

PIGEON WING

Spring 2017

Greetings from Hilltop

Dear Friends,

Ninety years. It's incredible to ponder it. Ninety years ago, the Great Depression, World War II, and all the social tumult that started in the 1960s and still reverberates today hadn't happened yet. A gallon of gas cost 10 cents, a loaf of bread would run you 9, and the average cost of a new home was \$3,845. My maternal grandfather (now passed on) was born. And so was Four Winds. We think that everyone who was at Four Winds in that first summer has now left us. Four Winds has lasted throughout the years, through good times and hard times. Today, it remains as vibrant and important as it was in 1927.



It's part of my job to help steward this place, and I know I'm often humbled when I think of the people that have stewarded this place in the past. I know that campers and staff get that humble feeling as they sit in the Lodge, staring up at flowers in the ceiling and letting the music of Evening Fire wash over them. I try to take that humility and turn it into a responsibility to keep Four Winds vibrant and strong for future generations. I know many of you shoulder that responsibility yourselves as well. Thank you.

One way we do that is simply by making summer happen, for the 91st time this summer. The simple act of building our community every summer is perhaps the most fundamental thing we all do to steward this place. This time of year always is buzzing with preparation for the coming summer, and this year is no different. I can't wait.

I hope you'll ponder the decades a bit as you flip through this issue of the Pigeon Wing. You may notice that this issue has several articles that tell historical stories, or focus on Camp life from many years ago. Since this summer is our 90th anniversary, we thought it would be nice to use more space to look back at our Camp history, including some things you may not even know. (For example: Did you know Miss Ruth had two sisters and a brother? Turn to page 8 to find out their names. Did you know the boys' lodge burned down in 1940? Turn to page 15 to learn how the fire started.)

Thank you for all you do to support Four Winds * Westward Ho. I look forward to seeing many of you on Orcas this summer.

All the best,
Paul

Notes from Danielle



Danielle and JP

“Once you’ve slept on an island you’ll never be quite the same...”

This phrase is one of my favorites from a widely-shared poem in the Magic Ring collection. It has stuck with me since I heard it when I first arrived at Four Winds as an Assistant Counselor in 2005. Now it speaks to me again, in a different way, as I begin my new journey as Assistant Director.

I first drove through the Four Winds gates after a long journey from Sydney, Australia, twelve years ago and almost instantly—as I believe happens for all of those who enter this very special community—my life changed forever. I had never experienced anything like the combination of love, spirit and values that underpin the Four Winds experience and I knew that I had found another, slightly smaller island, which also felt like home.

That first summer, as I sat in Shining Mountain writing letters to my cousin (who had been a camper and a staff member at Four Winds), I remember feeling so unbelievably blessed to have found something so very special. Right then I knew then that the “gypsy spirit” had nestled deep into my heart and was there to stay. Since my AC summer, I’ve had the great fortune to spend additional summers working with the amazing staff and campers as a Counselor (2007 & 2013), Head of Garden (2012), and most recently as Head of Girls (2014 & 2015).

Now as my husband, John Paul, and I (and our two cats) unpack our belongings in Baghdad, the feeling of gratitude is overwhelming as I reflect on my Four Winds journey so far. I am so grateful for all of my experiences at Four Winds, for the people I have met, and for the many adventures that lie ahead. I am beyond excited to begin this new chapter in my Four Winds journey and to work with Paul, the fantastic Four Winds staff, and, of course, all of the campers.

These first steps on my journey are also filled with my deep appreciation and admiration for my predecessor, Emily Glass. She has done such amazing work in her role as Assistant Director and I feel incredibly lucky to have worked with her so closely on summer staff for many years. Emily will be deeply missed by the entire Four Winds community, but the dedication, love and passion she brought to Camp every day will serve as an inspiration to me as I assume my new responsibilities.

I am eagerly looking forward to summer 2017 and the fun, excitement, friendships and memories yet to come. I can’t wait to welcome our next batch of campers and staff to sleep for a summer on our beautiful little island. Whether it is their first summer at Camp or another in a long line of them here, I am sure each and every person will never be quite the same!

