

# Discovery

## One Small Act of Kindness

*"Ferry Beach awakens hearts to explore, grow and renew the spirit of universal love."*

For over 120 years, Ferry Beach has been here, encouraging communities of people to explore what it means to practice love and radical hospitality. We are more than a place on the beach. Conferences and workshops have been exploring what a loving community might look like in almost every event that has ever been held here. For the last few years, we have added online classes as well.

The violent assault on our nation's capital reminds us of the importance of our mission. We must all re-commit to awakening hearts in a time of trouble and strife. It is easy to condemn violence from the safety of our social media and from within our own social bubble.

Ferry Beach will continue to look for ways that we can encourage dialogue and practice radical hospitality and radical welcome. By this we mean: welcoming the other, welcoming the stranger. This stranger could come in the form of another human being, a group, an idea, or a critique. We seek to promote across our communities an openness to learn about, understand, and potentially being changed by the other. We believe this leads to collaborative and effective efforts to nurture peace, nonviolence and social justice.

We encourage you to consider small acts of compassion and kindness. We know that the task before us seems overwhelming, but it begins with one act, then another. Reach out to someone today, help someone. Make sure no one in your neighborhood is lonely or hungry. One step. Every day.

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**AND MORE!**



We are looking for musicians, artists, writers, poets, spiritualists, historians and more to help us fulfill our mission. The world as we know it may be different, but as we all spend more time isolated from others, it is a great time to host a fun online class! Learn more at [ferrybeach.org/go-online](http://ferrybeach.org/go-online)

### Don't have anything you can lead online?

No worries! Plan on joining an online workshop instead. We have a growing number of online workshops in a variety of topics. See what we have coming up at [ferrybeach.org/schedule](http://ferrybeach.org/schedule)

*Nice job! This team is just doing an amazing job. A huge thank you.*

*Thank you for all you are doing at Ferry Beach. There is less staff and the rooms and areas are cleaner than ever before. Great job taking on all this extra work with less staff!*

*The Ferry Beach staff team did an amazing job adapting and navigating the challenges brought on by COVID.*

*The Ferry Beach staff did a great job making them feel safe and protected.*

*Thanks to the Ferry Beach staff. They have worked tirelessly to support our virtual time together.*

## Creative Staff, Visionary Board

Our board at Ferry Beach has done a great job staying connected to the catastrophic challenges that have befallen Ferry Beach specifically in this pandemic. A Sustainability Task force of board, staff and conferees, guided our initial responses to the pandemic. As we write this, the board is preparing for the annual retreat in January where we take stock of the previous year and make plans for the new one. Annually, good boards evaluate their own performance along with the Executive Director's performance. That is also happening right now.

Boards of not for profits have to oversee a variety of issues. The good ones, entrust their Executive Director with the day to day operations and keep close ties for when they are needed. Their role is to choose the right leader and then focus on the policy that guides the organization in good times and challenging ones. Of course, in times like these, good boards help guide responses to unforeseen obstacles.

In all crises there are blessings. The bare bones staff (4 full time and 3 part time people) have not only re-invented the off season at the Beach, they are also building new revenue streams while supporting people in our local communities. When we are able to return to the core business of in-person conferences, we will be that much stronger through our diversity. Plans are being made for our summer season, alongside programming that will occur in person as well as on-line in the coming months. We are meeting with coordinators of summer conferences as well as church group coordinators as the latter are also making plans to come in the spring this year.

We added a take-out component to our food service that is doing well and keeping our community members engaged in Ferry Beach. In November we partnered with Age Friendly Saco to feed 300 people a Thanksgiving dinner. We have added many on-line classes which are popular. Small groups and activities are still occurring on campus. Our local school district met here when they could not in their own buildings; we housed medical staff and local police who needed to quarantine and a Girl Scout troop had their meetings here.

Of course, there are always facilities needs to attend including preparations for ice storms and other challenges by removing trees, repurposing a generator and keeping an eye on roofs. The Rowland roof was replaced in November.

We are also requesting your help as a member of our community, to share with us your ideas for our upcoming summer themes. We have surveyed members who live within an hour's drive to share with us their ideas for programming and have begun to line up some fun and innovative new programming for the spring and summer.

