

Discovery

We are Resilient

By Cathy Stackpole

“Since happiness heard your name, it has been running through the streets trying to find you.” (Hafiz)

In 2026, Ferry Beach will celebrate 125 years on the beach in Saco, Maine. Like many retreat centers up and down the coast, Ferry Beach started as a “summer meeting” for a religious group, in our case, the Universalists. The Universalist movement was brought to the US in the mid 1700’s from England and its message is very inclusive and without judgement, counter to many religions of the time period. Its centerpiece is one of inclusion (no hell, no damnation, no purgatory). It also included the big idea that “God is Love.”

In the 1930’s Ferry Beach became its own 501c3 not for profit organization and has complied with the tax laws that govern these groups. We joined a large cohort in the United States of not for profit organizations that provide everything from culture and the arts to food pantries and shelters for battered women. A large body of knowledge about how to effectively govern not for profit organizations includes many organizations, books, scholarly articles, magazines, conferences and even many graduate degrees in not for profit management.

Ferry Beach has become a year-round retreat and conference center with a variety of groups and individuals calling Ferry Beach home. Primarily our work revolves around culture and the arts, which is one of our six buckets, but also includes events and activities often started in a culture and the arts way but including ideas about: sustainability, education, personal growth, spirituality, justice, and social action.

Our legacy has a very happy bent to it and so do many of the individuals, groups and workshops and conferences coming to Ferry Beach. In my reading of Universalism, there is an energy of joy, love and inclusion. Of course, the early writings of Universalism and early Universalists were still a product of their day. However, at Ferry Beach we are transcending those limitations. Our staff talk about and practice the idea of “Radical Hospitality.” From our website:



We believe that the key to making the world a better place, a world that works for all of us, is to practice loving compassion and kindness in the form of welcome and care. Our hospitality seeks to be generative. We welcome the “other,” the stranger, whether that comes in the form of another person, group, idea, critique, or species. We practice radical openness to learn about, understand and potentially be changed by the other. At its core, this is how we practice loving kindness in intentional communities formed regularly at Ferry Beach (in the form of meetings, conferences, workshops, play dates, special events and more). Continued on page 2...

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AND MORE!



Continued from pg 1. In light of our recent challenges with our beachfront and being able to address the challenges of climate change on our campus, we remind ourselves that “happiness is always trying to find us.” This grounding in a historical legacy of inclusiveness and joy makes it all that more palatable for us to understand the words of Thich Nhat Hanh who said “Impermanence does not necessarily lead to suffering. What makes us suffer is wanting things to be permanent when they are not.”

Many lovely people, conferences and workshops have found their home at Ferry Beach, for a week, a day, an hour or returning for many years. Our collective ideas, groups and individuals coming together in joy is what attracts. Our joy is our resilience, sourced for close to 125 years of many diverse people.

For those who want Ferry Beach to be like it used to be, take heart in what attracted you to Ferry Beach in the first place or what sustained you – the love, the joy, the happiness you found here, and commit yourself to that connection, in a new way. The beach is an ever-changing eco system, sourced by Mother Earth. Let’s hang on to that energy as we explore ways to support this wonderful place.

Testimonial Snippets- A Home Away from Home

Whenever someone steps foot on our campus our hope is that they feel welcomed, as comfortable as they would feel at home and that they leave with memories of an everlasting and enriching experience. In January, Lead UNH students from the University of New Hampshire visited our Ferry Beach campus for a leadership conference to explore dynamics and leadership challenges through a lens of social change. What an impressive, inspiring, and kind group of students and leaders, we are so honored they chose Ferry Beach to be there home away from home. Here’s what they had to say about their experience.

“Thank you for making this place feel like a home away from home!!! We Love Ferry Beach!”

“From the accommodation, to the food, to the service, we cannot thank you enough! Your hospitality has had a profound impact on our program and we are eternally grateful!” ~Kally

“Amazing meals, beautiful place to stay & warm smiles in the morning.”

“Thank you for the incredible service during our entire stay in this beautiful place! And for delicious food!” ~ Melissa

“The food was incredible, so bussin!! Thank you for all you do!”

“So wonderful and accommodating! Everyone was so helpful & kind when I needed anything!” ~Dasha



Introducing Sand & Stars Week (formally known as July 4th Family Fun Week)

July 2-6,
2024

A multigenerational retreat with adventures for all!

Get away to Ferry Beach for the July 4th holiday as you each embrace your independence and interconnection by choosing your own adventure at our multigenerational celebration and conference.