—Danielle Bone, Assistant Director

A Word from Emily

Greetings from the post-Camp life! Before I officially departed, the fantastic Danielle Bone and I were so fortunate to have a couple of months to work closely together as part of the transition. We covered everything from Four Winds philosophy to the nitty-gritty details of camper transportation, and I feel inspired by her enthusiasm and vision for Camp. She and Paul are a phenomenal team, and the campers and staff are under incredible leadership moving forward.

While we will miss Camp dearly, Gerry and I are excited for this next phase in our family’s life. As many of you know, we have been back and forth between Orcas and Seattle for a long time and are ready to put down year-round roots in one place. I am making a career pivot into the field of human resources, and will be starting a new job at Microsoft at the end of April. While the quiet woods of Orcas Island are a far cry from the sprawling tech campus in Redmond, I look forward to continuing my work with people and relationships, while also diving headfirst into a whole new industry!

My relationship with Camp is evolving, and I find so much beauty in these shifting tides... we are part of an incredible community, and we each play a part in its health and longevity. I proudly embrace my new status as Four Winds Alum and plan to support Camp however I can, while waiting patiently for the day we can enroll Penny as a camper! See you down the road...

—Emily Glass



Gerry, Emily and Penelope

Meet Elizabeth

Linda and Paul Sheridan are excited to announce the arrival of their newest addition **Elizabeth Anne Sheridan!** Elizabeth was born at the Anacortes Hospital on October 6th 2017—the day before Linda and Paul celebrated their 10th Anniversary. She is a happy bubbly little girl who will probably have several camp songs memorized by this summer. Six-year-old Emma is super excited to be a big sister and Kate the dog is loving all of the new smells around the house!



Winter Work Wrap-up

The Four Winds Maintenance crew has been hustling this off-season with multiple projects—some that were standard repairs and some that were aimed at improving Camp life.

"One thing we did was add railings with netting to the areas around the tents that are more than 30-inches off the ground," explained Rick Mollner, Camp's Head of Maintenance. "They look great and fit the Camp feeling while also providing a little more safety."

Near the barn you will notice new fencing around the front pasture. That time-consuming project was considered a "must" this winter.

"It's a really high-use area that is often very wet," said Mollner. "Many of the old posts were rotting in the ground and simply had to be replaced. The way we rebuilt it should last several years and should require little upkeep along the way."

Inside the boat barn, Shipwright Jim Kruse refurbished a War Canoe along with the rest of his regular off-season duties. The green canoe—known as Southern Cross—was built in 1929 and needed some substantial TLC.

"The canoe was punctured in two locations and needed a portion of the rib and plank in those areas replaced," said Kruse. "I milled a small piece of old growth red cedar driftwood from the beach to match the red cedar planking from the 20's."

After repairing the structural problems, Kruse finished the exterior to make the canoe look good as new.

"I patched the canvas, and since the paint was flaking off I removed the old paint, primed the canvas and painted her dark green," he said. "Then sanded and varnished everything to get her ready for this summer and beyond."

And finally, it was also a busy off-season for *Carlyn*, who lived in Port Townsend, WA all winter for some extensive rebuilding projects.

"Perhaps the most noticeable change is to our galley," said Captain Ryan Downs. "It's a little more modern and accommodating for folks with dietary needs, and in order to make cleaning easier and avoid cross contamination for campers and staff with food allergies, we covered the galley counter tops in stainless steel. We installed a refrigeration system in the chilly bin, which now will maintain the correct temperature without having to buy ice. Without the ice bags, we have more room for food, too!"

There is also a new insulated hot water tank that runs off the engine heat exchanger, so as long as the engine is on, there will be hot water that will last for a few hours. A new faucet that runs off a pump makes sure there is hot water pressure anytime.

"We purchased new sail covers for our newer sails," said Downs. "Island Canvas on Bainbridge Island made great covers that should last a long time. And—as with every winter—there were plenty of paint and varnish jobs to keep *Carlyn* looking pretty and ready for the next 20 years of her life at Camp!"

