

Discovery

Light in the Chaos

by Cathy Stackpole

"The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again expecting different results." Albert Einstein

"The awakening is the axis point between resignation and action. ... in order for change to happen, we have to wake up and see reality clearly and understand our part in it."

"It is then that we will see our vision." (Steven Charleston in *We Survived the End of the World*)

Maybe you too are watching the nightly news and wondering how we got here. Many of us are conscious to the pain of the world: most recently the war in Gaza but also Ukraine, climate change, the history of genocide in the United States against Native American people, slavery and its descendant: ongoing racism, and misogyny that is so embedded in our culture that when Gloria Steinem first started writing about gender discrimination for *New York Magazine* in the 1970's, there had to be a companion article expressing the "other side." But it is all overwhelming!

Steven Charleston, Native American elder, a retired Bishop from the Episcopal Church has written two new books in this last year. The first one, is a series of poems, almost prayer like, that we will be discussing in an online book club starting late January through Ferry Beach (for details visit: ferrybeach.org/book-group). The second, is called "*We Survived the End of the World*," and it is subtitled, *Lessons from Native America on Apocalypse and Hope*.

Charleston recounts the ways that Native American people have experienced the end of the world as they had known it. He points out that each one of us experiences an apocalypse either that is personal or global and that often we become resigned to whatever it is that overwhelmingly occurs. "Our greatest problem is not necessarily the event itself but our reaction to it. Resignation is the challenge...Prophetic voices have sought to shake people awake from sleepwalking into an apocalypse because they are in a state of resignation.....Waking up is the first step in transforming the apocalyptic process."

Ferry Beach chose the word "Awaken" as our theme this past summer to help us all cope with the changes that the pandemic created in all our communities and in our own lives. We wrote these lines last April: *These years of political turmoil and the pandemic have brought fear and grief as well as a pause in our daily lives which continues to ripple out affecting us all. The drumbeat of change and chaos has shut down our senses and we have found ourselves isolating to find respite. But the world calls to us to awaken from the dream and recognize that now, more than ever in our lifetimes, our world needs us to lean into our mission: universal love.*

Continued on page 2...

IN THIS DISCOVERY

- ① Light in the Chaos
- ② A Successful Start
- ③ Upcoming Events
- ④ Mast Year
- ⑤ Share your Story

AND MORE!

For some, Ferry Beach will always be a summer week with friends and family. For others, Ferry Beach is a place of respite and retreat from the challenges of the world. For others, Ferry Beach is a place of wonder, a place of renewal, a place of Light. On a call with other retreat centers in North America the other day, I was reminded how our founder understood the importance of renewal from the challenges of the world, to set aside a place to gather and create community.

For more than 122 years, we have been that grounded place. And since the pandemic, we are all trying to muscle through our own apocalypse. Ferry Beach is a glimpse of Light that is grounded in history and in land.

Charleston’s book is hopeful; he recounts four prophetic voices in Native American culture that made a difference in the lives of their communities and tribes over the last 200 years. He believes we are all prophets, those of us who are waking up to our roles as agents of change.

“How do we learn to trust one another? How do we work together for the common good?...Our vision quest is a search for answers to those questions.” Charleston goes on to talk about the Hopi nation and the prophetic visions and dreams which transformed their apocalypse. The book and the ideas are thought provoking – at the micro level for us here at Ferry Beach, but also at the macro level for how we each can contribute to addressing the challenges of our days that include climate change, violence, and the threats to our communities through war, authoritarianism and to democracy as a whole.

For our light to continue to shine within all the chaos in the world around us, we must continue our work and wake up each day holding that same grounded vision that has been carried on for the last 122 years. We will bring that vision forward with us each day, keeping this sacred place protected and safe for all who need it.

Giving Tuesday is Coming, Support Ferry Beach!



5 Reasons to Give So we can continue...

- 1.) To provide programming and events that support our mission to awaken hearts to explore, grow and renew the spirit of universal love
- 2.) To maintain and improve facilities for use on our Ferry Beach campus
- 3.) To provide a safe space for marginalized communities
- 4.) To be a resource for the community and other non-profit organizations
- 5.) To be a place where amazing memories are made for years to come

Any gift you are able to give, whether it is a sustaining donation that provides us stable revenue year long, or a one-time gift that helps us with current projects (Underwood roof, Grove Washhouse etc.), every donation helps!

5 Ways to Give

Give A One-Time Gift



Become a Sustaining Donor



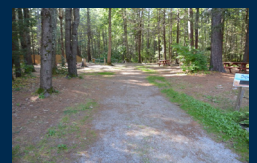
Become a Part of Quillen Shinn Society



Contribute Toward The Endowment



Contribute Toward a Capital Project



To give, visit ferrybeach.org/giving

Without your gracious donations none of what we do would be possible. High five for supporting Ferry Beach!

A Successful Start

Fall has been busier than usual here at Ferry Beach! In recent weeks, we have welcomed many new groups and many unfamiliar faces. It's been so great to meet so many new and talented individuals. While adjusting to this new season of "change", a new normal, we've encountered some challenges along the way. The departure of our J1s in correlation with a new continued busyness on campus left us shorthanded in the dining room at times. Fortunately, with our great Ferry Beach team we were able to pull together to support each other and the areas on campus in need. We thank you for your understanding as we navigate these changing seasons!

Not only has the number of conferences grown this fall but the number of attendees for our community dinners has increased, almost near numbers we had prior to the pandemic.

