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Press Release

From: Silver Bay YMCA Conference and Family Retreat Center

Silver Bay YMCA welcomes new Chaplain

Silver Bay YMCA is delighted to announce that Rev. Karen Skalla will begin her tenure as a Chaplain for Silver Bay YMCA starting August 1.

Skalla will be filling the position previously held by Rev. Bruce Tamlyn. Tamlyn retired from his role as Chaplain December 31, 2022, and had been serving the Silver Bay community in a variety of capacities for 52 years.

“Karen, with her unique experience in the fields of Spirituality and in Medicine, will bring a deep sense of caring to this role. Karen is also creative, and I am excited have her bring new life and energy to the Spiritual Life Department,” Garth Allen, Silver Bay YMCA’s spiritual life director, stated.

Skalla comes to Silver Bay from Brownsville, Vermont and is no stranger to Silver Bay, as she has stayed at Silver Bay through the Pastoral Respite Program.

“I am delighted to begin as the new Chaplain at Silver Bay in August! After 31 years as a Nurse Practitioner, God has Called me to ‘do a new thing.’ Silver Bay’s Pastoral Respite Program has been my refuge for nearly 20 of those years in medicine. I discovered it during a life-altering Clinical Pastoral Training Program designed for healthcare providers - and then spent the rest of my career exploring and advocating for the integration of Spirituality and Medicine. A giant leap of faith took me to Seminary at Boston University, followed by ordination in the Methodist Church and Spiritual Director Training at Rolling Ridge Retreat Center outside of Boston,” stated Skalla.

Although Silver Bay YMCA is sad to see Tamlyn go, and wishes him the best in retirement, they are excited to welcome Skalla to the spiritual life family.

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Our MISSION: To foster relationships, strengthen communities and nurture spirit, mind, and body for all.

Our IMPACT: Because of Silver Bay YMCA, connections between people and family are stronger. People are more connected, respectful, and caring. They have the confidence to develop to their full potential and to positively impact the communities in which they work and live. As a result, communities are more dynamic, inclusive and diverse. As stewards of Lake George, we inspire people to be stewards of the environment while they are visiting our magnificent campus and in their home communities.