Four Winds * Westward Ho Master Plan

There's a big project in the works inside the Four Winds office as well, where Camp is working with an architecture firm to develop an updated Master Plan of the Four Winds Camp property.

"Ruth Brown seems to have always put ideas, aesthetics, and the feel of place first," said [Amy Fields](#) (camper 52, 53, 59; Board 2001–present), a member of the Four Winds Board of Trustees and point person for the Master Plan project. "The integrity of materials and craft in her design are huge components of the magic that we experience at Camp. The Master Plan will enable us to maintain the integrity, magic and soundness of Camp's facilities now and in the future."

The Master Plan will document existing buildings, focusing on historically used aesthetics while reviewing, organizing and updating design guidelines for any future construction projects. The goal is to keep consistency in all the buildings at Four Winds based upon what Miss Ruth would have wanted. There is also a focus on identifying special spots throughout Camp and listing those spots on a "Memory Space Map" for all future generations to learn about.

"Four Winds belongs to all of its community members," said Paul Sheridan, Director of Four Winds. "So that project needs to be a team effort. The Master Plan is just that, and will help us to maintain and improve the property for years to come."



Above: new railings

Below: new fence



Above: two views of the newly refurbished Southern Cross war canoe

Below: Left: View of the new galley



Carlyn Canada Trip 2016

Without a doubt, the Canada Trip is the best part of my year. I dream about it all winter. Last summer, we had a miraculous combination of great weather and, a rarity in the summer: wind! We had a magnificent crew of campers with great morale the whole time. Our time in Princess Louisa Inlet was perfect, and we even got to anchor next to **Martha** and sang to her crew. We hiked on some perfect islands (some I'd never been to before) and sailed, well, almost every day. We instituted a new tradition, where on Wednesdays the female crew members command the ship. I got to cook that day, which was new and super fun for me.

We visited some friends of mine on Lasqueti Island, and got to play with their dogs and eat shellfish. A hike around the island was great, and the girls camped out on the island while the boys had the ship. We also spent time at the Bounous property on Quadra Island, which goes down as a favorite of the trip. Swimming in a rock quarry, going to the lake, and having the biggest, all-you-can-eat crab dinner one could imagine. Traveling with a pod of humpback whales through Seymour Narrows is a memory I will likely carry with me for the rest of my life. The crew handled a wind storm on the way home like a crew that had worked together for years. It was amazing to see them get up at 2 AM to strike the sails in a lot of wind and dock the ship like professionals.

"My favorite thing about the trip would be the community we were able to build..."

All in all, last summer was the best time I've had in 10 years of living in the Northwest; much of it was simply being at Camp, and the rest was Canada and the wonderful weather we had all summer. I'm looking forward to seeing you all soon, and challenging 2017 to be even better!

For the campers on the *Carlyn*, the friendships they made were as memorable as the sights they saw.

"My favorite thing about the trip would be the community we were able to build," said Ryan Oshinsky, a 14-year-old member of the crew. "Captain Ryan (best captain ever by the way) told us from day one that we could make our little society how ever we wanted it to be. One of my favorite parts about camp is the community building that takes place every session, and we had even more freedom on *Carlyn*. The intense freedom we had from the get go, and the incredible trust placed in us by the camp and the crew came together to create something truly special."

—Captain Ryan Downs



The Carlyn crew, 2016



Carlyn under sail



Down in the galley



Waterfall hike

Catching Up with the Captains

Big boats have a long history at Four Winds * Westward Ho, and as such, the Captains hold a place of high esteem at Camp—and around the Salish Sea. From the days of Captain John Bertincini in 1937, names such as Franz Gruber, John Clark, Norman Angus, Robert Dunch, Robert Hellsell, David Johansen, John Barnes, David Jacobsen, Gerry Davis and many others have skippered our big boat through the summers. Here are a few recent Captains, some of their memories, and what they are up to these days.

