

Discovery

thank you

Year End Giving

Thank you for your continued support of Ferry Beach! As you know, our focus in recent years has been on high priority facility needs. New roofs, plumbing, electrical and life safety systems were some important projects we tackled.

Other, more noticeable projects included the construction of the DeWolfe Dining Hall, Cross Cottage, the new board walk, and recent upgrades in the Dolphin room.

Without our dedicated members and donors we would not be able to accomplish these projects! Thank you so much!

As we approach 2020, we ask you to consider making a year end gift to Ferry Beach and support one of our current capital improvement projects:

Rowland Hall Upgrades: Help us finish the upgrades to the public spaces in Rowland Hall, we are over half way there! Learn about what we have already accomplished and see what's left to do at ferrybeach.org/theater

Facility Accessibility Improvements: Contribute towards our goal to raise \$71,000 to fix some of the challenge areas we have on campus for those with mobility issues. See our plans at ferrybeach.org/accessibility

To donate, visit ferrybeach.org/capital-projects, call our office at 207-282-4489 x1, or mail a check to 5 Morris Ave, Saco, ME 04072 (be sure to indicate which project you support!) Thank you for being love in action.

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AND MORE!



UUFAF is now "Circles of Life"

We are thrilled to announce that our beloved family camp, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and Fun (UUFAF) has selected a new name to better express their identity and encourage growth. Years of declining numbers has encouraged the conference leadership to look at some ways of expanding and become more inclusive to those who wish to share in the experience of Ferry Beach family camps!

The new name for Unitarian Universalist Fellowship & Fun (UUFAF) is "Circles of Life!"

Circles of Life welcomes families of all kinds - with and without kids. Teens, singles, elders, young adults - however you identify and define yourself are welcome!

Like other Ferry Beach family camps, a day at Circles of Life begins with a 20-minute morning chapel led by our minister of the week accompanied by a pick-up choir led by our musician of the week.

This year's theme speaker is Rabbi Rami Shapiro. He will explore Joy in its many dimensions in our lives. Rabbi Rami calls himself a "Holy Rascal." His life as an interspiritual leader includes deep elements of Judaism, Buddhism, Mysticism, Humanism and Unitarian Universalism.

Morning workshops will feature ukeleles, book binding, political discussions with a liberal religious perspective and other opportunities for active and quiet interactions. Morning children's workshops will be available for those 3 and up.

Afternoons are filled with intergenerational activities such as time on the beach (sand castle contest), yoga, art, spiritual discussion and whatever else pops up.

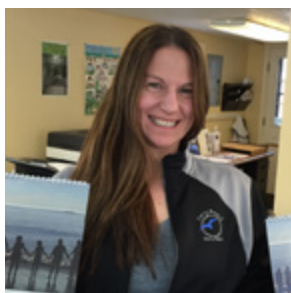
Evenings include friendship circles, campfires, the legendary sing-down, coffee house, talent show, and of course dancing!

UUFAF - Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and Fun - has now joined the ranks of our other historical names (CVD and CBD). Conference leadership has chosen the new name to more accurately reflect the nature of this welcoming and inclusive conference. Circles of Life will continue to focus on our Unitarian Universalist heritage, but the goal of having FUN remains at the heart of the conference!

We invite you to learn more about Circles of Life at ferrybeach.org/circles

Online registration available starting January 2nd - however you can call **207-282-4489 x1** and someone from our registration team will gladly help you today!





Sally Ring Accepts a New Opportunity

With a smile, a flourish and serious determination, Sally Ring sorted out what had previously been a challenging process of registration at Ferry Beach. We are grateful for the over four years that she has been the voice on the phone when you called Ferry Beach, our registrar when you wanted to sign up for a conference and the behind the scenes organizer in making it all work together.



We appreciate all the time Sally has devoted to Ferry Beach and has given to our conferees. She always has a kind word for everyone and even though you may not get exactly the room you wanted because it wasn't available, Sally made you feel welcomed and appreciated. She was always quick to ask about your family, your health and anything else that might be going on in your life from summer to summer.



As Executive Director, many people would ask me (following in the past traditions at Ferry Beach) to see if they could get a better deal by talking with the person in charge. That person was Sally! She was able to create a set of norms and values that supported everyone while also following the policies of compensation we set in place for volunteer staff for conferences. She has always been the one to hold our feet to the fire when it comes to making sure that everyone was a member and that everyone was treated justly. Sally has been a wonderful asset to our organization these past four years, in so many ways.



