

## Bios of Workshop Leaders

**Sheri Bone** – Sheri has been associated with Quiet Valley for more than 40 years. She worked as a tour guide 1975 and 1976. She was an elementary school teacher in upstate New York and is currently employed at the Pocono Environmental Education Center. Sheri went to college in Maryville, TN and graduated with a degree in Environmental Recreation. She has three children and 4 grandchildren and still finds time to volunteer at Harvest Festivals, Farm Animal Frolic and Heritage Days, where she is usually found sitting at a spinning wheel.

**Tiffany Black** – Tiffany is our Executive Director at Quiet Valley. She has worked in the fields of cultural and natural history interpretation for much of her life. She is passionate about the ways in which “real” history can be taught in a living, experiential way.

**Rebecca Costanzo** – Beginning as a homeschool mom volunteering in the schoolhouse, Becky Costanzo has been involved at Quiet Valley for twenty years. She has served as a tour guide and teacher of our preschool and varies homeschool programs. Before homeschooling her three sons, she was a middle school band director and continues to teach music at Knowlton Fire Arts. Becky lives in Cherry Valley with her husband, Lucian, and son Thomas, and is a proud grandma!

**Stephanie Davis** – Stephanie is a local artist and lifelong resident of Monroe County. She was an historic interpreter at Quiet Valley for several years. She learned the art of quilling while working here, from expert quiller Evelyn Crane. She is also a talented painter and jewelry maker. Though a mother of three young children, Stephanie manages to find time for creative expression through her artistic pursuits.

**Jillian DePete-McMahon** – Jillian is a homeschool mother of two children, ages 13 and 9. Her family has been involved with Quiet Valley for several years. She is on the Friends of Quiet Valley Committee and she and her children participate in the Spring Homeschool Program and volunteer at many events. She is also an instructor for 19<sup>th</sup> Century Days and a summer camp leader.

**Deborah DiPasquale** – Deborah is Director of Marketing and Special Events at Quiet Valley. Deborah was born and raised in Monroe County and with her husband, Lou, has raised four children here. She enjoys presenting heritage craft demonstrations at the farm as well as writing, painting, photography, gardening and spending time with her family.

**Noorallah Downing** – Noorallah has a M.ed from **Plymouth** State University in New Hampshire. She has worked with children as kindergarten teacher at the Growing Concern for 25 years and

now in a homeschooling program called Homney School. She has honed her storytelling and theatre skills at these programs as well as at Quiet Valley, Genesis Farm and the library.

**Joan Glusiec** – Joan is a certified art and special education teacher. Along with painting, she has a special interest in the potter's wheel and has demonstrated its use for more than fifteen years at Quiet Valley. Recently retired from teaching, she now spends much of her time painting and making pottery. Some of her work can be seen at [www.glusiec.com](http://www.glusiec.com).

**Ian Haddad** – Ian is one of our farmers here at Quiet Valley. He is 26 years old and attended Norwich University and received a degree in Psychology. In the past five years he has been doing carpentry and running his own commercial vegetable farm. He loves spending time outside and values farming and knowing where our food comes from.

**Bill E. Hall** – Bill worked at Martin Guitar for 40 years. He has been coming to Quiet Valley for 40 years, too!

**Deb Heilakka** – Deb worked at Quiet Valley for many years, serving as tour guide, dutch oven cooking specialist, gift shop manager and many other jobs beside. She currently works at Creature Comfort, but she always loves to come back to the farm. Deb is a mother of two and wife of Peter.

**Peter Heilakka** – Peter grew up in the 1960's playing Cops and Robbers, Cowboys and Indians, and Army. The game of Army is what started his love affair with maps. Christmas Day on 1970 was the date that he received his first book about orienteering, written by Bjorn Kjellstrom. Peter has completed numerous long distance hiking trips, organized searches for downed drones and aircraft and mapped areas in the federal parks. Peter is an avid orienteering person and is anxious to share what he know. He also loves to play with unusual items, hence his knowledge of slingshots.

**Rachel Kresge** – Rachel is the Director of Education here at Quiet Valley. Her time at Quiet Valley as a camper and apprentice led her into the history education and museum studies fields. Rachel enjoys exploring the history of cooking. Her biggest passion involves helping learners discover their connection to history in fun and engaging ways.

**Tina Matuic** - Tina is a long-time volunteer at Quiet Valley and a soap maker for the past 8 years of her life at Pocono Soap. She loves to make soap and she loves to teach other people how to make great skin care products.