Miles McCoy: Skipper on Westward Ho 1950; Skipper on Martha 1968–71 “My wife, Louellen, and I are retired and still living on Orcas. I’m 86 now! We’re OK—keeping up with maintenance, hauling firewood, sailing every now and then, taking it one day at a time. My last big cruise was in 1995 on the Schooner *Alcyone* cruising in the Southeast portion of the Pacific Ocean. When I sail around here, I operate a Martin 24 to sail in the Friday night races in Westsound. There are some really good sailors who come out; they’re pretty hard to beat! Racing and sailing are two different things. I prefer the old simple rigs, and sailing along—watching the bubbles stream by.”

Philo Lund: Carlyn Captain 1996–98 “I live in Anacortes, Washington. I’m 64 years old and I just retired—I let my full-time skippers’ license go. Now I spend my time visiting my granddaughters—Rava, Vivian and Zo Zo, ages 9, 7 and 3. They live on Orcas so I’m over there about three weekends a month. I stay busy by being on the Board of the Maritime Committee here in Anacortes, as well as being on the Board of the Anacortes Library. I recently applied to be a Sailing Director of the Parks and Recreation District in Anacortes, hoping we can get some more sailing programs for local kids.”

Doug Humes: Carlyn Captain 1999–2005 “I’m adjusting to retirement from my wandering ways and interesting jobs far and wide. Now I’m staying home, splitting firewood, mowing the lawn, cooking and visiting friends. My main connection with boats is volunteering with the Community Boat Project, using hand tools to build things with high school students.”

Kevin Campion: Trip leader 2004, Mate 2005, Carlyn Captain 2006–07 “I live near Shilshole Marina in Seattle, but am usually on board my 82-foot yawl, *Orion*. In 2009 I started Deep Green Wilderness, a sailing and marine conservation program. Over the course of each year we get over 200 students out onto the Salish Sea on multi-day voyages. Deep Green Wilderness also has a film production wing; we are working on our second film, which is about our attempt to find a North Pacific right whale, the rarest large whale in the world.

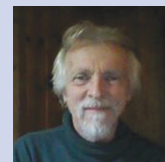
My favorite memories include the Desolation Sound trips, which were always incredible. Seeing bears in Butte Inlet and watching the campers’ eyes bug out as we watched a black bear swim across the river just down stream of us. Looking at bats in Pulton Bay. The best part of working on *Carlyn* was the people. The different crews and campers, the jokes and the relationships that formed. It speaks volumes about how bonding an experience like living on a boat can be. These folks are some of my closest friends now. Community building, the effort that goes into creating a safe and fun place for all the individuals in a community. The skill and rewards of valuing everyone in a community. It’s what camp does best.”

Gerry Santillan: Carlyn Captain 2006–12 “I am a home inspector in Seattle, working for myself as “North By West Inspections.” I’m married to Emily Glass and we have a beautiful daughter, Penelope, who lived at camp for two summers—which I will always cherish.” Looking back at my time as *Carlyn’s* captain, I loved the crew and campers. Everyone brought different strengths and weaknesses. I will always remember campers’ faces when *Carlyn* caught a gust of wind and they were responsible for making her go. I remember fondly the *Carlyn* Family Fun, provision runs in Canada, navigating on 4th of July weekend, anchoring in Princess Louisa Inlet, or just doing maintenance on the dock with the crews. One thing I’d like to say to any of the campers and crew that sailed with me: ‘Thank you. It was my pleasure to be given the opportunity to share memories with everyone out there.’”

Scott Cann: Carlyn Captain 2011–2014 “I’m living in Seattle, working as a project manager at Emerald Harbor Marine. Our son, Leroi, (with wife, Kristen), is three and Gracie will be a year old this June. My favorite part about working on *Carlyn* was taking a group of Green Horns North and bringing home Sailors that not only could sail *Carlyn* but also plan and navigate their routes. There were also some great overnights with Fir, hiking to the end of Stewart Island lighthouse, swinging from the rigging at Chatterbox Falls, hikes to the trappers cabin and leaving tokens from camp... but I can not lie: The trips north to Desolation Sound were always the best. The thing that left the most lasting impression on me was seeing the abilities of the campers when they struggled through a hardship to come out stronger and more confident on the other side. Through trials and tribulations you rose to become confident mariners. I would be happy to sail with you again anytime.”



