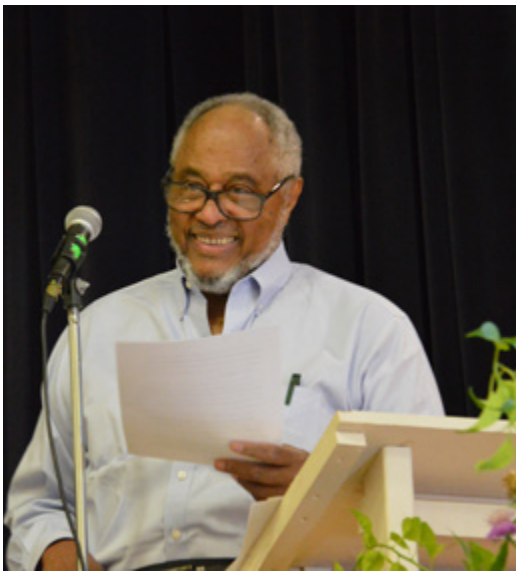


# Discovery

## Annual Meeting Recap



The 85th Annual Meeting of the Ferry Beach membership began at 2:45 pm on June 19th. For the first time in our modern history, we welcomed a guest speaker who shared with us the importance of the Juneteenth holiday and shared some history around black people who have lived in Maine.

Executive director Cathy Stackpole gave a presentation about our year in review with several disappointing charts related to our visitor counts and income in 2020. There was some general discussion around the room regarding how the staff team pulled the organization through the financial crisis caused by the pandemic.

Treasurer Doug Atkins provided more detail about the financial situation at the Beach and reviewed this year's anticipated income and budget numbers.

With nothing major to vote on in relation to our bylaws, our nominating committee chair, Kathleen Dziadzio introduced two new board members: Krystal Kallenberg and Doug Edwards. Both individuals were nominated and accepted by the quorum to join the board.

The meeting was adjourned, and folks mingled around to chat for a while. The overall tone of the entire meeting was positive and upbeat. People were feeling great to be back at the beach and participating in a normal activity.

## IN THIS DISCOVERY

- ① Annual Meeting Recap
- ② Imagine a Different Experience
- ③ Summer So Far; Labor Shortage
- ④ Boardwalk
- ⑤ Boardwalk Continued; Some Fun

## AND MORE!



Payton Chan drew the winner of our Spring 50/50 Raffle at our annual meeting. The lucky winner was Debbie Jennings from West Kingston, RI. Thank you to all who donated. Ferry Beach raised \$1420 in total which was split with Debbie.

## Imagine: A Different Experience at Ferry Beach (Post) COVID

Coming to Ferry Beach this year will not be the same as it was in previous years. We are doing everything we can to make your experience safe and enjoyable. There are people who cannot get the vaccine because of their age or circumstance. We are asking that everyone practice radical hospitality, paying attention to the needs of others and changing your behavior so that we can safely be in community together. If you feel like you want or need extra special attention, please wear a wristband we will provide, it will let others know to keep distance and ask your permission to come into their personal space. All of us will be looking for the wristband as we interact with others.

The financial hit Ferry Beach took last year was devastating. We were only able to make 22% of what we normally can from our conferences and workshops. That means less staff on campus this year. It means Ferry Beach wasn't able to give as much to people who work conferences with a free stay, meals and conference fee. We are grateful for those who were able to contribute more to their stay while they were conducting a workshop or coordinating the conference.

For safety, we are maintaining cafeteria style dining with less choices for each meal but still with the varieties you come to expect. We reduced the price of the meal plan and eliminated a la carte pricing this year. We are asking everyone to wear a mask inside and keep safe distance outside. The CDC recommends at least 3 feet distance outside and inside when in the company of people who cannot get vaccinated. Los Angeles is the first city to re-institute its mask policy this summer because of the Delta variant. That means when you line up for meals, we must mask and keep distance.

Please be flexible. We will be following guidance to keep our 12 and under population and those with compromised immune systems safe. If something isn't working while we are all here, we might communicate a change in procedures during the week. We won't be using our music books during family weeks because of the need to wipe them down each time. We are also using less paper but have put all of our songs and the song book on the Ferry Beach app. Please be supportive and helpful!