We are launching our first ever membership drive in January and February of this year. Our goal is 550 annual members who we hope will also consider how they can help support the mission of Ferry

*You are doing a great job. I can't imagine how this summer is going with so little staff and all the changes. I know my job has been twice as much work for 1/2 the services. Thanks for all your work!*

*Thanks so much for all you do to keep us safe.*

*Kudos to you all for a great two nights of conference so far*

*I appreciate that the dining hall staff have put in so much effort and gone the extra mile to keep us safe and welcome.*

*The food has been great this summer, it's scaled back but the quality and attention to detail has been great!*

*We are so happy you're offering take out, it gives us a break from cooking while supporting the Ferry Beach mission.*

*Thank you to Ferry Beach and all who made this Gayla the wonderful event that it was. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.*

*You guys are the hero's of this summer! We hope that next year will bring a more normal experience for everyone and are truly grateful for what you have done to help get us there.*

*The food service team went beyond our expectations with safety measures & quality!*

*Thank you so much for everything you have done for us! Your dedication has not got unnoticed!*

*Thank you to the entire Ferry Beach team for helping us pull off our conference this year. We couldn't have done it with out your support & encouragement.*

*Thank you! I appreciate all of your support and attention to details*

*Thank you so much to the Ferry Beach Staff team. Do you guys ever sleep????*

*Thank you so much for the tour of your wonderful facility. It really is a beautiful site and you were a very gracious host.*

*Thank you to everyone for stepping up and making things work in this crazy time! Love you all!*

Beach with their time, talent and additional treasure. We had lots of thank you letters to send in the last month and we are so grateful to all of you who have continued to support the Beach as we deepen our commitment to our membership and our mission.

In our most recent survey of members, someone shared that we should lay off all of the staff and wait for the pandemic to pass. The board and the staff of Ferry Beach are committed to our mission and to the sustainability of our organization. Laying off staff would be counter to the goal of sustainability of Ferry Beach. This pandemic has given us an opportunity to see the silver lining and add to our ability to share our mission with the world. Because of a creative and courageous staff and a supportive and visionary board, we are doing just that.

*It was such a pleasure to sing and be with people, even on screen, during this stressful time. ... It was very nice to meet you. Thank you for all you do for Ferry Beach*

*I am really appreciative of the role Ferry Beach plays as a community resource, and I hope that we can stay in touch in some way in the future. Working with you has been such a pleasure!*

*Good to hear that you are in good health despite all the COVID distractions.*

*Thank you! I appreciate all of your support and attention to details*

*I hope Ferry Beach knows how lucky they are to have you*

*You are a dream! Thank you so much for your help.*

*I can't thank you enough for showing up for every little detail. People really noticed.*

## Force for Good

Anytime there are calls for unity without accountability ongoing conflict goes underground and remains deep within the psyche of our relationships, our communities and it seems our nation. The horrible treatment of people on this continent starting with the colonization of native peoples and continuing with slavery and the brutality of Jim Crow are embedded and just beneath the surface of our current actions, institutions and behaviors. We can pretend that we live in a world that works for all people, but that is just not true.

In families, couples, friendship groups, neighborhoods and organizations, relationships are often strained or torn apart by conflicts that were never resolved. They tear away at the very foundation of healthy dialogue and interactions. Often these conflicts surface sometime later with increased sadness and pain.

The insidiousness of our national history, coupled with misogyny that is more ancient than any other form of oppression is illustrated here:

In the United States, Black babies die at three times the rate of white newborns during their initial hospital stays, according to a peer-reviewed study published Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. But when Black doctors cared for Black babies, their mortality rate was cut in half. (USA Today, August 19, 2020)

32% of the US population is represented by African Americans and Hispanics, compared to 56% of the US incarcerated population being represented by African Americans and Hispanics. (NAACP website, January 2021)

Black women represent 30% of all incarcerated women in the U.S., although they represent 13% of the female population generally. (ACLU)

Hispanic women represent 16% of incarcerated women, although they make up only 11% of all women in the U.S. (ACLU)

In North America since Europeans landed on the continent, violence and disease killed 90% of the indigenous population — nearly 55 million people — according to a study published this year. (2019) Diseases like smallpox,

## How can Ferry Beach use its mission to be a force for good?

Join us at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, February 16th for a 90 minute discussion about how Ferry Beach should meet the challenges facing us as a nation. In the 1930's Ferry Beach members held several conferences on the challenges facing the world and whether the USA should get involved in the second world war. The pandemic, the fracture of communities and the role propaganda has played in our current state of affairs will all be on the table. How can Ferry Beach use its mission to be a force for good in our world?



measles, and influenza, which colonizers brought to the Americas, were responsible for many millions of deaths. (Business Insider, 2019)

It is past the time for us as awakening people to step up. However, we often feel overwhelmed by what we now see before us. Where to start?

