

Discovery

August 2016

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1966: Ferry Beach Platform in dunes. Photo by: Constantine Karvonides



Rituals and Expanding our Community

This past summer I watched several babies here at Ferry Beach in different weeks learn how to walk. Some were just at the stage of pulling themselves up, others were already standing and then while hanging on, inching their way along a chair or a picnic table bench. Each child was learning with each step and each plop back down on their diapered bottoms.

Each conference week, I meet people coming to Ferry Beach for the first time, who soon learn the rituals here at Ferry Beach. Some are grown ups and some are little people! Every year, Ferry Beach families bring babies and toddlers. Many times those children and adults quickly catch on.

Generations of people at Ferry Beach, judging by the pictures

from the 30's and 40's and even 50's had some different rituals than we currently share. With each new generation, with each change of the shoreline, long time Ferry Beacher's have adapted and changed. Probably the biggest change and one that still garners lament from current members is the new dining hall.

It created different opportunities for us to share meals together. Someone earlier in the summer was taken aback by the round tables and wanted to know how he could get on a list to know that things like that were going to occur. Singing varies with the weeks and the weather - some conferences do a lot of singing and some very little. When the Dining Hall is hot, it seems that most people would rather be on the porch.

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Service Project & Grants

We are so honored that the American Canoe Association and L.L. Bean Stewardship Grant was awarded to us here at Ferry Beach.

The Fog Dogs, our paddling conference, led by Marty Burgess created a staging area for a paddler launch, cleaned up trash around the Saco Bay and restored the dunes.

(for more see p.2)

Creating Community

The Fog Dogs also put up signage for access point for paddlers to make it easier for everyone in the community to be able to use our special spot.

A few boards were nailed and fixed up that are on the boardwalk with the help of Steve Carpenter.

The dunes will be watched and kept up through the year as well.



Expanding our Community by Cathy Stackpole

Continued from p. 1

Of course, we also have a robust group of churches and other organizations that also use Ferry Beach space. Their weekends vary by rituals as well. And, just like our summer visitors, they too have new people in the form of babies who come to Ferry Beach for the first time and begin to add their own special energy to this beautiful place most of us who come here, call our Spiritual Home.

The legacy we have is one of welcoming and creating new communities. Those early Universalists created this place to share the message of Universal love. As humans, we struggle with change, and yet, it brings variety,

beauty and abundance. Most people, whether they are 2 or 102, after their first visit, love this place and the communities we create by all of the wonderful offerings in the spirit of our legacy.

What is a Sustaining Donor?

A Sustaining Donor is someone who gives to Ferry Beach-a donation each month to keep the programs going that they love.

Protect your spiritual home!

Call today 207-282-4489

Upcoming Important Dates for Fall and 2017

- **Fall Harvest Art Auction:** November 12th. Calling all artists! Submit your original artwork. Option to receive a percentage back if sold. We'd love to have you donate or volunteer! Contact Heather at huglielmo@ferrybeach.org or 207-282-4489
- **Annual meeting:** Early June (Possibly Sunday June 11th, 2017, TBD), 1pm. Town Hall, 11am.



Practicing Community

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much"

-Helen Keller

"The building block of every community is family"

-Paul Singer

"Community means strength that joins our strength to do the work that needs to be done. Arms to hold us when we falter. A circle of healing. A circle of friends. Someplace where we can be free." -Starhawk

What was Ferry Beach like in the 60's & 70's?

We had a chance to catch up with with a long time Ferry Beacher, Mia Karvonides from Boston and what it was like to grow up at Ferry Beach at a very young age.

Between 1964 and 1971, my parents rented a private cottage two doors down from Clafin Cottage for June, July and August. It provided a reprieve for us from the hot New York summers; my father joined us on weekends. Back then, walking out the front door, and across Surf Street was a footpath through the seagrass. The footpath first led to a weathered wooden deck and then continued down to the beach. I loved swimming in the ocean, playing in the sand and laying low in the sea grass. From the back door of the cottage there was a small back yard covered with pine needles. Today, there is a fence that separates the backyard from the playground area of the camp, back then, there was no fence.

Ray Hopkins welcomed us as part of the Ferry Beach camp. My parents became friends with him and his wife and would visit them at their home at the corner of Ferry Park Avenue and Route 9.

During the summer months, my sister, brother and I were out the back door after breakfast and traveled as a pack throughout the day. A tall swing set was located where the volleyball net is set. I still have scars on my left knee from mishaps on that swing set. Unless we were packed into the station wagon for a trip into town, we never wore anything on our feet. About where the Quillen office is now located was an ice cream stand with a window facing out onto the porch. We would get kiddie-sized ice cream cones – blackberry for me. Behind Quillen was an area for shuffle board and tether ball. What is now a basketball court was used exclusively for tennis. Throughout

the days, we played along with the campers but at lunch time, the campers went into Quillen to eat



1965- Nick (5), Mia (4) and Chris (6).
Photo by: Constantine Karvonides

and the camp became still. The three of us went to the back door of the cottage where our mother gave us a sandwich or soup and lemonade to take with us and eat under the shade of the pines.



