

# Discovery

## Universal Love, From Our Ferry Beach Ancestors

by Robi Altamari

Greetings, beautiful friends! After a month of escalating levels of scary and tragic news in our country, I recently escaped to Ferry Beach for two days and it was incredibly spirit filling. What was most remarkable was that I could feel the transformation in my body, mind, heart, and soul before I arrived. As I was approaching the exit off of I-95, I felt the same excitement that I remember my two daughters having every summer as we approached the signs for Saco. I didn't literally scream for joy like they did as children, but I felt that glorious sense of coming home to my special place.

Ever since I started coming to Youth Camp (as a volunteer leader) and Religious Education Week (as a conferee) in 2005, I knew that Ferry Beach was my community. Ferry Beach has introduced myself and my daughters to some of our best friends, been the source of some of our favorite memories, and brought us comfort during some of the most challenging times in our lives. It wasn't until the three years starting in 2016 that I worked on staff that I realized how every conference and weekend offers these same magical gifts and connections. I'm not just a R.E. Week conferee, but I am connected to the beautiful spirits of each of you (including, or perhaps especially, those of you I haven't even met). Thank you for being a part of the magic and spirit of Ferry Beach!

These last few years have been particularly challenging for us as individuals and us as a community. As we travel into our third summer of the pandemic and are experiencing escalating discourse & violence in our country, I worry about us as individuals and us as a beloved Ferry Beach community. From financial impacts to logistical



issues (like health, safety, and country wide staff shortages), will Ferry Beach still hold on to its magical spirit this summer? Will Ferry Beach even survive this pandemic? Then I think back to our many Ferry Beach ancestors and know "Of course, we will survive!" Like our ancestors had to do many times, we will gather together to do what ever we need to do to protect and grow the spirit here. Just like our ancestors, we will each bring our time, talents, treasure, and love to Ferry Beach this summer and we will make sure that we survive! As I get ready to volunteer later this month at Youth Camp, I am adding some preparation to my packing. What time, talents, treasure, and love will I be intentionally bringing this summer? *Continued on pg 2...*

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## We Love Our Sustaining Donors

Our Sustaining Donors help us cover our fixed expenses and have been our life line through out the pandemic. If you believe in Ferry Beach, our mission and our work we ask you to consider providing Ferry Beach a monthly or quarterly gift. If you already are a sustaining donor, thank you so much for your support!

You can donate as little as \$10 a month to become a sustaining donor and there is no limit on the maximum gift!

If you would like to become a sustaining donor visit [ferrybeach.org/giving](http://ferrybeach.org/giving) and fill out the easy form. If you are a sustaining donor and would like to increase your gift, please call our Development office at 207-282-4489 x 140

From our popular after-dinner clapping song, most of us know that Rev. Quillen Shinn was a Universalist minister who first discovered this sacred space in 1901. The beautiful towering pine trees were a perfect place to preach his words of love. God is love. He wanted everyone to know that God is a loving being and each person can be love and be loving! In the spirit of Quillen Shinn, how will I use my words this summer to let my love “flow out and kindle the world; sending life and warmth into every wilderness where hearts are aching.” I can start by choosing words of kindness and gratitude in every interaction.

How will I carry forward the love of Eleanor Forbes who dedicated countless hours, summers, and years here at Ferry Beach and was often the last one to leave? Last year, while visiting the opening weekend of the Circles of Life conference, we all responded to the crew shortage by taking turns serving meals and helping in the dining hall. It was a surprisingly fun part of my visit greeting my friends with their breakfast. In the spirit Eleanor Forbes, I commit some of my time this summer and gratitude to those others who dedicate their time and service to our community.

How will I welcome the love and generosity of new Ferry Beachers? A young woman who only came once but gifted us with extreme generosity is Carrie Underwood. No, not the Carrie Underwood who is a popular singer, but a young woman who loved to travel and once visited Ferry Beach. She loved her visit to Ferry Beach so much that she gave us a huge gift - enough money to build another dorm. The gifts of treasure that we each give don't have to be so big to be special. Small, medium, and big gifts can be equally important. It's the spirit of the gift that matters most! In the spirit of Carrie Underwood, in addition to my conference costs, I will bring some treasure that I know is much needed.

One of my favorite Ferry Beach ancestor stories is Rev. William Rowland who regularly practiced being love in action. There are multiple stories of him literally taking the coat off his back to help someone who needed it more. While his wife could get frustrated with how often he came home without his coat, I'm sure the recipient never forgot his generosity. In the Spirit of William Rowland, how will I use my talents and resources to support Ferry Beach this summer? Perhaps I can pick one big project to offer or help with while I am there.

