

Discovery

A Quarterly Newsletter from the Ferry Beach Park Association

Fall 2013

Summer 2014 Preview!

- Holly Near
- Carolyn McDade
- Reverend Tamara Lebak (on church growth)
- Sound Healer Pierre Garreaud



Rev. Tamara Lebak



Holly Near

Not for Members Only:

- *Governance Updates: Annual Meeting, Mission, Values and Strategic Learning*
- *President's Message: Ferry Beach and Financial Sustainability.*

Theme for the Summer: Gratitude and Grace!

Summer Preview 2014: Holly Near, Carolyn McDade, Pierre Garreaud and More!

Wow!! Are you ready for a fabulous Summer lineup of conferences and retreats? We are excited to share with you some really fantastic news about the opportunities for personal and spiritual growth we have for you and your family this year!

Our summer theme is **Gratitude and Grace**. Singer, songwriter **Holly Near** is coming to Ferry Beach in August for a concert and conference; songwriter, **Carolyn McDade** is joining us for part of Women's Week and the dynamic Reverend **Tamara Lebak** from the largest UU church in the country will be here to talk about church growth.

Moving somewhat chronologically through the summer, Reverend **Tamara Lebak** joins us to talk about church growth and the importance of diversity in our communities. Tamara is a fantastic speaker and the associate minister at All Souls UU Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma and comes with a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm about the ways to "do" church.

Tamara will be sharing information in a workshop in addition to her minister of the week duties. She and her spouse, Jill will travel with their young daughter from the southwest to present some perspectives on growing diversity and inclusion. All Souls is the largest church in the UU world, and we are grateful to have her coming to Ferry Beach this year. If you are involved in your church in any way, you won't want to miss our Religious Education week at Ferry Beach this year.

Intergenerational Relaxation and Rejuvenation takes the place of Family and Friends I. New coordinators for adults, multigenerational activities and children's activities promise to find a nice blend of tradition and change in this week.

Anne Falkowski will be back with a full week of Yoga. Designed to meet you where you are in your practice, from beginner to yogi – Anne's wonderful style is sure to help create a week in which you treat your body temple well.

Not for the faint of heart, Kayaking will be offered in this week and family members may take advantage of the offerings for spouses and children by registering for Intergenerational R&R.

Marty Burgess, registered Maine sea kayak guide will facilitate an amazing experience in kayaking while we practice our UU principles and values.

Also that week, the writer's will be back with **Sam Sherman** leading the prose side of writing and a special guest, **Carolyn Locke** who will support those poets among us. It should be a great conference!

GAYLA is still firming up its workshop offerings and will include **Brian Gill** facilitating an intimate workshop on mindfulness. Choralfest is also working on its lineup.

Special guest for women's week: **Carolyn McDade**. From her website: *Carolyn is a lover of language and sound. Carolyn is committed to the power of the human voice singing and speaking*
Continued on page 2

Preview of Summer 2014 Continued

truth to move society to just and liberating transformation. Through song and singing she helps us deepen human consciousness and understand ourselves as part of a living planet.

Carolyn will help us launch the best women's week ever! Carolyn will be creating an informal sing along with **Sarah Dan Jones** on Saturday night and workshops on Sunday and Monday for all conferees.

Carolyn's music inspires us to connect, to be grateful for what we have, and to join our energies to all who are embracing the challenges we face as a community and in the world. Join us for an inspirational week! See the website for more details!!!

Holly Near, singer, songwriter and social activist will join the Ferry Beach community on Saturday, August 16 for a concert and stay for a few days as part of the new Circle of Music conference.

She will give workshops on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday as part of the Circle of Music Conference. Her work will help remind us of the importance of using our skills, talents and resources in the service of the planet. Other workshops that week will pick up on that theme – see the website for more!

Pierre Garreaud, sound healer and Peruvian Shaman will join the Integrated Spiritual Pathways (formerly PSI) again this year. Pierre's work inspires others from the conference to share their skills and talents as healers and intuitives.

An all conference planetary healing event with Pierre, Holly and others is in the works for the Sunday evening event of the

conference. More details will be shared on the web.

This year's weeklong **12-Step conference** will work with Ernie Larsen's Stage II recovery materials. The 12-steps are a great tool for living and this conference is open to anyone who would like to learn more about the 12 steps and use these tools in their lives. **Roger White** and **Nancee Campbell** will facilitate.