As a small staff, we are working twice as hard to keep up with everything you normally expect from Ferry Beach. Please be kind and patient with us as many staff are new and just learning about Ferry Beach. We have been shut down for a year including the shoulder season retreats so some items may be still in storage that your conference comes to expect. Ask us and we will see if we can find those items. A mighty group of volunteers helped us tuck away our summer last year, so we have found some items stored in unusual spaces!

Thank you for supporting Ferry Beach this year by attending a conference or giving of your time, talent and treasure! Let's have fun in a safe, loving and compassionate community!



## Summer So Far...

Our summer is off to an amazing start. We kicked off with our annual meeting and a robust work week with over 40 volunteers helping spruce up a campus which hadn't seen much activity in nearly 20 months. Painting, cleaning, landscaping, building, creating and so much more. Thank you to all who came to help get us ready to open for the season, we appreciate all you have done.

Our COVID modified youth camps brought nearly 80 campers to our campus over two weeks. Because many youth are unable to be vaccinated, we modified our camps to a model that promotes COVID safety and had a limited amount of space available.

Our first family camp of the season just finished and we are thrilled to now be with ChoralFest and GAYLA, our first adult conferences on campus this year.

There are so many more great camps and conferences to come, and we look forward to each and every week. Before you visit, be sure to review our COVID page on our website to be sure you are up-to-date with our latest COVID policies and operational plans, though we don't expect any major changes throughout the summer.



## Labor Shortage

The COVID pandemic has presented Ferry Beach with many challenges. This year, even though we are able to operate in a more normal fashion, we are left with a very thin staff. This is partially due to the labor shortage but also has to do with our limited financial capacity which was caused by the losses in revenue we had in 2020.

When you visit Ferry Beach, things may appear normal, but when you look a little closer, you will see our staff team is smaller than ever before and everyone is working extra hard to try and complete all the daily tasks we have at hand (and new ones we need to complete because of COVID.)

When you visit, please help our staff team out by picking up after yourself and looking at problems you may be experiencing with an understanding mind. We all want things to get back to normal – and we are on that path – but we need to make the most of what we have right now and appreciate your help and support along the way!

## Boardwalk

by Pam Emery

I am fortunate to live nearby in Old Orchard Beach, so I get to see Ferry Beach in its beauty all year round, and I had gotten used to the quiet over the past months. But it has been so wonderful to put on my gardening hat and gloves and watch this place coming alive again after so many months of inactivity! It feels like a gift to be able to hug long-absent friends, enjoy the beach, breathe without a mask - outside, air least.

Last summer our special place where people come together "to explore, grow, and renew the spirit of universal love" saw very few visitors as staff worked harder than ever to make sure those able to come stayed safe during their time together, and to welcome others unable to travel with remote conferences and programs via Zoom.

We are so grateful to our Director Cathy Stackpole and staff for finding ways to keep Ferry Beach afloat financially through an unimagined pandemic, and to improvise via Zoom to provide remote programming as well as organize our community responses to the restrictions imposed by COVID.

With the easing of those restrictions this spring, we have been able to reopen the campus more fully: In June, we held a new series of concerts in the Grove, held our Annual Meeting in person, followed by a busier-than-ever Work Week. Youth Campers returned to the Beach for two weeks this month. RE Week conferees returned, GAYLA brothers are back, and the place is buzzing with renewed friendships, busy staffers, and eager volunteers - all trying to put the pandemic behind us and strengthen our growing community.

But everywhere, we are reminded that this is a different "normal": there are no J1 Visa staff from abroad this year, so we are recruiting volunteers to help with various tasks; hand sanitizer dispensers abound throughout the campus; social distancing is practiced coming indoors for meals, and masks are worn by staff and guests indoors around (unvaccinated) children; signs in various places request patience as we practice contactless food service and ask folks to help housekeeping staff keep bathrooms and common spaces clean.

More than ever before, we at Ferry Beach are indeed living the change – doing our best to navigate this new

## GET THE FERRY BEACH APP!

- ★ SCHEDULES & UPDATES ★
- ★ SONG BOOKS ★
- ★ TIDINGS NEWSLETTERS ★
- ★ CHAPEL PROGRAMS ★
- ★ PHOTOS FROM THE WEEK ★
- ★ AND MORE! ★



[app.ferrybeach.org](http://app.ferrybeach.org)

In 2015, Ferry Beach introduced our app to help us reach our goals of becoming a more sustainable organization. Initially the app was used to help relay information quickly to guests across campus, post daily schedules and connect users to our social media networks. The app has grown over time to allow guests to report maintenance issues on campus, share photos and more.