I don't know what this summer will bring, but I meditate on the words of L. R. Knost as I begin. “Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world. All things break. And all things can be mended. Not with time, as they say, but with intention. So go. Love intentionally. Extravagantly. Unconditionally. The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you.” Whatever the summer brings, I trust that my spirit will be nourished during my time at Ferry Beach, I will be grateful for the gifts Ferry Beach shares with me, and that I will dedicate some of my time, talent, treasure, and love to keep the magic growing. I look forward to being a part of this beloved community with you!

## Summer of Resilience in a Beloved Community

by Cathy Stackpole


As humans, we often build resilience through accomplishments in the face of adversity. In hospitality, we are always completing something: cleaning the floors, the pile of dishes done from the morning breakfast, a beautiful lunch just coming out of the oven to be served to 100 people, an article for the newsletter, a mailing or brochure ready for the printer, the portion of our 32 acres of lawns mowed, a renovation in a room complete. The accomplishments of persons who work in hospitality are drawn in the sand at low tide. They rhythmically disappear in time and space. They are not as tangible as a piece of artwork, a building, or a quilt. Our gift to you of our labor only lasts for a little while.

The cycle is always in motion, like the tides. The rooms fill up, dinner is just hours away, the next newsletter needs a story, the grass grows. We build resilience by seeing the accomplishments and receiving moments of gratitude.

COVID is waning again and we hope it allows our guests and staff to feel safe. People are registering for conferences. Yet, positions sit open as the job market, lacking immigrants and others who used to work in hospitality are no longer here. We need to hire many more staff: line cooks, registration personnel, program staff and more.

We are a community of people who love this place. That is our common denominator. We have conferences year-round now, some small, like those in the winter months, and some large, like those we can have from May 1 through October 15. While we might individually identify with a specific conference: Profound Treasury, Family and Friends, Al-Anon Family Groups, Labor Day, Holy Actor, Choralfest, GAYLA, Sacred Circle Dance, we are all a part of a larger community that loves this little patch of sand and these 32 acres.

The spirit of Ferry Beach has lived on for over 120 years, including other crises: a couple of world wars and an earlier pandemic. We are struggling right now and need your kindness, your love and if you come to Ferry Beach this summer, your time, talent and treasure. We hope to have enough staff to cover our hospitality needs each week, but if we don't, we hope you will love Ferry Beach with your arms, your feet and your whole self.



### They Are Back!

Our popular Ferry Beach Calendars have returned just in time for summer! Get your 2022-2023 calendars now for just \$34.99 each. All proceeds go towards facility improvement projects.

The calendars run from July 2022 - January 2024 and will be on sale at Ferry Beach beginning at the annual meeting on June 25th.

If you cant wait and want yours now, visit [fbch.me/calendar](https://fbch.me/calendar) to order online. You can also order directly from the Ferry Beach app. If possible - select pick up at Ferry Beach to help us save on the postage!

## BOARDwalk

by Doug Edwards

*"Resilience is the process and outcome of successfully adapting to difficult or challenging life experiences, especially through mental, emotional, and behavioral flexibility and adjustment to external and internal demands."*

It appears that this year's theme was more prescient than we could have imagined. I find myself wondering how I can run away from all the negativity and stress of today's world. Thank goodness we have Ferry Beach! Ferry Beach has been a place that we have experienced as a spiritual cleanse. The beautiful setting and wonderful staff have allowed us to experience our programs, camping and discoveries that feed our souls throughout the year.

In the spirit of resilience, please remember that our conference center is still a part of the world. Just as we are all adapting to our ever-changing world, so is Ferry Beach's staff. The challenges are real and the staff and volunteers are pledged to face them head-on; making your time at Ferry Beach memorable. Like everywhere, there is a staffing challenge. We hope you will come to the retreat center with an open heart and mind this summer. The staff and volunteers ask for your understanding and patience this summer. Be willing to be resilient! Be willing to be the compassionate, loving response to the challenge of this time. I look forward to seeing you at our annual meeting Saturday, June 25th.



### Get Ready for Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Online Auction!

We have started the planning stages of this year's auction and have already secured some great donations from local and regional businesses. We are already looking forward to this year's event!