Sally Ring is going to become a volunteer coordinator for a hospice organization and we wish her great success. She starts her new job in January and will work a few more weeks into the new year with our current registration staff. Sally brought a great deal of joy to Ferry Beach (our theme this summer) and we are sad to see her go - but wish her much success on her new journey!

Looking for Leadership

Ferry Beach would like to grow its volunteer leadership team. We have positions on the board, heading up task forces, providing support for fundraising activities, governance, and finance. We also have volunteer leadership positions in the operations area as well: registration, program, local activities, special events, fund development activities, marketing and more!

If you are already a Beach Keeper, thank you! As a Beach Keeper, if you want to learn more about these opportunities, give us a call. If you would like to join our volunteer corps there are many ways to contribute and work with us. We are particularly looking for people who are within driving distance of Ferry Beach and would like to be available when we have events on the campus.

Not sure what you would like to do? Give Cathy Stackpole a call and we can discuss the options. Cathy can be reached at **207-282-4489 x5**.

We all like to make dreams come true, don't we?

Marty Burgess, Board President

Is there a project on campus that you want to see happen? Do you want a larger art room, a set of beautiful new showers in the Grove? How will you help to make it happen? Does your vision have Rowland insulated and ready for all season activities? Do you see in your mind's eye a fully accessible campus? Do your predictions for the future include a really cool four season multipurpose space at Ferry Beach?

Make your vision possible with an end of year donation! Join the more than 75 sustaining donors. Become a beach keeper this year! The financial support you provide makes our future predictable and attainable. We all benefit and appreciate everyone's continued support promoting the legacy of our beloved community, Ferry Beach.

I am very grateful and appreciate those who have committed their time and treasure well before my time, allowing me to do the same for our shared future. Join me as we collectively maintain our campus and virtual presence, providing the opportunity to demonstrate Love in Action.

Big Thank You to the Ferry Beach Board who came together and provide a group donation to purchase a new vehicle in place of the very old all-terrain vehicle we had. Our maintenance staff is very grateful to all of you as it makes snow removal, picnic table moving and many other projects, so much easier.



Ferry Beach Retreat & Conference Center is hosting a three part dinner & lecture series focusing on Democracy and Authoritarianism in America. Listen to a few regional experts discuss the Constitution and democracy and share their viewpoints. The 45-minute scholarly presentations on current event topics will provide attendees with an opportunity for questions and dialogue in a relaxed atmosphere.

- January 22: Rebuilding Trust in the Current Environment
- March 4: Authoritarianism and Democracy Abroad and At Home
- March 25: The Impact of an Active Civic Life in Dangerous Times

Our Speakers:



James Cook, Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Maine at Augusta



Jeanne Hey, PhD, Professor of Political Science, Dean Emerita, College of Arts and Sciences, University of New England

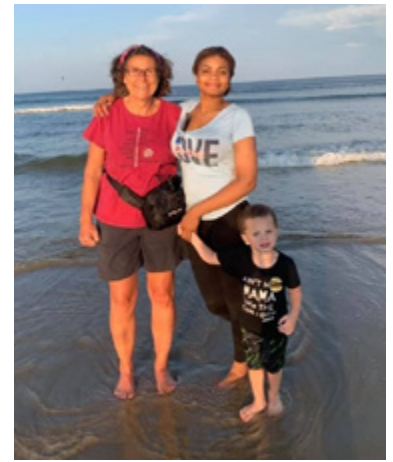
The three part series will take place from 5:30-8:00 pm on January 22nd, March 4th and March 25th in the DeWolfe Dining Hall at 7 Morris Ave, Saco, ME. Each event will be paired with light appetizers, networking, a cash bar and a fabulous buffet-style meal including dessert. Tickets are \$15 or all three for \$40. More information and registration online at ferrybeach.org/democracy or call 207-282-4489 x1

Grandmother Magic

Cathy Stackpole, Executive Director

So many incredible moments happen at Ferry Beach when we join with one another. Support of Ferry Beach makes this all possible, week after week, day after day, moment after moment, throughout the years. Family & Friends will celebrate 50 years as a conference this year. Here is just one example of its magic.

When I looked up from the sand, helping my 2-year-old grandson fill up and empty his pail, there were a group of older women surrounding us. "Oh Cathy, who is this?" "Oh my goodness, is this your grandson?" "Hey, this is Cathy's grandson!" "He is so cute, look at him, Mary, come over here and meet Cathy's grandson."



As I stood up, I felt surrounded by the love of the women of this conference, who had greeted grandchildren of their own families and many more of their hearts. They formed a circle around us. A "rite of passage" was happening and I was the grateful recipient. I stood up to join their circle as we all surrounded my grandson.

