

Discovery

Why Be a Member of Ferry Beach?

by Cathy Stackpole

1 REASON ONE TO BECOME A MEMBER AT FERRY BEACH
 FERRYBEACH.ORG/MEMBERSHIP

our work and mission

As you may know, the mission of Ferry Beach is to awaken hearts to explore, grow and renew the spirit of universal love. We will accomplish our mission by providing programming in the following areas: education, culture and the arts, spirituality, sustainability, personal growth and social justice and action. If that mission makes sense to you and it is one you want to get behind, then this is reason number one to be a member of Ferry Beach.

All of our membership dues are poured back into our physical space. In the past 8 years we have replaced almost all of the roofs on all buildings, replaced most of our plumbing with commercial grade fixtures, rebuilt the Pavilion in the Grove, added a new ADA boardwalk, repainted and repaired all of the rooms in all of the dormitories, added heat pumps to several areas including the Rowland auditorium and break out rooms. We have also redone most of the electrical work in the Grove and are in the process of winterizing Rowland Hall. We have made the campus safer by removing the Quillen Annex which was in disrepair and shored up the Dolphin room with a new floor and several new windows and a door. If you use our space, and like things in working order, then you have reason number two to be a member of Ferry Beach!

Ferry Beach creates safe space for people who may be marginalized or discounted in our culture. We have a long running spiritual conference for gay men. Families with children who struggle with mental health issues are welcome here. This past year we have added new conferences and workshops. A couple of writing workshops focus on

ANNUAL MEETING May 2, 2020, 2:00 PM

More Info Online:

ferrybeach.org/annualmeeting
 or see Page 5 for Details

IN THIS DISCOVERY

- ① - ③ Why be a Member?
- ③ - ④ Nominating Committee Report
- ④ COVID-19
- ⑤ Letter to Sustainers & Annual Meeting

2 REASON TWO TO BECOME A MEMBER AT FERRY BEACH
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our ever improving facility

3 REASON THREE TO BECOME A MEMBER AT FERRY BEACH
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our programing for marginalized communities

how to connect with the love that we are, shared by a practitioner of the Course in Miracles. A black women’s writer’s group found its home here. Our conference for families of color, called The Well occurs in July. A conference to help families break away from screen time and connect to the woods, will debut this summer (IRL or In Real Life). If you want to take a stand and support conferences like this, then you have reason number three to be a member of Ferry Beach.

Not all not for profit organizations can find venues that fit with their values. OutMaine, Audubon Society, Al Anon, Equality Maine, Gather the Women and several other organizations have found a home at Ferry Beach. If you believe that all not for profits should have venues that align with their values of inclusion and diversity, then you

have reason number four to be a member of Ferry Beach.

Youth camps which are open and affirming to the struggles of adolescence are sometimes easy to envision and harder to implement. Fourth and fifth graders who are just coming into their own voices find our summer camps a place where they can practice their new-found independence. Middle school youth struggle with “now that they have found their voice” what do they really want to say? Our youth camps

provide them an opportunity to design and build their own ways of expression through video, art and other mediums. High school youth are gently guided in our summer camps in discussion and activities that help them navigate the freedoms they are experiencing as teens growing into adulthood. If you believe in the work we are doing through our youth camps, then you have reason number five to be a member of Ferry Beach.

5 REASON FIVE TO BECOME A MEMBER AT FERRY BEACH
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our guidance for youth

Each spring or early summer, Ferry Beach brings together our members to elect new volunteers to the board, review and sometimes change our by-laws and participate in a Town Hall meeting about the work of Ferry Beach. Ferry Beach is organized as a member organization. Some not for profits are organized as a self-perpetuating board, but not Ferry Beach. If you enjoy being a part of a dynamic democratic institution that wants to make the world a more loving place, then you have reason number six to be a member of Ferry Beach.

At Ferry Beach, we are practicing radical hospitality, welcoming

4 REASON FOUR TO BECOME A MEMBER AT FERRY BEACH
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our relationships with aligned non-profits

6 REASON SIX TO BECOME A MEMBER AT FERRY BEACH
FERRYBEACH.ORG/MEMBERSHIP



our democracy driven organization

the “other” whether that be a person, an idea, or a concept. We are committed to safe space where dialogue is encouraged and community is treasured. Sometimes our efforts fall short of their intention, but by practicing radical welcome, we are learning to hear. If that is a commitment you make to yourself about the world in which you live, then you have reason number seven to become a member.