Focusing on Grace and Gratitude, participants will be encouraged to look for the Good in their lives and learn how to open up to all that life has to offer.

Quilting by the Bay and the **Weekend Getaway** (in a new weekend) conferences will also be available this year. The Weekend Getaway will be exploring the southern Maine coast with a boat ride this year and fun for everyone!

A new offering from Reverend **Nancee Campbell** and Reverend **Susan Murphy** the second week of August will talk about **Aging as a Spiritual Practice**.

A full list of the conferences as of this writing is included in this newsletter. As coordinators and workshop leaders share information with us we will share it with you on our website.

We'll close out the summer of 2014 with the **BEST Old Fashioned Family Picnic Labor Day** weekend. Live music from the **Downeast Soul Coalition** and our very own **Kate Campbell Strauss** is happening from 4-8pm on Saturday.



Pierre Garreaud

Downeast is accompanied by a wonderful barbecue, which will include ribs, roasted corn, hotdogs and hamburgers, roasted veggies, lobster, chicken and more. Water balloon toss, pie eating contests, three-legged races, watermelon relays and other games for the whole family will also happen. Don't miss the fun! Sign up early, as we are sure this conference will sell out this year.

Summer Theme:
Gratitude and Grace!
Website and On-Line
Registration Begins November
12, 2013.
www.ferrybeach.org
207-282-4489

Governance Updates: Right Relations, Objectivity and Financial Sustainability Inform Board's Work

At last year's retreat, the Ferry Beach board began to explore what it means to be a not for profit organization that operates 365 days a year. The board renewed its commitment to our Unitarian Universalist principles and values by choosing seven words that guided our work. These are: community, compassion, respect, truth, conscience, worth and acceptance. At the center of all of our values, is Love. Right relations, objectivity and financial sustainability were adopted as yardsticks to inform our decision making. These same three ideas will help us as we begin to engage in a strategic planning process for the organization.

Roadmaps are always important when you are on a journey! Many not for profit organizations spend a lot of time reacting to situations as they arise instead of planning for their future. Ferry Beach Board is undertaking a strategic planning process at its February board retreat. Using an outside facilitator from Portland, Maine, the board is reviewing our financial health as well as our commitment to our mission and legacy in our work.

The board will be looking at updating the language of our mission statement at its next retreat, knowing that our planning and our mission go hand in hand. We hope

to have a longer report at the Annual Meeting!

Remember that our Annual Meeting is Saturday, June 21st at 11am in Rowland Hall on the Ferry Beach Campus.

Ferry Beach Board

Paul Provencher — President
Barbara Crowley — Vice President
Carolyn Hodges — Treasurer
Marty Burgess — Secretary

Directors: Jamie Lederer, Paul Riechmann, Cyd Melcher, Ron Willett, Steve Fogg, Valerie White, Anne Falkowski, Lydia Gibb.

President's Message (from Paul Provencher)

In the Spring Discovery newsletter, we shared with you our commitment as a board to address all of our work with three key ideas: 1) Right relations, 2) objective and rational search for truth and 3) financial sustainability for Ferry Beach.

In the last five years, we have accomplished a great deal as a community. We have successfully raised funds and built a brand new dining hall; we set four cabins (the Metz Village cabins and the nurses' cabin) on foundations; remodeled bathrooms in a couple of dorms; we shored up our dunes on the beach; we successfully transitioned our staff leadership and we negotiated one of our long-term vendor contracts. We also began bringing in approximately \$40,000 in donated dollars annually through sustaining memberships.

As a board, we continue to address our long-term needs by monitoring our finances. We have begun the process of revisiting and re-envisioning our mission. We have renewed our promise as an organization to live by our values. In our board retreat last year, we affirmed that our central value was love. From the UU principles we highlighted these seven values to affirm in our organization: community, acceptance, worth, conscience, truth, respect and compassion. Our staff and program committee will be monitoring

how we are living these values through our collective work.

Below, I share with you some of the information we began to explore that helps us think about the financial sustainability of Ferry Beach. The use numbers and our revenue represent some of some of the challenges we will be exploring as a board at our retreat and taking into the planning process this February.

