

VOICES RISING by the SEA ChoralFest at the Ferry Beach Conference Center on the ocean in Saco, ME



December 2016

Ellie Rolnick will be directing the morning chapel choir

ChoralFest has chosen longtime attendee Ellie Rolnick as the Musician of the Week for our conference week. In addition to choosing music for and directing the pick-up choir at the daily morning chapel services, Ellie will be leading the singing after dinner and will assist with accompaniment and coaching for the weekly Talent/No Talent Show.



When Ellie attended the first ChoralFest conference in 2007, she made a life-changing decision. She decided to become a choir director. She currently serves as music director at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco and Biddeford, and in 2008 she helped to create and leads The Harbour Singers, a choir for end of life. She received her Music Leadership Credentials through the Unitarian Universalist Association in 2014 and is also a fledgling songwriter. During the day she is a chiropractor with a thriving practice in Biddeford.

Be a friend to ChoralFest

It's never too early to talk up ChoralFest 2017 with friends and family who love to sing and other singers you know in your choir and choral groups. Here's several ways that you can provide more information about ChoralFest.

- Forward this newsletter to them with a personal note about what a wonderful week this is. Pass their email address on to Suzanne if they want to be added to the newsletter distribution list.
- Encourage them to check out ChoralFest 17 on the Ferry Beach website, www.ferrybeach.org. Our page has been revamped with much more information, and there are more changes to come as plans are solidified for next summer.
- Find and like us on Facebook at "ChoralFest Conference at Ferry Beach". Invite other Facebook friends to also like us. We're posting lots of good things about the conference and Ferry Beach and also tips about singing.
- If you attend a UU Church, watch for the Ferry Beach conference brochure to come in the mail to your church administrator in January and put it out for others to find.

News from Ferry Beach

Ferry Beach has completed a second year in the black and plans are underway to solicit funds to continue upgrades throughout the campus. Here is a list of what may be in the works over the winter months.

- New carpet, paint and bathroom fixtures in Quillen
- \$33,000 for electrical upgrades in the Grove and additional tent and long trailer sites
- Putting air conditioning in the DeWolfe dining room
- New chairs and other smaller items for the Rose Pavilion

Planning has started for 2019 when the Ecology School will move to their own property. Groups met during the summer to create a vision of what Ferry Beach as a

year round facility could offer. Winterizing Rowland to add more warm sleeping rooms and meeting rooms is first on the list.

There are several winter retreats on the schedule: Setting Our Intentions for a Fabulous Year on January 7 and 8, Quilting February 17 to 20, Writing Short Fiction March 13 to 16. Go to www.ferrybeach.org for details.

What our attendees say about ChoralFest

There are many places educators can go in the summer to learn about teaching music and/or sing with other people. Why go to Ferry Beach? When you come together to sing and create music with people in a unique environment of acceptance and love, there is deeper meaning to the music. As a music educator, I learn more about singing in a choir through the eyes of people with varying backgrounds, degrees of musical skills and vocal colors, than when I'm the person in charge. I can listen, learn, participate in something I love and be a part of something greater than myself.

Naomi from Virginia



ChoralFest
July 15 to 21, 2017

Drew Collins, Music/Artistic Director
Suzanne Adams, Coordinator
978-241-9450, sue@gndhome.com



May all your days be filled
with beautiful music.
Happy holidays from
ChoralFest.