On September 13th, we opened our doors to the community for the first time this "fall" season. Amazing food by the kitchen, engaging conversation about local news with Liz Gotthelf and a large audience made for a successful night! As we reflect on the past few weeks, we find ourselves grateful. Grateful to be able to offer a space for the community to come together for a night of fun and to have more members of the community joining us! Our October community dinner is set to surpass the record of September's. So now, we excitedly await the upcoming dinners (which have great themes and menus) if you didn't know already, along with the opportunity to meet and greet more individuals to Ferry Beach. If you haven't come to a Ferry Beach community dinner yet, you should highly consider attending the next one.



We are always looking to the horizon for new ways to add exciting activities and programming that serve our mission. So, this December we added two new events which we hope will bring continued success to end the year 2023. The first, is a Winter Craft Fair, an amazing opportunity to finish or even start your holiday shopping all while supporting local artisans. Ferry Beach will be having a bake sale during this event which will feature many delightfully decorated, tasty treats that will bring about some holiday cheer and surely put a smile on your face. Next up on the list, is a Holiday Party, a special edition community dinner with an enhanced evening menu in a decked out DeWolfe dining hall! Let the holiday fun begin!

What others are saying about Ferry Beach!

★ "Such a perfect setting to expand your creativity!"

★ "Delightful place to recoup and create."

★ "It was delicious! I could really go for some of those chicken skewers right now."

★ "One of my most favorite places in the world."

★ "Wonderful meal and great fellowship."



Upcoming Events

2023
October
26
5:30-7:30 PM

Community Dinner

Small Business & Brewing

Enjoy a delicious "Oktoberfest" dinner & learn about the brewing process and the basics of running a small business.



2023
November
14
5:30-7:30 PM

Community Dinner

The Way of the Pilgrim

Enjoy a delicious Spanish Camino dinner & learn about the experience of being a pilgrim on the Camino.



2023
December
10
11 AM- 3 PM

Winter Craft Fair

Shop crafted goods, a Ferry Beach bake sale, enjoy kid friendly craft activities & more! Lunch available for purchase.



2023
December
15
5:30-8:30 PM

Holiday Party

Celebrate the holidays in style! Enjoy dinner, desserts & drinks, live holiday tunes and dancing in a decked out DeWolfe.



ferrybeach.org/schedule

Longevity of Ferry Beach

Give the gift of Ferry Beach to future generations. It is easy to include us in your will.

If you believe strongly in our mission and work and you want to talk more, contact us at 207-282-4489!

Quick Getaway

Looking for a quick getaway? Always have wondered what Ferry Beach looks like around the holiday season?

Well, we have the solution to both... book a personal retreat to Ferry Beach. If you want to be a part of our holiday festivities, consider booking your stay around December 10-15th and take part in the Winter Craft Fair and Holiday Party. Of course, you can always book before or after the holiday season as well.

Much like in the summertime, our cozy cottages offer an amazing experience in the colder months too. You may even get lucky with the opportunity to sit back, sip hot cocoa and watch the snowflakes fly. Of course there's the beach as well, which offers gorgeous views all year long. Bundle up and walk down the boardwalk to enjoy the sunrise, sunset and unlimited beach walks.



Call registration today at 207-282-4489 x1 to book a stay in the Morris Cottage, Kelly Cottage, the Metz Cabins, or one of the Cross Cottage rooms.

Mast Year



It is another one of those abundant acorn years here in the northeast. They call it a “mast” year, when acorns are in such abundance that you don’t want to park your car near any trees (and that is hard in southern Maine). It sounds like someone is throwing rocks against the side of the building when the wind is blowing. And each time one hits my car, I think it will break the windshield.

Mast years are when the oaks and beeches produce larger crops of acorns, some say to feed the squirrels, jays, mice and badgers. The abundant cycle of every couple of years coupled with the lesser productions keep the populations in check. The mast years feed them abundantly, but, also, guarantees that some acorns will be left over to survive and grow into new trees.

At Ferry Beach we are stewards of more than this place. Our use of this wonderful campus feeds others who come to find nourishment here. One week of summer is not enough to supply all that is needed, but that kind of stewardship, when you come visit, is really woven into most not for profit organizations like ours.

We are fortunate, at Ferry Beach that we are having a “mast” autumn for groups coming to Ferry Beach. A week ago, the administrators of not-for-profit organizations in York County Maine were hosted by the Virginia Hodgkins Somers Foundation. This wonderful group provides a 2- day respite for not-for-profit leaders who have kept their organizations running for the last 3 years through COVID and its aftermath.

We are also grateful for all of the people who gift to Ferry Beach in the form of sustaining donations and one-time gifts throughout the year. You help keep Ferry Beach growing and sustaining this beautiful place for generations to come. Thank you!

Share your story!

- What do you love the most about Ferry Beach?
- What’s the number one thing you look forward to when visiting?
- What’s your favorite memory of Ferry Beach?

We want to hear your story, your favorite things about Ferry Beach including what brought you to this magical place!

We would love and appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to answer one, two or all of these questions, to share your story so this December we can have these stories on display for visitors to see!



Share your story with us by emailing:
ferrybeach@ferrybeach.org

Upcoming Retreats

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| November 5-8 | Fall Quilting By the Bay |
| November 9-12 | Reiki Retreat |
| November 17-19 | Yoga Retreat |
| February 9-11 | Women’s Retreat |
| April 5-7 | Osteoporosis Retreat |
| April 18-21 | Spring Quilting By the Bay |

ferrybeach.org/schedule

Discovery

OCTOBER 2023



Ferry Beach Retreat & Conference Center
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Ferry Beach Retreat & Conference Center is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization with a mission to awaken hearts to explore, grow and renew the spirit of universal love.

Get a head start on your holiday shopping!

This holiday, give your loved ones a memorable gift, one that reminds them of amazing memories all year round! Give the gift of Ferry Beach Merch, there's something for everyone.



ferrybeach.org/store