Do you love the sun, good coffee, loving conversations, long sandy beaches and midnight walks on the beach? Do you love the tall trees and the smell of salty sea air and pine trees in the morning? Do you enjoy getting to know new people, sharing songs around a campfire or around a table with a new friend? Do you like learning new skills or sharing dialogue about a topic you are just learning? Do you like to laugh and share your talents with others? The amount of “yes’s” you just answered, gives you more reasons to be a member of Ferry Beach.

Sign up or renew today! ferrybeach.org/membership

Nominating Committee Report to Board

March 18, 2020

To the Board of Directors of Ferry Beach:

The Nominating Committee has determined the following: three members have terms which end at the Annual Meeting in May 2020. They are Jessie Washington (served 1 three-year term) Cyd Melcher (served the remainder of a term and has had a long history on the board) and Ron Willet (served 1 three-year term as Secretary). Our by-laws state that we allow two, 3 year terms by election as a director or two-3 year terms as an officer.

The Nominating Committee does not need to put forth three of the four-officer positions as they are within their three-year term. We put forth in Nomination for the Secretary of the Board of Directors:



Ron Willet, Secretary

Ron grew up in central Texas and moved to Washington, DC as a young man after law school. He says the general practice of law and life as a Gay man in a homophobic culture were two things that did not suit him. Ron held various positions in the US Dept. of Labor during his 30-year career in the Federal government in DC. He retired in 2010 and moved to Lowell, MA where he now lives with his spouse, Bill. Ron and Bill are both Ferry Beach Life Members and active participants in GAYLA.

Ron is a facilitator/teacher of Sacred Circle Dance (which he learned about at FB), and has been active in 12-step recovery for 25 years. He was among the founders of the Triangle Club in Washington, a non-profit meeting space for Gay/Lesbian groups of 12-step fellowships, and served on the Club’s initial Board of Directors for a few years, acting as Secretary during part of that time. Ron has also served on the Board of the Dept. of Labor Fitness Assn., including time as Secretary, and on the Session (governing body) of a Presbyterian church in Washington.

We nominate the following candidates for director positions on the board:

Meghan Chan works in technology managing software development and project implementations. She has been attending The Family & Friends week since she was 5 and stepped into leading children’s workshops and as a program coordinator in her early 20s.



Meghan graduated from Cornell University in 1998 and received her MBA from Babson College in 2004. She has 2 young daughters who are lifelong Ferry Beachers and hopes we can help the Beach continue to be a spiritual retreat that they can enjoy throughout their lives.



Pamela Emery (Pam), a resident of Old Orchard Beach, Maine where she and her husband have built their retirement home. She has spent the last 3 summers at Ferry Beach with her grandchildren. She has been a member of a number of UU churches most recently at the Unitarian Church of Barnstable MA. She loves coming to Ferry Beach, is enthusiastic and wants to participate in the future of Ferry Beach. She also knows a lot of local people and is willing to connect them to Ferry Beach.

Alan Shepard has been a resident of Maine for most of his life, but recently moved to Camp Ellis three years ago. He is a real estate attorney with a practice in Kennebunk for over 35 years. He has been on many Boards in the area, and is currently on the board for the Ogunquit Museum of American Art. He is also a member of the Town of Saco river committee. He loves to fly fish and kayak which brought him to the area.



For the Nominating Committee position open, we nominate:



Kathleen Dziadzio is on the board. She was a member of the Shoreline Commission for the City of Saco and served as Secretary for the commission. Professionally, she was a High School mathematics teacher and then joined the business community selling engineered products. These included low voltage electronic systems (fire and theft detection) which required her familiarity with life safety codes and NFPA requirements. She finished her career as a member of a team designing and installing storm water treatment systems. Kathleen has lived in the Saco area much of her life originally as a summer resident and for the past 30+ years, year-round.

Respectfully Submitted:

Claudia Sienko, Chair, Nominating Committee

COVID-19

As you know, our world is facing a crisis in COVID-19. As the world-wide health professionals address this issue, we are paying close attention. We are also assessing what are the best ways that we can do our part to keep our communities safe. We are following the State of Maine's CDC and the Federal CDC recommendations and encouraging our staff & guests to make good decisions on hygiene by reminding them about frequent hand washing, not touching their faces, not holding hands, coughing/sneezing into a tissue or the crook of their arm and staying home if sick or believe you may have been exposed. You will notice more signs on campus this year to remind guests to wash your hands. We are changing the way we will be serving food in the dining hall. At Ferry Beach we follow the ServSafe guidelines and are careful to wash down surfaces with a germicide cleaning solution. We regularly wash down all doorknobs, light switches and other high-touch surfaces with approved disinfectants.