2016- Mia, still visiting after all these years.

There used to be a barn-like structure near where Rowland is now located. In the evenings, there was singing and camp counselors playing guitars. Other times, we sat and sang outside by large bonfires either in front of that building or down on the beach. In 1968, the song 'Hey Jude' was released by the Beatles and it became the anthem of Ferry Beach at least for the remaining years that we were there. The camp counselors were mostly college students and were kind and welcoming to us. In 1970 or 1971, my favorite counselor sustained a head injury while cutting wood with an ax. I always wondered if he was ok.

At the end of August 1970, the days cooler, the campers picked up by their parents, the camp shuttered and we remained. My mother registered us for school in Saco rather than returning to the City and P.S. 116. The school bus picked us up where Ferry Park Road meets Route 9. We didn't fit in at the elementary school and the few Camp Ellis kids that rode the bus out along Route 9 let us know we didn't belong. When we were dropped off in the afternoons and walked down Ferry Park Road, the stillness was punishing. My mother also struggled with the isolation. By Thanksgiving of that year, we were pulled out of the Saco elementary school and returned to New York. We attended school in New York for the remainder of that year, returned to Ferry Beach for one more summer. We spent our last year in New York in 1971-1972 before moving into a house in Fortunes Rocks (part of Biddeford). We stayed in Biddeford until graduating high school; I would return to live in Maine when my daughter was two and stayed for another six years.

Having left Maine years earlier, I brought my teenage daughter to Ferry Beach sometime around 2002. Since then, I've probably been up as a vacationer - for periods of three to five days - for about 10 summers - one other time with my daughter but mostly on my own. As an adult, I identify as UU and have belonged to churches all over. When I go to Ferry Beach, it is my time to be quiet, to swim, to walk in the woods and to read. Over the years, I've had some great conversations with people, but mostly, I'm there to be quiet. Because of my history, Ferry Beach is a special place where I like to return. But mostly, I return for my time to be quiet in a community of people who are kind and where it feels good to be there among them.

Winter Retreats - Check out the Website for More!

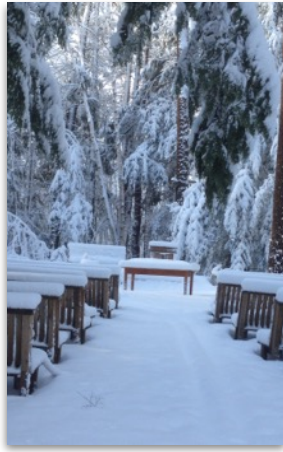
Nov. 12: (1 day) Grounding the body, Grounding the breath Workshop. How to manage demands of gravity, breath, and stresses of life.

November: Personal Retreat: Get a jump on the holidays and spend a relaxing Thanksgiving weekend at Ferry Beach.

Jan. 8-9: (1 night) New Year's Intentions and Prayer with Cathy Stackpole

Jan. 13-16: GAYLA Mid-Year Reunion

Check the website for more!
www.ferrybeach.org



Summer/Fall 2016 Conference Schedule: Our Theme is Community

August

27-Sept 2 - **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**.

28-Sept 1 - **Women's Healing Retreat**- This workshop is dedicated to releasing what weighs us down or holds us back. This will be a healing journey intertwined with Reiki, Ritual, Integrated Kabbalistic Healing, Meditation, and Yoga. Coordinated by **Jeannette Duffau**

September

5 -7 - **Labor Day Old Fashioned Family Picnic**. Live music on Saturday from 4:30-8pm with **Downeast Soul Coalition**, fantastic BBQ starting at 4pm on Saturday and great games & workshops for the whole family.

November

12 - **Fall Harvest Art Auction** - a great way to celebrate the summer! Art work from Maine, Ferry Beach and beyond! All your favorite people together

celebrating Ferry Beach and Art.

12 - **Grounding the body, Grounding the breath Workshop** - This workshop will focus on bringing you more in tune with how you manage the demands gravity, breath, and the stresses of life as it relates to posture, movement and physical habit. Facilitated by **Noah Harrison**.

****Don't forget Boston Pride Parade & Look for new & exciting [Summer 2017 Conferences](#) on the website!**

Sign Up Now at www.ferrybeach.org or call us at 207-282-4489.



Ferry Beach Fall Harvest Art Auction

Saturday November 12

We are looking for your original artwork for the auction! Would you like to donate? Know an artist that would be interested? Let us know!

Contact Heather,
hguglielmo@ferrybeach.org or
call 207-282-4489