As your board, we are dedicated to living the values of our UU principles and our mission. Through our governance work we are rededicating ourselves to our mission and values as Ferry Beach. We want to assure the financial sustainability of Ferry Beach for many years to come. We know that the path in which we currently travel is not financially sustainable and we must look at new ways to use our precious resources of 32 acres and 19 buildings on the beach in Saco, Maine!

We look forward to sharing with you our work as a board to re-affirm our mission, create a strategic plan and vision to guide us in the coming years and use this wonderful resource in service to our widening community, our mission and our legacy.



More Information On the Web

In the interest of transparency and right relations with our members, we have posted on our website, <http://www.ferrybeach.org/uploads/1/4/0/9/14095361/timelineleasenegotiation.pdf> the timeline of our activities over the past 12 months as it pertained to our tenant, the Ecology School. Several of you were interested to know what our process was and we felt bound by our legal obligations at the time, not to share. Since the contract talks have completed, we are honoring our commitment we made to share with those of you who wanted to know more. We have also added some additional information shared through the process that will be important for us as a board and an organization to use in our planning process. You can find the information on the website on the page for members. (Information for Members).

Time on Mission: Addressing Financial Stability

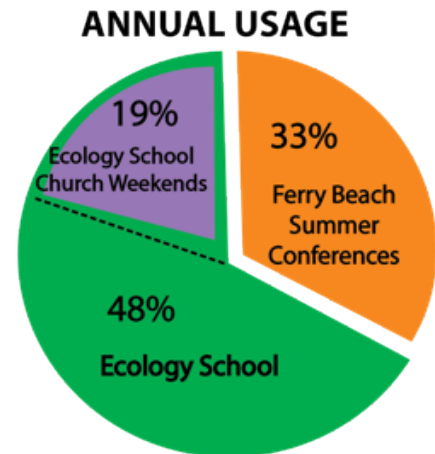
Our legacy at Ferry Beach is the universalist message of Love. Universal salvation was and still is a controversial idea in many organized religions. Yet, when you "Google" 'resurgence of universalism,' there are a lot of people and organizations sharing this inspiring spiritual truth in today's world.

Quillen Shinn was a Universalist. Raised in the southern traditions of evangelical spiritualism, Shinn brought that same fervor to his passion for Universalism. Ferry Beach was one of his most successful Universalist outposts.

While our campus is open 239 days of the year, the main work we do in service to our mission is limited to 79 days in the summer. As you can see from the charts that accompany this article, the summer conferences are a third of the available time that Ferry Beach is open and provide 60% of our resources.

Our tenant, the Ecology School occupies 114 weekdays and shares the campus on the weekends with churches and other outside groups that rent the Ferry Beach campus for an additional 46 days.

The snowy winters in Saco, Maine,
continued on the next page



239 Days of Use Available a Year

- 114 - Ecology School exclusively
- 46 - Ecology School/Church Weekends shared
- 79 - Ferry Beach Conferences exclusively

challenge us, even if all of the dormitories and sleeping spaces were winterized.

However, over the years, Ferry Beach, in part in service to our tenant, has created more and more warm spaces. A few years ago when the Metz Village was created, the three cabins and the nurses' cabins were winterized and set on foundations. The Kelly Cottage and 5 Morris are heated year round and soon, there will be spaces available in the winterized home that used to belong to Ray Hopkins. Space heaters in the dorms have been replaced by wall heaters in the hallways and in the Dolphin Room and the GAYLA Theater.

Of course, the beautiful new DeWolfe Dining Hall which is heated, allows us to think more about how we can use the small heated spaces we have in service to our mission and helps us consider how we can stretch our season.

While heating our dorms, the cabins, cottages and DeWolfe has made our campus safer, it has also made it more comfortable for our tenant and the churches on the weekends. However, it has added greatly to the cost of operating Ferry Beach in the off season.



make Quillen Shinn proud. Extending our hands and hearts to others, in service to the message of Universalism and Love is our legacy. Our opportunities await our creativity and our passion.

“Gratitude is important not only because it helps us feel good, but also because it inspires us to do good. Gratitude heals and transforms lives in a myriad of ways....Gratitude takes us outside our scope so we see ourselves as part of a larger, intricate network of sustaining relationships, relationships that are mutually reciprocal.”