Stay up to date with Ferry Beach's response to COVID-19 at ferrybeach.org/COVID-19

Government resources we are following:

Maine CDC: maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc

Federal CDC: cdc.gov

Sustaining Donors

We have a great deal of gratitude for our sustaining donors. We are in the midst of a transition year, as you know, creating a model to be open and available throughout the year at a different capacity than our summer season. So far, we have begun to attract new organizations and families to our lodging and have been mildly successful with our community-based series of workshops and activities including a series on democracy, cooking classes and special events. All of these activities are connecting us to a large population of people in and surrounding the Saco-Biddeford community.

In the past, our sustaining donors played a critical role in our financial stability as we have worked on some major projects around campus including the replacement of many of our buildings roofs, life-safety improvements to our buildings, recovering from debt due to the construction of the dining hall as well as many other facility improvements through out the last several years.

The COVID-19 virus may impact the retreat and lodging industry in the near future. Our full season doesn't really get going until June, however we do have a few conferences booked in May and also weekend retreats in April-May and early June.

We are taking steps to assure the safety of all of our guests to the best that any public space is able. We regularly wipe down frequently touched surfaces and we will be alerting our guests that if they are sick, or believe they have been exposed to the virus to stay home. We believe in the power of working together as a community to assure the safety of all of our guests.

Your gifts have been a tremendous help as we navigate this transition period. Now we face another bump in the road: COVID-19 (or coronavirus.) Should this be a time when you can increase your gift, even by \$5 a month, would be a great help to us. And if you are not yet a Sustaining Donor, and you are able to help out, we ask that you consider making a recurring gift as we navigate through this uncertain time.

I just increased my monthly gift and I have asked our board to do the same. Thanks for your faith in us and in the work that we are doing to awaken hearts to explore, grow and renew the spirit of universal love.

Stay safe my friends,

Cathy

ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 2

Join us May 1 & 2 for the Annual Meeting weekend

Friday May 1st

7:30 PM Opening Reception
Discounted Overnight Lodging

Saturday May 2nd

10 AM Workshops Offered Ferry Beach Conferences
11 AM Workshops Repeat
12 PM Lunch
1 PM Town Hall
2 PM Annual Meeting
2:45 PM Ice Cream Social

More Info Online:

ferrybeach.org/annualmeeting



New This Year!

Family & Friends, GAYLA, Sacred Circle Dance, Paddle Power, and the Beach Getaway conferences will be offering sampler workshops and activities for attendees of the Annual Meeting weekend. Experience a new Ferry Beach activity you may not have in your own conference. Join us for this fun day and let your voice be heard at the annual meeting!

Discovery

MARCH 2020



#SummerOfJoy

Read our newest blog article "Let's Look Forward to the Summer of Joy!" at blog.ferrybeach.org

In the spirit of bringing forth last summer's energy of hope amid our current global health crisis - we thought it would be fun for our community to share favorite photos from summer's past so that we may imagine and look forward to our summer of joy. Send photos to photos@ferrybeach.org or use the [#summerofjoy](https://www.instagram.com/summerofjoy) hashtag on social media.



Did you make your reservations yet?

Many programs are already filling up for next summer - so if you have a favorite spot, reserve it now! 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!

- 6/12-21 Profound Treasury
- 6/21-7/4 Youth Camps
- 7/4-10 RE Week
- 7/11-18 GAYLA
- 7/11-17 ChoralFest
- 7/18-22 In Real Life Family Camp
- 7/22-25 The Well
- 7/25-8/1 Family & Friends
- 8/1-8 Circles of Life - Yoga - Paddle
- 8/8-14 Circle of Music
- 8/8-14 Company of Women
- 8/16-21 Sacred Circle Dance
- 8/16-21 Women's Healing
- 8/17-21 Soul Path Renewal
- 8/22-24 Beach Getaway
- 8/22-26 Finding Hope
- 8/22-28 Quilting by the Bay
- 9/4-7 Labor Day Weekend

See our year round schedule at ferrybeach.org/schedule