Diverse program leaders will offer engaging workshop options for you and your family members to choose from including theater arts, ecojustice, joining a band, and spiritual arts.

Join us for days of fun with activities like these:

- Concert • Cook Out • Field Trips • Fireworks on the Beach
- Yoga • Improv • Song Writing • Drumming • Games • Polar Bear Swims • TNT • Arts & Crafts • Sing-Alongs • and MORE!

ferrybeach.org/sand-and-stars

Time to Register for Summer!

Summer is Right Around the Corner!

Registration is OPEN for our summer programs! Summer bookings have begun, so select programs have less availability. If you have a favorite spot to stay, we recommend you reserve it now before someone else does! You can choose your conference and book your room directly at fbch.me/register.

2024 Summer Schedule

June 7-16	Profound Treasury
June 16-22	Work Week
July 2-6	Sand & Stars Week
July 6-12	RE Week
July 13-19	ChoralFest
July 13-20	GAYLA
July 27-Aug. 3	Family & Friends
August 3-9	Circles of Life
August 11-17	In the Company of Women
August 11-17	Circle of Music
August 18-23	Sacred Circle Dance Camp
August 23-30	Quilting By the Bay
August 25-28	The Beach Getaway
August 31-Sept. 2	Labor Day Weekend

Summer coordinators are busy at work planning an amazing summer experience full of exciting workshops and daily activities. 2024 conference details are updated regularly on our website so if you're curious about this year's summer details be sure to check out ferrybeach.org/schedule and select your conference.

A New Booking Experience

Over the last few months, we have worked to create a new booking experience, switching our previous booking system to Bookinglayer. We hope you too, find it to be as simple and user-friendly as we do! Simply select your conference, choose your dates, select number of guests, in guest profiles you can add dietary restrictions, preferred names and more. Then select your lodging accommodation and any additional items (linens, membership..) click check out.. and now you are ready and registered for summer 2024! If you have any questions or wish to register by phone, you can call 207-282-4489 x1.



New Happenings at Ferry Beach!

At the end of 2023 we sought additional ways to create more fun for our Ferry Beachers and our surrounding community. Well, what about brunch? An opportunity to enjoy delicious food without the hassle of cooking and kitchen clean up, plus fun for all; for yourself, as a couple, a family or as a group of friends. So, we excitedly announce a fun new Sunday activity, Brunch by the Beach! Ferry Beach introduced the first brunch of the season on January 28th! The aroma of fried bacon and fresh baked pastries filled the air as guests browsed the large selection of items, shared smiles, and laughter together. One group shared brunch while also celebrating the retirement of one their loved ones. We've heard from attendees that the "customize your own omelet station" is a fan favorite and amazing experience. A station full of toppings to choose from, your omelet is prepared right in front of you by our talented chef!

If you haven't been, we encourage you to join us some Sunday from now until May. Call your friend, maybe even get your whole group of friends that you haven't seen in a while and come experience Brunch by the Beach!



Brunch by the Beach

Enjoy a delicious Sunday brunch followed with a stroll on the beach!

Sundays 10:30am - 1:30pm
Self-serve buffet style! Reservations required.

ferrybeach.org/brunch-by-the-beach

Sunday Brunch Menu - 2/14

- Quiche selections
- Omelet/egg station
- Bacon
- Sausage
- Baked beans (VG)
- Sweet potato home fries (GF/VG)
- Roasted tomatoes (VG)
- Spanakopita
- DIY sandwich bar (GF options)
- DIY salad bar (VG/GF)
- Fresh fruit
- Fresh baked pastries (GF options)
- Ferry Beach Dessert Bar (GF options)

Sunday Specials:

- Scrambled eggs
- French toast
- Shepherd's Pie (GF)
- Mac & Cheese (V)
- Vegetable egg rolls
- Deviled eggs
- Savory turnovers
- Stramboli
- Chef's Choice

Brunch By the Beach occurs EVERY Sunday from 10:30am to 1:30pm until May 12th, with a special brunch on both Easter and Mother's Day! Brunch is a self-serve, all-you-can-eat buffet with a wide variety of breakfast and lunch items from sausages, bacon, eggs, pastries to mac and cheese, lasagna, sandwiches and so much more! Menu items vary weekly with Sunday Specials! Better yet, every Monday the coming Sunday's brunch menu is posted so you can see what to expect but be sure to check back every week because your favorite item might just be on the menu! Reserve your spot online at fbch.me/brunch.