“Accountability is divisive,” (Janelle Bouie, NY Times, Opinion, 1-12-2021) said NY Times Columnist Janelle Bouie. He and others in the public sphere point out the challenge of telling the truth. But whether it be an organization, a relationship, a neighborhood or a nation, speaking the truth and facing those challenges are critical to healing.

A few years ago, Ferry Beach sponsored a healing ritual for persons who felt harmed by someone at Ferry Beach or by Ferry Beach in the form of a person or policy. It was sparsely attended but for the people who did, they felt healed and renewed. For Ferry Beach board members who attended, it felt equally freeing.

The Board at Ferry Beach adopted in 2013 and has continued it as we faced the challenges of keeping a long- term tenant, giving away lots of comps each summer and paying off a long-term debt. We also affirmed right relationships at the same time. As an organization, we committed to being transparent. By truth-telling, to ourselves and to each other, we were able to see clearly what we needed to do. There were many people unhappy with that truth, and we still have much work to do to heal our community, but we have taken steps.

As Loretta Ross, black, pro-choice activist shares, we must resist the call out culture and begin to call people in to conversations that are hard. She also reminds us that we need to begin where we live, with situations that are close to us. “Don’t start by trying to flip a Klansman.”

What about in your family, relationship, neighborhood, community? Are there thoughts you hold in mind that come up every now and then that need to be resolved? What would it take for you to have a conversation with someone that either you have wronged or you feel had treated you uncomfortably?

This spring, Ferry Beach will be looking for people who would like to facilitate online or in person this summer, conversations of consequence as we all explore ways that we can commit to awakening our hearts to grow and renew the spirit of universal love. Our country feels fractured by fear. We have an opportunity to use our resources in the service to our mission.

# What is your reason to be a member at Ferry Beach?

Membership is so much more than coming to your conference or program. Membership helps sustain Ferry Beach with funds going towards our physical space and with voices participating in our democracy.

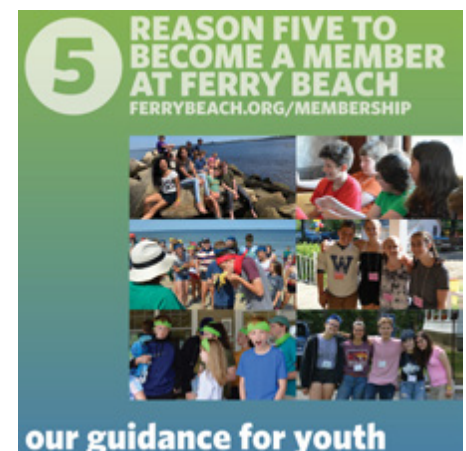
We are asking our members to renew their membership for 2021 this month. If you didn't come to Ferry Beach last year because of COVID-19 and did not get a membership, we are asking you provide a donation in lieu of your membership for 2020.

Ferry Beach relies on the income from memberships to perform our mission based work and keep up with maintenance and repairs to our beautiful facility. We have come up with 7 reasons why you should be a member of Ferry Beach:

- ① our work and mission
- ② our ever improving facility
- ③ our programing for those in marginalized communities
- ④ our relationships with aligned non-profits
- ⑤ our guidance for youth
- ⑥ our democracy driven organization
- ⑦ our welcomeness to the "other"

Explore the 7 reasons why you should be a member at Ferry Beach, donate your 2020 membership and renew your membership for 2021 at [ferrybeach.org/7-reasons](https://ferrybeach.org/7-reasons)

**NEW in 2021!** In addition to purchasing an annual membership for the year, we have added options to purchase 3 or 5 year memberships. We have also added the option to have your membership automatically renew when paying with a card online (this option only applies to annual memberships). Renew today at [ferrybeach.org/7-reasons](https://ferrybeach.org/7-reasons)



# Discovery

**Upcoming From Ferry Beach** ■ Complete Listing at [www.ferrybeach.org/schedule](http://www.ferrybeach.org/schedule)



Join us in early June 2021 for the Ferry Beach Annual Meeting followed by our campus opening work week! Stay tuned for more details

