Pines pioneer Kathleen (Kay) Corso passed away recently at the age of 98. Kay, a long-time leader of FIPPOA, is believed to have been the last survivor of the original homeowners in the Pines. She and her husband Charles constructed the eighth house in the Pines in 1953. They raised their four children in that house on Beach Hill Walk, eventually sharing it with nine grandchildren.

Kay loved the Pines and gave back to the community through her many volunteer efforts. In the early, pre-national seashore days, she ran fundraisers in the battle against Robert Moses' attempt to build a highway on Fire Island. In the mid-1980s she became involved in the early fundraising activities for AIDS research. Kay was a member of the Fire Island Pines Fire Department in its early years. For close to two decades she was a member of the FIPPOA Board of Directors and served as our association's Secretary for a period. She was instrumental in bringing Catholic Mass to the community house and played a role in the first renovation of the Lone Hill Coast Guard Station into the Pines Community Center in the late 1970s.

Perhaps Kay's most lasting impact on our community was during the long period when she served as Co-Chairman of FIPPOA's Special Events Committee along with Laura Eastman. Together they tapped into the artistic

talent in the Pines and brought entertainment to the community house, along with activities ranging from cakewalks to art shows. A theatrical production of "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown" with Pines residents in 1980 led to "Anything Goes" a year later. Those shows spawned the eventual series of original "Pines Needles" musicals written by David Baker in the 1980s, featuring community residents in songs about the Pines. These FIPPOA activities led to the creation of the Fire Island Pines Arts Project (FIPAP) that has been part of the enduring social fabric of the Pines for 30 years. Kay and Charles were delighted to be featured in the film "Where Ocean Meets Sky" where their unique perspective on Pines history was preserved forever.