Miles and Louellen McCoy



Above: Doug Humes; below: Kevin Campion in Moorea



Gerry Santillan



Scott Cann with wife Kristen, daughter Gracie and son Leroi

Ways to Give

Board Roster 2017

Henri Broekmate,
Chair

Sammamish, WA

John DesCamp,
Vice-Chair

Bellevue, WA

John Wineman,
Treasurer

Portland, OR

Diana Wiegel,
Secretary

Oakland, CA

Dave Baker

San Anselmo, CA

Ella Brittingham

Santa Barbara, CA

Janet Brownell

Orcas Island, WA

Sue Clauson

Seattle, WA

Bruce Coffey

Pasadena, CA

Valerie Corvin

Piedmont, CA

Eleanor (ElBell) Crebs

St. Helena, CA

Amy Fields

Portland, OR

Kristin Harrison

Pasadena, CA

Wendy Gilbaugh Kelley

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Charlie MacPherson

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Judy Murphy

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Alan Schulman

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Cynthia Coleman

Pasadena, CA

Carlyn Stark

Port Townsend, WA

Mike Douglas

Deer Harbor, WA

Marion Mohler

Mercer Island, WA

Mission Statement

Four Winds * Westward Ho fosters a spirit of adventure and delight, cooperation and compassion, creativity and self-confidence within campers that will enrich and inspire them throughout their lives.



Your support helps make Four Winds * Westward Ho special.

Four Winds is a 501(c) 3 non-profit corporation, and as such we depend on the generosity of donors to help augment our annual budget. Donations are crucial to many of our programs—most notably **Financial Aid**. Camp provides financial aid to 20% of all campers each year. In 2016, we welcomed 68 Financial Aid campers from 9 different states. 36 of those campers were returnees, while the other 32 were new to FWWH.

Donations are also vital to other areas, including our Wish List, where each year donors purchase items for Camp. This year we've been blessed to have donors purchase things like new paddleboard and canoe paddles, children's saddles, guitar stands, bridles and bits, binoculars, a new engraved bell for Carlyn and many other items!

The Ruth A. Brown Legacy Club honors people who have included Four Winds in their wills, providing a source of funding well into the future. Estate Giving is a growing trend in the world of philanthropy, and we would be honored to discuss this option with you personally. Here are a few common ways you can donate to Four Winds through your Estate Planning:

- Prepare a will. Without a will, your family could be left in financial and legal limbo.
- Leave a gift in your will to Four Winds Camp.
- Name Four Winds Camp as a beneficiary of your pension plan or IRA.
- Name Four Winds Camp as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy
- Remember loved ones with memorial gifts to Camp in their honor.
- Encourage family and friends to include Four Winds in their Estate Planning.

Please call Mike Smith at 360.376.2277 or email mike@fourwindscamp.org to learn more about Estate Planning. We'd like to thank everyone for his or her loyalty to FWWH. Without your support, Camp would be a very different place.

The May Match

Each spring for the past five years, Four Winds Camp has taken part in a one-day fundraising event known as "Give Big," a creation of The Seattle Foundation that includes hundreds of non-profits from Washington. This year, rather than taking part in Give Big, we are doing a similar event of our very own that we think will be more beneficial to Camp.

The May Match will be held on **May 4th, 2017**. Like Give Big, our fundraiser will have guaranteed matching dollars—but at a much higher percentage than previous years. Our match will be **20% of all donations gathered on May 4th**; last year our match from Give Big was closer to 4%. Also, The May Match will offer incremental bonuses as our donation dollars grow:

- If we hit \$25,000 in donations, the bonus is \$1,000.
- At \$50,000 we get a bonus of \$2,000.
- If we surpass our one-day record (\$67,500) we get a bonus of \$5,000!