Like other mothers in family conferences down through the years at Ferry Beach, I traveled a long road to get to this place. Like other mothers, our daughters may have disowned us for a while, like other mothers there may have been nights we lay awake wondering if she was safe. Like other mothers, early on, math homework led to tears, sometimes shouting, sometimes a math book catapulting on to the floor. Like other mothers, the daughter we cradled as a child no longer fit in our arms, and we had to let her go.

Like other grandmothers, we soothed our daughters with teary quiet words over the phone, "it will get better." "You are so strong, you can do this." Like other grandmothers, we reached out with whatever support we had available to us. "I will be over in a minute." "I will send you money in the mail." "Let me call around to see who I know who could give us the answer."

Standing on the beach, as other grandchildren toddled up to play together, we were mothers and grandmothers cooing at little ones in the sand. Our shared experiences were unspoken, yet even today, my heart is full recalling the moment when I became part of that sacred circle.



It's Time for your Family to Unplug!

Are your family members glued to their devices? Do you find it difficult to get your children to participate in interactive activities or play outside? We invite you to unplug your devices and connect with nature in a highly interactive family camp this summer! Join us July 18-22 for a brand new camp, IRL (In Real Life) Family Camp.

Mornings will be filled with multigenerational nature discovery activities and afternoons will provide opportunities to participate in organized games and relaxation on the beach. Disconnect for a few days and get back to "Real Life"

Activities based on Richard Lourv's book "Last Child in the Woods" including: Family art journaling, singing, forest bathing, tide pool exploration, star gazing, bird identification, campfires, foraging and playing with found objects.

Learn more and register at ferrybeach.org/irl



Discovery

DECEMBER 2019



Hogwarts has just opened a new campus: Ferry Beach in Saco, Maine! Do you want to be a member of the very first class? Orientation begins April 18th, 2020. Bring your family and explore your options, engaging in Hogwarts curriculum and social activities for five whole days. What destiny will the sorting hat choose for you? Spend time in the Dark Arts creating uniforms and casting spells to enhance your team's performance in the Quidditch tournament. Learn how the local flora and fauna can be utilized in the magic of herbology, and how in turn, your skills in herbology can benefit the environment. Practice transfiguration using a variety of magical materials, using them to enhance the developing campus. Show off your potion making skills and add to your potion recipe book. Discover your patronus and learn how to draw strength from channeling such a powerful spirit animal. And finally, celebrate your first weeks' accomplishments with your fellow wizards, witches, and families at the concluding party. Your owl-delivered acceptance letter awaits! Bring your family April 18-22, 2020 and explore your options engaging in Hogwarts curriculum and social activities during the spring school vacation week.

Learn more at ferrybeach.org/hogwarts

SUMMER AT FERRY BEACH

enriching & engaging retreats on the sandy southern maine coast

ADULT RETREATS
Explore a craft, learn a skill, meditate, play, hike, relax on the beach, share conversations with other adults, write, take photographs, join a support group, quilt and much more. Make new friends or come with a group. Adult weeks are packed with fun, friends and a variety of content. Come with a friend, a partner, or escape by yourself. You will always feel welcome at Ferry Beach.

PADDLE POWER
ADULT

YOGA
ADULT

FAMILY CAMPS
Ferry Beach is the perfect venue for the parents/caregivers who want to be with their whole family for vacation but don't want to cook, clean or be the social director all week! With the beach in one direction, the dining hall in the other, and age appropriate activities for every family member, all the ingredients for a fabulous time are here. Ferry Beach offers the best in family getaways. We are an open and affirming community and welcome all families!!

GAYLA
ADULT

CIRCLE OF MUSIC
ADULT

IN REAL LIFE
FAMILY

FAMILY & FRIENDS
FAMILY

CHORAL FEST
ADULT

COMPANY OF WOMEN
ADULT

THE WELL
FAMILY

CIRCLES OF LIFE
FAMILY

RE WEEK
FAMILY

YOUTH CAMPS
In the summer, Ferry Beach is a place where kids discover, explore, and take action. The southern coast of Maine is alive with life's transformations and a wonderful place to grow and change. Children entering 4th through 12th grades share the campus in three age appropriate camps organized by volunteer leaders, many of whom are parents, teachers, religious educators, and other kid-friendly supporters. All of our staff must pass a robust background check!
LGBTQ+ affirming.

FUTURES
YOUTH ENTERING GRADES 10-12

KFTE
YOUTH ENTERING GRADES 4-6

DIFFERENT DRUMMERS
YOUTH ENTERING GRADES 7-9

HAVE YOU BOOKED YET?

ferrybeach.org/schedule