This year, make time for you, experience a "Sunday reset", relax, de-stress, and reset for the next week with a walk on the beach following brunch. Renew in the fresh salty air, surrounded with the sounds of splashing waves.



A Welcome Back!



Ferry Beach takeout is back! Let us help you with your meal prep for the week, and take one thing off your to do list. We are offering a big variety of chilis, soups, stews, chowders, quiches, and various entrées & desserts! Takeout is available weekly from now until May 12th! Gluten-free, vegetarian and vegan meals are available as well!

Order takeout prior to Friday at 4pm and pick up your meal mid-day on Sunday (11am-1pm). Just in time to have on your dinner table for during the week or Sunday evening. To order or learn more about our takeout service visit: ferrybeach.org/takeout.



Upcoming Community Dinners:

- February 15, 2024
Topic: Health & Wellness

- March 20, 2024
Topic: Astrology



Register at: ferrybeach.org/dinner

Become a Donor Today!

A sustaining donor helps support the maintenance and improvements of Ferry Beach by providing a tax deductible; ongoing annual donation paid either monthly, quarterly or annually. Will you consider becoming a sustaining donor?

ferrybeach.org/giving

A Month of Renovations

Heavy rain, extreme flooding, and astronomical high tides, over 14 feet broke records last seen in the 1970's in Maine. Back to back storms on January 10th and January 13th battered the coastline. Our campus experienced much flooding both from the rain and overwash from tremendous waves. While the beach sustained great damage with huge sand & dune loss and slight damage to the boardwalk, we are very thankful all Ferry Beach buildings remained mostly unharmed.



We have begun restorations to our beachfront beginning with the boardwalk. A temporary ramp has been built to compensate for the height difference because of lost sand, until early Spring when we can again make more permanent restorations. If you want to help support these efforts to restore Ferry Beach, consider making a general one-time gift donation at ferrybeach.org/giving.



Aside from beach renovations, Dave, our facilities personnel has been busy upgrading spaces on our campus. New flooring was recently installed in Morris Cottage and the Ziegler Room is receiving a new coat of paint on baseboard and trim for a brighter and fresher atmosphere. Here's a sneak peak at the renovations until the next discovery or when you visit in person. More upgrades to come before summer!



Do You Have An Idea?

We are looking for ways to extend our winter programming online, for those far away or near. This month we began a book club that meets once a week. If you have any ideas for online workshops, classes you would like to see or know someone that would want to facilitate one, send us an email at ferrybeach@ferrybeach.org and let us know.

Now Hiring for Summer!

Are you or someone you know looking for a full-time seasonal position?

Ferry Beach is seeking a Campground Attendant for summer. This individual will be responsible for the general upkeep of the Grove, helping set-up activities that take place, keeping public spaces clean among various other duties! Living onsite in our campground is required for this position.

Interested? Learn more and apply on our website: ferrybeach.org/work-at-ferry-beach



Upcoming Retreats

2024
February
23-25

Crafter's Retreat
Enjoy a quick weekend getaway focused on what you love the most... crafting! Bring your own projects and supplies and spend the weekend with other crafters.

2024
March
15-17

Sing your Spirit Retreat
Enjoy lessons in mindfulness in community music making. Explore improvisation, sing songs, engage in exercises linking voice & body with time for walking meditating, journaling, discussion and more!

2024
March
22-24

Learn to Quilt Retreat
Learn how to make a glorious log cabin quilt. Chose from a table runner, wall hanging, lap or bed quilt. We will support you in finishing a quilt top before you leave!

2024
April
18-21

Spring Quilting Retreat
Join us for a cozy quilting retreat as we enjoy three days of sewing, relaxing and sharing by the ocean! Large tables, design walls, cutting & ironing stations will be provided.

ferrybeach.org/schedule

FERRY BEACH

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FEBRUARY 2024



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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.



Create a Personal Retreat for You!

Have you considered coming to Ferry Beach for a quick weekend trip or even a week long stay? We have lots of cozy cabins and cottages available for you to create your own personal retreat experience. Whether you're writing a book, on a spiritual journey, yearning for time to learn a new skill, to re-discover yourself or something else a personal retreat could be yours! The beach is a wonderful opportunity of inspiration, clarity, and adventure.

With brunch offerings on Sundays, you can enjoy a delicious meal before embarking on your journey home, just add brunch to your stay. Don't wait, book a personal retreat today at fbch.me/register.

