WEC takes in more revenue than it needs, that money is earmarked as credits to be returned to members. That's different from a for-profit utility, which hands that excess revenue over to shareholders.

So for every year you are a WEC member and your co-op takes in excess revenue, you are earning credits. The Co-op can't refund each year's credits in full at the end of every year – it needs to maintain a reserve for borrowing leverage.

Instead, you get a little bit from the most recent year there was excess revenue. The rest is returned over time. Members who had credits from 24 years ago, in 1995, will receive those this year, as well as members on the lines in 2018.

And no matter what, those credits get returned. Please see the list of former members entitled to refunds. If you know anyone on the list, please have the former member/s or their beneficiaries contact the Co-op directly at 802-223-5245 or 800-932-5245. 