To further reduce our paper waste, we will be moving our in-room booklet, song books, tidings news letters and Sunday chapel programs to the app. Conferences will also post workshop materials and more in the app versus making paper copies.

We will have posters with QR codes around campus to access the important items you need or you can access them directly through the app. There will be a very limited quantity of paper versions available upon request for those without a mobile device.

To download the app, go to [app.ferrybeach.org](http://app.ferrybeach.org) or download from your devices app store.



reality in the shadow of Covid.

I have been a visitor as I helped my daughter with her children during RE Week, a painter/weeder/cleaner during Work Week, an RE Week conferee (I treasure my Sacred Seeing and Art and Yoga experiences) and currently a Board member. Living locally, my "commute" makes it easy to volunteer when needed. I enjoy getting to know some of the staff as I help set up for breakfast or wash dishes, and conferees who come through the serving line at meals.

Volunteering, I get to mix with members and guests and hear how they are experiencing this "new normal" at the Beach. And, as a volunteer, I am part of the day to day operations that keep this campus running as smoothly as possible for all who can be here and those who Zoom in.

A Board member's job at Ferry Beach is policy and governance. Food service, housekeeping and maintenance are Staff responsibilities. My volunteer apron reminds me I am not acting as a member of the Board, and sometimes it is a challenge to remember this! But I am always listening and learning from others while I am here. As a Board Member AND a Conferee, I experience the campus as a setting for programs - where conference coordinators determine much of what we do during our time together as conferees. It is a bonus of the pandemic that we have learned how with technology we can extend our reach far beyond the beach and grove, and meet one another "in the cloud" to connect in ways impossible before: Family & Friends conferees can gather with RE Week folks, Quilters meet up with Sacred Seers - all online! And we can invite new people to discover Ferry Beach remotely. We can all meet in chat rooms arranged during our virtual fundraising auction (coming this November to a screen near YOU!)

I have been impressed with the questions asked recently by some members with a much longer relationship than mine with Ferry Beach. When you can only be here for one week - or a couple of days in the year, it must be hard to understand just how pervasive have been the effects of the "lost summer" of 2020, both financially, and in changes in staffing. However, once they are informed as to the ever-changing needs of our community, people of all ages make every effort to follow signs, notice ways to help, and step up when asked to do a little more so our limited resources will indeed be enough for all!

As a Sustaining Donor, I see my monthly support as "love in action", one more way I can help assure that Ferry Beach will continue to adapt to ever-changing realities and be a force for universal love for the next 120 years.



## Some Fun to Look Forward To!

Did you know that it has been 120 years since a group of Universalists led by Quillen Shinn came to Ferry Beach for a summer retreat? On August 1st at the Sunday Interfaith Service we will honor our legacy of Universalism.



What is Universalism you may ask? The best definition we found is that of universal salvation. At the time of Universalism's introduction and rise from Great Britain and in the United States, many organized religion's doctrines included that you must be "good" to go to heaven. Universalists believed that no matter what, the God of their understanding was an all-loving being. All humans were worthy of heaven!

July 24th – July 30th we have some availability for personal retreats. If you are concerned about being around too many people, consider coming up this week! Several other summer weeks may also have availability including: August 7th – 12th and August 16th – 31st.

We have a big conference in between September 17-26th but have great availability while the water is warm and the beaches are much less crowded in the month of September! If we are able to fill up these weeks, we will keep the dining room open through September. So join us at the beach for the cool September nights and warm September days!

# Discovery

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



AND PLAN ON BOOKING A PERSONAL RETREAT THIS FALL WHILE THE AIR AND WATER ARE STILL WARM AND THE BEACH IS EMPTY!



**Plan to join us for Labor Day Weekend, September 3-6, 2021.**  
Check-in Friday afternoon and connect with the Ferry Beach friends you haven't seen in a while. Throughout the long weekend, participate in any activities you wish or relax on the beach.  
Saturday afternoon, we will kick-off our annual Labor Day weekend cookout with live music and dancing throughout the evening.  
On Sunday, attend the last chapel service of the year then spend the day hanging out with friends, playing on the beach, or taking part in activities.  
Head back home on Monday morning after breakfast, goodbyes, and reserving your 2022 room.