

Discovery

December 2015

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Culture Shifts - by Paul Provencher

Many of us at this time of year would like to see time move more slowly. I try to take it all in stride and enjoy the moment. What is clear, is that I (we) can have an effect on what occurs in that time. The Board of Directors of the Ferry Beach Park Association has clearly directed a “culture shift” over the last few years.

We have gone from a cultural mindset of “poverty and failure” to one of “abundance and success”. Prior to 1970, many thought that Ferry Beach was not financially sustainable and would have to close. Energy was found amongst the membership and the leadership of Ray Hopkins brought us a revival.

The “nineties” brought a time of a partially successful capital fund drive that allowed for the Manning Cottage to be purchased but subsequently sold. Ferry Beach also lost its male dormitory, the Belmont, in front of Rowland Hall, due to fire. (for more see p.2)

Reaching the Allison Challenge!

We did it!

As a community we pulled together and met the goal of \$50,000 outlined for us by Gayla Brother Tom Allison. Generous Tom is matching dollar for dollar up to our goal!

As you know, we have been raising money for the renovation of the home formally occupied by Ray Hopkins, a past Executive Director, into 4 bedrooms, with four private baths. Two of the bedrooms are fully ADA while the other two are accessible. The two ADA bedrooms are equipped with a full bed each, while the other 2 rooms have a queen bed and a pull out single in each.

Gifts began flowing in response to our social media blitz. We were grateful to finish the fundraising through the calendar sales and a couple of large gifts, one from Paul Belyea, for \$4000

and another from the Profound Treasury for \$5000. A full list of our wonderful donors can be found [here](#) on our website.

We are so grateful for all of the people who made this happen. We started with the Happy video in the summer of 2014 and finished with the calendars (still available on the web) as well as many wonderful donations. Thank you for being a part of this awesome community of generous givers!

In honor of Tom Allison’s generous donation, the property at 8 Morris, #2 will formally be known as the John Cross Cottage. (for more see p. 2)

Remember, these are available all year long and in the off season, come with bedding. Book your winter retreat, now! 207-282-4489.

Culture Shifts, cont'd

Since this was located on a primary dune, it needed to be rebuilt within 24 months of destruction or it wasn't allowed by law. Efforts to rebuild were not successful. Since Ferry Beach had many life safety code problems with our dormitories, efforts were directed to solving these property issues. Numerous renovations of Quillen, Rowland, Underwood and the Eleanor Forbes Chapel were undertaken. These were necessary, so that our programs could continue and that our members would be housed in a safe environment. Finally in 2004, Kelley Cottage was built but without a clear financial plan in place. This was our first new building in 30 years, but was financed with some debt. In 2009, the 2nd Century Fund Capital Campaign commenced and by 2011, we had completed the DeWolfe Dining Facility and rebuilt the Metz Village. These projects were completed with a combination of debt and capital fundraising, with the clear attitude that we could complete these projects.

In the spring of 2013, long time Ferry Beacher, Rev. Ray Hopkins passed away while living at his home on the property. After his passing, the home became the property of Ferry Beach. A plan was formulated that summer to convert the home to an ADA accessible 4 bedroom complex to make it easier for people with disabilities. As our member population ages, it was clearly recognized that more and more members need more diverse accommodations. A fundraising plan was put into place and it was decided that renovations would not proceed without money in hand. As money appeared from pledges and fundraising efforts, contractors were committed and expenditures were executed. As of the Harvest Dinner held on November 14th, we had raised the dollars and commitments to complete the project in its entirety. Rev. Tom Allison had pledged to give a dollar for dollar match of funds raised up to \$50,000. We exceeded the goal and found ourselves celebrating a wonderful achievement. The building was named in honor of Mr. John Cross, at the request of Rev. Tom Allison. (see article above)

Introducing the John Cross Cottage

For the new John Cross Cottage, each of the four separate suites will be numbered. The Ferry Beach Board voted at its last meeting to name the building in honor of Tom Allison's partner, John Cross.

As Tom Allison writes about John Cross:

"My partner John Cross was in charge of a meeting of the gay caucus in 1978 in Boston of the General Assembly of the UUA when Ray Hopkins offered Ferry Beach as a place to meet and keep the momentum going. The UUA had funded an office of "Gay Concerns." Everyone was "concerned" in those days. Rev. Bob Wheatley who was heading the office on Aging was a natural as he was openly gay and along with Rev. Gene Navias was developing a general know your sexuality programs for UUA youth. Gene was director of Religious Education.

Gayla has been a part of my life for the last 37 years. It was at Gayla in 1988 that John told me he had AIDS. What better place than being surrounded by friends some who were also diagnosed that he break the news that I suspected but didn't believe.

It is mostly with John's financial help that I've been able to support Ferry Beach to the extent that I have. There is a piece of him in the walls of DeWolfe, the fire escapes, the dozen and more improvements that go unnoticed thanks to the arrangement Ferry Beach was willing to embark upon with me. But it's always been all John Cross' doing.

This past March marked a quarter century since he died, and this was a natural way for me to observe and celebrate his life. Some things take a lot of money to accomplish. There are probably many people who would support this project especially if whatever the size of their gift someone met them half way and made it worth twice as much."

A plaque bearing the names of key individuals in the GAYLA story at Ferry Beach, including Ray Hopkins' role, will be placed in the building. We will also list those donors who made a significant contribution to the renovation of this wonderful new space at Ferry Beach.