**Erin McKinne Melbert** – Erin McKinne Melbert is a stay at home Mom to two children and has been playing with yarn for over 15 years. She loves all things fiber-related and enjoys knitting and more

recently crocheting lovely things for family and friends. While both of her children know how to knit, they mostly spend their time decorating the house with yarn and creating obstacles courses for their parents and pets to navigate. Erin also works part-time with Hearth Magic, an Etsy shop dedicated to magical printed watercolors to use with children and the home. Erin is excited to share the joy of making useful and fun objects with the children of the Poconos.

**Cynthia Melillo** – Cynthia is a newer member of the Quiet Valley Farm Staff. Outside of work, she volunteers as a committee member and a Den Leader for Cub Scout Pack 85.

**Janet Mishkin** – Janet is the curator and grant writer for Quiet Valley. She is a former adjunct history professor at East Stroudsburg University and Northampton Community College, specializing in Public History and Museum Studies. She has worked at Quiet Valley for more than thirty years.

**Cindy Lou Morris** – Cindy Lou is an acrylic artist who has many awards and showings of art in Carbon County. She sells on commission or at art shows. She has also become a new tour guide at Quiet Valley!

**Kathleen Mosier** – Kathleen has three daughters and four grandchildren. She is the wife of the Quiet Valley farmer, Milton. Kathleen makes fun types of crafts, and she and Milt work together to create their infamous wooden pigs and owls. An excellent cook, her chocolate cake with peanut butter icing is a favorite with everyone on the farm.

**Gary Oiler** – Gary received a B.S. in Agricultural Education from Penn State University and was an Agriculture and Horticulture teacher at Bangor Area School District for 34 years. In addition, he was the farm manager of Quiet Valley for 40 years. He has taken many classes since his retirement in areas such as blacksmithing, woodworking, wood carving, animal husbandry and apple grafting. He also teaches workshops on gardening, wreath making, and plant propagation.

**Sue Oiler** - Sue received a B.S. in Home Economics Education from Penn State University and was a Home Economics teacher for several years. She was the co-founder and manager of Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm for 40 years. She has been a spinner and weaver for more than 40 years and has taught many other people throughout the years. She is a member of the Frances Irwin Handweavers Guild and attended the Coverlet College of 2014 at the National Coverlet Museum.

**Jeanne Quinn** – Her mom tried to teach her to knit at age 8, but it did not go well as Jeanne was left-handed and her mom was not. However, Jeanne persisted and by age 18, she was knitting

sweaters and socks. She stopped while raising her family, but began again about 25 year ago. Knitting creates beautiful patterns, clothing, reduces stress, and can tell someone your mood.

**Darlene Repsher** – Darlene, aka Aunt Grace, is a retired homeschool mother and has been involved at Quiet Valley for many years, in a wide variety of positions. She enjoys working with people of all ages.

**Kellcey Repsher** – Kellcey has almost 17 years of living history experience. She is a homeschool graduate and has been a tour guide at Quiet Valley for more than 10 years.

**T.J. Salmon** – T.J. has been one of the farmers at Quiet Valley for more than three years, and he is an avid animal lover. He is in the Marine Reserves, and has become quite a good cook in the last couple of years.

**Alexyss Schatzman** - Alexyss is a homeschooling mother of three children who graduated with a degree in Liberal Arts from Salve Regina University. She and her family enjoy spending most of their time outdoors adventuring or cooking in the kitchen. Alexyss is also a certified yoga teacher teaching both adults and children’s yoga classes. She has been involved with many different programs and activities at Quiet Valley for many years. It is truly one of her favorite places.

**Flora Schubert** – Flora is a homeschooling mother of two children. As a certified elementary teacher she currently enjoys being a homeschool evaluator, working as the community Manager for Lavender’s Blue Homeschool, and volunteering in places dear to her heart. She has been volunteering at Quiet Valley since she was a little girl and now enjoys volunteering here with her husband and children.

**Meg Weinhofer** – Meg has been a volunteer at Quiet Valley for a number of years, helping Gary Oiler with the seed planting and transplanting for the Farm Animal Frolic plant sale. She also enjoys being the School Marm. Meg is a graduate of Kutztown State College, with a BA in Elementary Art Education. She taught Art at Catasauqua Area Elementary School, and worked as a teacher’s aide at Moore Elementary, Northampton Area School District. She was a head pre-school teacher for more than 20 years at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Catasauqua. Her love of arts and crafts is central in her life and she enjoys sharing that love with everyone.