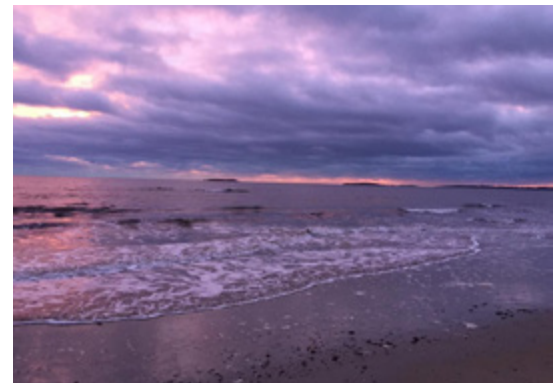
Will you consider donating to this year's auction? If you have a donation for us, bring it to the main office on Boardwalk Drive when you visit Ferry Beach this summer. Please keep in mind we have to process and ship these donations which cuts into the funds we raise. Things like gift cards and experiences are perfect! If items are too large or our committee members find that the cost to process and ship will outweigh the item's value we may have to refuse the donation or accept it as a donation to Ferry Beach. Thank you for your continued support! We look forward to having you join us this fall for our annual online auction. Stay tuned for more details!



### Canvas Prints for Sale

Decorate your home with a little piece of Ferry Beach. Many of the popular sunrise photographs taken at Ferry Beach by Executive Director Cathy Stackpole are available to buy as canvas prints at [ferrybeach.org/prints](https://ferrybeach.org/prints)

Check back often - new prints are added all the time!



## Notice to Summer Conference Coordinators

Please Remember to send in your conference supply lists at least one month PRIOR to your conference and your final schedules at least ONE week prior to your conference. We look forward to working with each of you this year! Thank you for all you do to support your conferences and Ferry Beach!



## Whats New at the Beach

Every year guests are welcomed back to Ferry Beach to the familiar sights, sounds, smells and the spiritual energy of this place. So much has changed over the years as we have worked tirelessly to continue to improve the campus and the service we provide. We have made new traditions, developed new procedures and updated our facility. We now have AC in the theater - no more sweaty TNT shows! We used to have buffet meals, but COVID has taught us that cafeteria style is not only cleaner but creates far less food waste. Changes at Ferry Beach have been brought on over the years by ideas, concepts, goals and sometimes things that are just out of our control.

This year you can expect new (and hopefully more stable) WiFi across campus. We worked throughout the off-season to consolidate our networks into a single location and bridge a single network between each building. Guests now have access to a unified wireless network so there is no more having to switch between them depending on what building you are at. No more having your device drop your connection because its switching it self back and forth between visible networks! Though the connectivity and stability has greatly improved on our end - please remember that we are limited to what our area service provider can deliver. And even though we have improved the stability of the overall infrastructure, we did not add any additional access points on the main campus. Some dorm spaces and campsites will still not have a connection - but our long term goal is to continuously build upon this new network so our guests can stay connected wherever they are on campus.

Additionally we have made major interior improvements in Rowland Hall. You will find the break-out spaces much more bright and cheerful. We have added new lights and switches behind the stage (anyone who has run a TNT show before will appreciate that! We have decorated and have beautiful canvas photos of the beach hung throughout the public spaces. We still have some work to do in the theater - but like everything else: in time it will be done!

You will notice that our road name has changed. Morris Ave is now named Boardwalk Drive. Please remember this when locating the main office by GPS - Some systems may still have us listed as being on Morris Ave. For our summer guests, our registration office will once again be moving to the Quillen Lobby - so your destination will be 21 Ferry Park Ave.

One thing we hope you will be patient and understanding about is our staffing shortage. Despite all the effort we have put forth in trying to fill all our vacant positions before what looks like will be a very busy season, we are still short in some critical areas. Our registration team is brand-new and still learning (so please be patient and kind with them). Our kitchen team is small and we still need a sous chef and line cooks to keep up with our summer meal service. We may do continental breakfast a couple days a week so the kitchen crew can keep up with the larger meal demands.

COVID has taught us so many lessons - one of which is being flexible to changing situations. Please be kind with us and remember that we are serving hundreds of guests each week with out a full staff team. Many of us are working in ways we have never had to before. Our administrative and maintenance staff are finding themselves in the kitchen and registration, and everyone is pitching in to clean up and run programming. If you can help us while you are here we would love the support! If you do not wish to, that's ok too. We just ask guests this year to be supportive and understanding while we continue to work through another challenge. Thank you and we look forward to seeing each of you this summer!