Culture Shifts, continued

The completion of the John Cross Cottage was a major culture shift for Ferry Beach whereby projects are not started or completed without a clear path to funding. Another culture shift has been the change in program coordinator compensation instituted in the summer programs. Over the last 3 years, summer programs have had to provide enough revenue to more than cover the costs of their operation. Some conferences gave away perks or compensation to the tune of 65% of the revenue generated. This type of operation was not sustainable. Changes had to be instituted and progress towards more sustainability of programs will be made in the future. We also find that this change has been positive for the programs as we are seeing favorable

evaluations of these revised programs. In 2015, we also started a Ferry Beach Keepers program. This is a program that has a member committing to a minimum number of hours volunteering each year, and also to be a Sustaining Donor.

We are striving for a more financially sustainable future with a two year program. The only question is how quickly the culture will continue to shift and what hiccups happen along the way. As you review this, I wish you Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

Paul is completing his last year as the board president of the Ferry Beach Board

Winter Retreats - Check out the Website for More!

Jan. 9-10: (1 night) Setting New Year's Intentions and Prayer with Cathy Stackpole

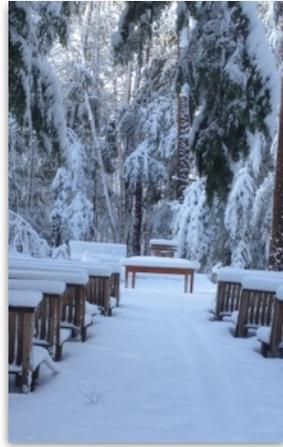
Jan. 15-18: GAYLA Reunion at Ferry Beach

Feb 6-7: (1 night) Deep Ecology with Coleen O'Connell

March 4-6: Body Sculpting and Pilates

Look for bed & breakfast specials throughout the winter!!

Check the website for more!
www.ferrybeach.org



Annual Meeting is April 23rd!

Fall Harvest!

As we work toward having our annual meeting close to the end of the first quarter of our fiscal year, we have moved the date from June to April. While it might be a little chilly still up here, it is a great way to celebrate the Spring Equinox!



Look for the report from the Nominating Committee in mid March! Join us April 23rd for a great meeting. Lunch will be complementary prior to the meeting. A town hall will be offered at 11am in the Ziegler Room. As we did with the Fall Harvest, we will offer rooms for \$10 (the price of cleaning) in Rowland Hall.



Please consider becoming a sustaining member of Ferry Beach! On the website or contact us at 207-282-4489

Family & Friends up to visit for the holidays...No room? No problem!

Ferry Beach can help! We've got four private bedrooms with private bathrooms.

****SPECIAL** \$25 off Cross Cottage off-season rates \$100 (excludes conferences and weekends)**



Rooms 1 and 2 one queen w/ twin pullout, stair entrance, accessible bathroom

Rooms 3 and 4 one full bed, ADA accessible, ramp access.

Call to reserve your spot today! 207-282-4489



Summer Changes

Room Charges Summer Changes

This summer, the home formerly owned by Ray Hopkins, now called, **John Cross Cottage**, will be available to book. With four bedrooms, two of which are fully accessible and two that are partial, these bedroom/bathroom combinations have been in high demand.

Family friendly has been a request from a number of people who visit Ferry Beach as well. To that end, we have also **restructured our dorm room pricing**, this year. All of our rooms will now be charged per night and not per person. If there is room for 4 persons to sleep, the room will be set at one price. No longer will the charges for rooms be based on the number and ages of persons occupying the rooms. This should result in a significant savings for many families.

This will change our pricing for some rooms slightly. If two unrelated people want to share a room, they will be able to do so, however, Ferry Beach will not split the room charge. That will be up to the person who initially reserves the room. We are also setting aside small rooms in Rowland for people who do not want to share a dorm room.

We rely on hoteling software, as opposed to conferencing software, to help us book rooms. Most hotels charge one price for one room. Our software is incapable of doing everything we want it to do and we are not able financially, to purchase customized software. With this change, we hope to make registration much smoother. Also membership fees will be assessed for everyone who registers for a conference. Read more online at www.ferrybeach.org

Summer 2016 conference registration is open!

Visit www.ferrybeach.org for more information and to register.

(Call 207.282.4489 to register.)

JUNE

Work & Play Week

Profound Treasury: Buddhist Conference

Youth Camps: Kids for the Earth, Different Drummers, & FUUTURE

Youth Camps: Different Drummers & FUUTURE

Saturday June 11- Friday June 17

Friday June 17- Sunday June 26

Sunday June 26- Saturday July 2

Saturday July 2- Saturday July 9

JULY

Religious Education Week–Friends Gathering on the Sand

GAYLA XXXVIII

Choral Fest

Weekend Retreat

Family Conference on Deep Ecology

Kayaking/Paddle board

Yoga

Family and Friends

Saturday July 9- Friday July 15

Saturday July 16- Saturday July 23

Saturday July 16- Friday July 22

Saturday July 23- Monday July 25

Saturday July 23- Saturday July 30

Saturday July 23- Saturday July 30

Saturday July 23- Saturday July 30

Saturday July 30- Saturday Aug 6

AUGUST

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship & Fun (UUF&F)

Photography

Power of Words

Creatively Aging with Grace

Emma's Revolution & Kim & Reggie Harris

Circle of Music

Motivational Interviewing

A Course In Miracles

Healing Arts

Quilting by the Bay

12-Step Intensive

Saturday August 6- Saturday August 13

Saturday August 6- Friday August 12

Thursday August 11- Sunday August 14

Sunday August 14- Saturday August 20

Saturday August 20

Sunday August 14- Sunday August 21

Sunday August 14- Saturday August 19

Sunday August 21- Saturday August 27

Sunday August 21- Saturday August 27

Saturday August 27- Friday September 2

Saturday August 27- Friday September 2

SEPTEMBER

Labor Day Weekend

Friday September 2- Monday September 5