--Robert Emmons, *Gratitude Works!*

Physical Plant Challenges

We heard you this summer! The back wash-houses in the Grove are seriously in need of some tender loving care! We are planning this winter/spring to do some sprucing up to both the men's and women's bathrooms. While we won't be able to make major structural changes, we will be looking at how we can best address some of the problems with the bathrooms this last summer.

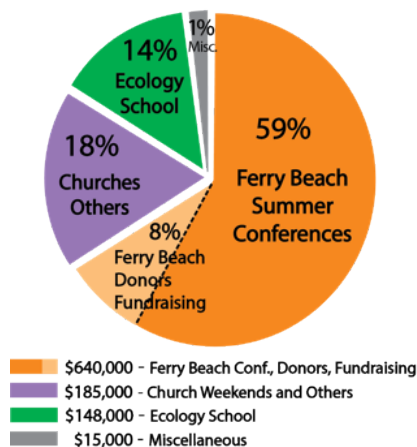
We also understand the concerns regarding the changes to the Grove campsite numbering system. Our intention was to give more space to campers and consolidate all of the trailers to one area of the Grove. We still have some improvements we will be making to campsites before campers come back to the Grove this summer.

The Rose Pavilion is also in need of serious attention, but we don't believe we will be able to get to it until at least 2015 or beyond. We are looking at what the city of Saco will allow when it comes to upgrades we would like to make on the Pavilion. Several people have stepped up to ask about the Rose Pavilion and are considering making a donation to address the problem. If we are able to do something sooner, we will let you know.

Plans for the house that belonged to Ray Hopkins are in the very infancy stages of development. We are looking at what it would take to shore up the existing home and create five small rooms with private baths in the space. We will be sharing more about this as information becomes available to us.



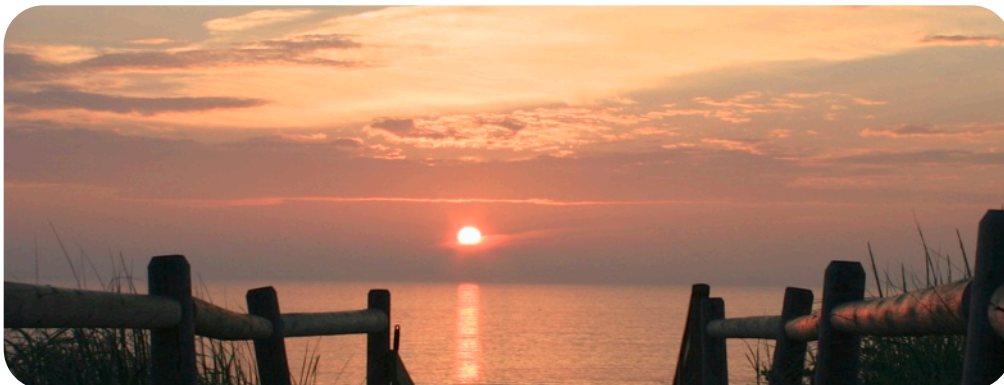
ANNUAL REVENUE



Part of the challenge we have is to think about is how we can successfully be in service to our mission and at the same time, raise enough revenue to create the kinds of programs and services that would

Summer of 2013: Do You Have a Favorite Photo to Share?

We're Looking for Photos to Share in our Next Discovery, Deadline December 30th, 2013



Do You Love Ferry Beach?

Will You Become a Sustaining Member?

We are in need of additional sustaining members to help us reach our goal of \$50,000 in sustaining memberships. We have 83 people who are providing close to \$40,000 each year as sustaining members.

What do sustainers do? It is really easy! After filling out a simple form you can find on our website, & sending it to us, you don't have to do anything! Your gift to Ferry Beach comes out of your account automatically each month.

Why do some people prefer a sustaining membership? Because they have the peace of mind knowing that each month, they are supporting their spiritual home. As one conferee shared, "Thank you Ferry Beach for preserving this great place for all of these years!"

Ferry Beach is you. Without your support, we could not preserve the 19 buildings and 32 acres on the beach. Salt, wind and sand take their toll on our buildings, not to mention winter nor'easter's and the thousands of people who come to Ferry Beach each year.

