

VOICES RISING by the SEA

ChoralFest at the Ferry Beach Conference Center, Saco, ME



May 2018

Conference Updates from Ferry Beach

Each spring and fall Ferry Beach (FB) executive director Cathy Stackpole sets up a conference call so that the conference coordinators can communicate with the FB staff and each other. Here are some of the highlights from the call in April. I'll share more in the next newsletter.

Suzanne

New Safety Rules

Since Maine is an open carry state, Ferry Beach (FB) is required to have guidelines about guns on campus. No weapons are allowed on campus or in locked cars. There will be signs in the buildings as well as notices in the materials sent to conferees.

A staff person will lock all the doors to the dorms at 11:00 pm and open them at 7:00 am in the morning. Attendees will be given a code to enter if they need to get back into their building after 11:00 pm.

Honoring Ferry Beach's Universalist Roots

FB is creating a group this summer to help them think about how FB connects to and spreads universal love in the world. They are looking for creative, innovative inspired people, who are spiritual but not religious, to help them. Contact Roberta Altamari at YFC@ferrybeach.org if you are interested in helping.

Other Updates

The rooms and hall in Underwood have gotten a new coat of paint over the winter. FB is planning to redo the other two dorms next year once the Ecology School has moved.

Patricia Mulholland, who attended ChoralFest last year, will be offering Music Mindfulness right after ChoralFest ends from July 21 to 22.

News from Drew Collins



Over the past several years, I have been called to explore ways choral music can be used as an instrument of social change. Can choral music help heal racial divides? Get out the vote? Influence law-makers? Inspire listeners to action? With questions such as these in mind, I have decided to leave academia in favor of a position that could better serve as a vehicle for this exploration. I am therefore thrilled to have accepted a full-time position as Music Director for First Unitarian Society of Madison, Wisconsin. I have often quipped that choirs "save the world one song at a time"...now, this will become my central tenet.

There are many joys and rewards to my new position. Everyone I met during my audition and interview process was truly wonderful, so I have great confidence that my relationships there will echo the relationships I have valued so much at All Souls New London and Ferry Beach. My responsibilities include conducting two large adult choirs, producing a weekly recital series, and overseeing a music staff.

Just showing up to work will be an inspiring experience. The campus is made up of two buildings: one designed by Frank Lloyd Wright which is a National Historic Landmark, and a larger one has been nationally featured as being an exemplar of green architecture.

More than the enormous professional satisfaction I anticipate, this move represents a return to the Midwest and brings us closer to our parents. This is going to be great for our family and extended family. We are thrilled beyond measure!

The past five years have been tumultuous for us. We have certainly experienced significant joys, especially the birth of our daughter. But I have been largely disappointed with my experience working at this university. Being so far from our family has also been quite hard. My work at All Souls and Ferry Beach has helped guide me toward my new path and prepared me for my new ministry.

I do not know what the future holds as far as my ever returning to Ferry Beach. I hope to, but I am just not sure. What I am sure of is that I hope to see you each again very soon. Until then, may it be well. Thank you all so much. Especially those who have contributed so much to the success of the past three years of ChoralFest: Suzanne, Ellie, Tim, Cathy, and so many others.

Drew

Update from Suzanne

Jeff and I met this past weekend when Jeff was in MA visiting his friend Ron Cohen. Brad Cohen from GAYLA was able to join us for dinner. We had a chance to get to know one another better and worked out some scheduling kinks.

Suzanne



ChoralFest July 14 to 20, 2018

Jeffrey Lipton, Music Director
Suzanne Adams, Coordinator



Contact Suzanne at 978-241-9450 or sue@gndhome.com

Ferry Beach still has space available for our group. Decide to come yourself and encourage friends to join you! Call Sally Ring in the Ferry Beach office at 207-282-4489 for pricing and to go over the registration details or go to www.ferrybeach.org and click on ChoralFest in the list of summer conferences.