Because this event is in-house, we don't anticipate any of the frustrating technical difficulties that plagued Give Big last year. Also, the credit card processing fees will be significantly less. Last year we paid approximately 5% in fees; this year, using in house processing and Pay Pal on our website, they will be less than 3-percent. Or you can simply pledge to mail us a check, reducing the fees to zero—an option that wasn't available in Give Big!

So mark your calendar for **The May Match on May 4th**. And as Linda Sheridan in our office likes to say, "May the 4th be with you...."



Notes about Camp

Each fall we mail a two-page questionnaire to parents and campers so we can get feedback about camp. Here are some comments we received this past year.



How did you expect your child to grow and what changes did you see in him/her when he/she returned from camp?

[He] always returns excited about the new experiences he has had, sharing the great friendships he has made, and more independent in his actions.

—Parent of a 15 year-old boy

We had hoped she would gain independence & self-reliance and she did in a big way. She thrived for the four weeks and returned a stronger, more resilient girl.

—Parent of an 11 year-old girl

[He] continues to thrive in his Camp experience—he seems more confident and independent every summer

—Parent of a 14 year-old boy

I expected her to come home full of joy and fun and she did. She always seems so content to me when returning!

—Parent of a 13 year-old girl

[He] had another magical summer at Camp. He made new friends, deepened the bond with his old ones. He returned even more appreciative of the Camp community and its values.

—Parent of a 14 year-old boy

She was more independent, confident, mature. She had a fantastic experience—transformative.

—Parent of an 11 year-old girl

[She] returns from Camp with a yearning for greater independence at home. She demonstrates more empathy and more understanding of social cues.

—Parent of an 11 year-old girl

What was your sense of tent/cabin life and how your child felt about general social living situation?

The best thing about cabin life is that [he] learns, or becomes more aware, of how his actions affect others outside of his family...good and bad. It's helpful when he hears it from an outside source.

—Parent of a 12-year-old boy



[She] did not always agree with her cabin-mates and that was exactly how we hoped it would be—she and her mates had to learn cooperation, compromise and the greater good.

—Parent of an 11 year-old girl

[He] was very happy with his tentmates and his counselor [who] wrote the most thoughtful letters of any of [our son's] counselors over the years. He obviously knew [our son] well and made us feel like he genuinely cared about the boys and their development.

—Parent of a 14 year-old boy



[She] liked her cabin mates. Their existing friendship led her to other groups at camp. It also made her work hard to break in and make herself a part of their community. I think that's a great skill.

—Parent of a 15 year-old girl

A Gypsy Thank You to our 2017 Slideshow Hosts!

Our annual slide show tour takes us to alumni homes in nine states and Canada. It's a great way to spread the word about Four Winds Camp. If you're interested in hosting a slide show in January or February of 2018, email danielle@fourwindscamp.org.

Orcas Island

Linda, Paul, Emma & Elizabeth Sheridan

Vancouver, BC

Martin, Samantha & Jack Kincade

San Francisco, CA

Richard McDerby; Sara Foster; Grace, Quentin & Jude Foster-McDerby

Greenbrae, CA

Tania, Kevin, Noelle & Nicholas Scheer

Saint Helena, CA

Eleanor "ElBell" & Rick Crebs

Berkeley, CA

Tamar Todd; Ty, Rachel, Casey & Owen Alper

Los Angeles, CA

Carlyn Henry; Mickey, Gray & Teddy Mandlebaum (oo-hosted by the Sun Family)

Pasadena, CA

Tracy, Ken & Charlie McCormick

Santa Barbara, CA

Maggie, Will, John & Gigi Geyer

Portland, OR

Kelly, Robert, Peter, Kate & Charlie Bloch

Bellevue, WA

Laura, Jeff, Ava, Gaby, Jack & Nina Bede

Hailey, ID

Molly, Tom, Lilia & Henry Page

Washington, DC

Kristina, Stephen, Adrien & Evelyn Penhoet

Seattle, WA

Barbara, Joe, Joey & Allie Sniezek

Salt Lake City, UT

Mary McIntyre; Will & Morgan Jacquin

Eugene, OR

Libby Holden & Alyson Florendo

Gypsy Memories

Often times alums share with us feelings about Camp. These stories arrive unannounced and unexpected, as a letter or an email, maybe a package or a phone call—and always warm our hearts.