Please consider becoming a sustaining member. Your gift will continue for as long as you want it to -- providing the funds that we need to continue to take care of this jewel of a place on the beach. You can find the form on our website www.ferrybeach.org or call the office and we will send you one. 207-282-4489



Do You Have a Photo or a Story from 2013?

When the frost is on the pumpkin, or worse, when the snow is knee deep in your yard, wouldn't it be nice to share some summer fun with friends from Ferry Beach? We are looking for either transformative stories or your best moments from the summer that you captured in a picture.

We can't promise we will be able to post them all, but we would love to include some of your stories and pictures on our website and in the winter issue of Discovery. If you are a donor to Ferry Beach, please consider sharing your story of how and why you got involved in Ferry Beach.

Please send submissions to cstackpole@ferrybeach.org or you can send them snail mail to Ferry Beach, 5 Morris Avenue, Saco, Maine 04072. Deadline for submissions is December 30, 2013. Thank you so much!

Summer 2014 Tentative Schedule

June

21 - **Ferry Beach Annual Meeting** in Rowland Hall, Saturday, 11am.

22-28 - **Work Week** - An opportunity for family and friends of Ferry Beach to come an help clean, paint, garden, sew and many other projects!

28 - July 5th - **KFTE, Different Drummers, and FUUTURES**, Youth camps for children between the grades of 4 through 12.

July

5-11 - **Religious Education Week**. We welcome Reverend **Tamara Lebak** from All Souls, UU in Tulsa as minister of the week. Coming from the largest UU Church in the country, Tamara will share information about church growth. **Mark Hicks from Meadville-Lombard** will be teaching a class and several other workshops will be available for religious educators and friends.

5-11 - **Fiber Fanatics** - working with all sorts of fibers as we create beautiful pieces of art.

12-18 - **Choralfest** - Great place if you love to sing. Choir membership is not required!

12-19 - **GAYLA** - A wonderful spiritual and fun conference for gay men of all ages.

19-26 - **Intergenerational Rejuvenation and Relaxation** (formerly FFI) Workshops and activities for every member of the family!

19-26 - **Yoga Retreat** - **Anne Falkowski** returns with a fabulous opportunity for you to care for your body temple in the most relaxing and rejuvenating environment.

19-26 - **Curious Journey's - Writer's** conference with **Sam Sherman** and **Carolyn Locke**. Sam's



speciality is prose and Carolyn will share her talents and skills as a poet. Two tracks, great fun.

19-26 - **Kayaking!** Join the Fogdogs of Ferry Beach in a wonderful weeklong opportunity to explore the Maine coast. With **Marty Burgess**.

26-August 2 - **Family and Friends** a conference of diverse families of all ages coming together to play, make music, explore our natural surroundings and connect to our spiritual selves. Great young adult workshops and activities.

August

2-9 - **UUFAB** is a great place to connect with old friends, meet new people and enjoy the beauty of Ferry Beach. Every day is packed with family fun!

9-15 - **Women's Week** welcomes **Carolyn McDade**, singer, songwriter extraordinaire from Saturday evening through Monday. Amazing women's circles and activities planned throughout the week.

12-15 - **Aging as a Spiritual Practice**. Join **Nancee Campbell** and **Susan Murphy** as they share their journey of spirit and aging.

16 - **Holly Near Concert** in **GAYLA Theater**, Rowland Hall, 8pm.

16-22 - **Circle of Music** conference welcomes singer, songwriter **Holly Near** who inspires us to remember our roots and use our voices and resources to make the world a better place.

16-22 **Integrated Spiritual Pathways** welcomes sound healer and Peruvian Shaman **Pierre Garraud** for a week of spirituality and healing.

22-24 - **Weekend Getaway** - a short sampler of all the best that Ferry Beach has to offer.

23-30 - **Quilting by the Bay** - an opportunity to quilt with others in an atmosphere of support and growth. Learn new techniques and ways of completing your projects. Coordinated by **Barbara Stroup**.

22-30 - **Stepping with Grace and Gratitude** - a 12 Step Conference for anyone interested in exploring how to use the 12 steps to live a life of grace.

29 - September 1 - **Labor Day Old Fashioned Family Picnic**. Live music on Saturday from 4-8pm with **Downeast Soul Coalition**, fantastic BBQ starting at 4pm on Saturday and great games for the whole family. Workshops and other activities round out the weekend.