This story from [Elizabeth “Miss Lisa” Poole](#) (camper 57, 58: CT) reminded us of the simplicity and creativity that are so important in our Camp community.

“Today, while undertaking the most mundane of chores that one feels compelled to do in the spring—washing EVERYTHING—the simple act of adding a capful of bleach to the bucket ricocheted my mind back to that historical day so long ago. It’s a day I will never forget, even though I’ve lived long enough to have witnessed other historical events that could crowd it out.

Crow’s Nest had table setting duty that day. It was a bright and sunny morning. Martha was moored off the dock, the water sparkling like diamonds where little zephyrs whispered by. Palmer Petterson, who was working in the kitchen that summer, burst out the door, dishtowel in hand, face flush from the oven’s baking heat. “They’ve landed on the moon!” he exclaimed. “They’ve landed on the MOON!”

I remember that moment so clearly. Life would never be the same. We would never again look at the moon and wonder about all the mystery it held because it was unconquered by man. There would no longer be those innocent thoughts that it was made of cheese, or that a man who loved cheese lived there. Seeing it reflected in the water during a nighttime canoeing escapade would no longer engender the pure wonder of a spotlight reflecting back at you and you quietly slid through the black water. Now, someone had walked upon it—and I was at Camp when it happened.

I think, that even back then, July 20th, 1969, “electronic devices” were not part of the landscape at Camp. Because of his long days in the kitchen, Miss Carlyn allowed Palmer to have a radio, and this is how we found out. I’m pretty certain that we weren’t even aware that there had been a Space Shot that summer, that’s how blissfully removed we had become in our enchanted world.

*Later that day, gathered at the Hill of the Moon for Sunday Service, Miss Carlyn gave me her Gypsy Bracelet, which I wear to this day. Four Winds Camp was probably the single most profound experience of my Life. The lessons of camaraderie, spirituality, music, gaiety, mindfulness, and a deep appreciation of the power of Nature have lasted my entire life. I am so thankful that Four Winds*Westward Ho continues to provide quality camping experiences to generations of children. Lives are touched and changed in a positive way by it, and in this ridiculous and absurd world, that is a rare and wonderful thing.”*

And this letter from [John Cronkhite](#) (camper 1939–42), addressed to our Board of Trustees president, arrived during the holiday season. A simple note that takes you back to the beginning of Camp, where you can visualize John and his friends running around the same paths that we still use today, and you can truly feel what Four Winds * Westward Ho meant to him.

*“It is with great fondness that I think of Four Winds * Westward Ho. I attended Camp 75 years ago, in the late 30s and early 40s. It was great fun. I can remember so many things. The Westward Ho yawl, riding horses, rifle range, the swimming pool, throwing rocks from the ‘summit’ into the water and also skipping rocks across the water. Of course, that was when swimming in the sound was good because the water wasn’t cold, at least once you became used to it.*

I can still picture Miss Ruth and singing at campfires at night.

What a great place. What a great experience.”

Miss Ruth: Did you know?

One of the most cherished historical documents we have in the FWWH office is a typewritten interview with Miss Ruth. The interview, conducted in 1976 by a former camper and staff member, provides multiple pieces of information that made us say, “I didn’t know that!” Did you know that Miss Ruth’s middle name was Archambault (her mother’s maiden name), and that...

- She was born in Detroit on November 12, 1896 and raised in Ypsilanti, MI
- She had two sisters, Grace and Evelyn, and a brother, Cletus.
- Her mother was French, from Montreal. Her father manufactured yeast.
- When she was nine, she decided she wanted to live on the West Coast. She took a pencil and hit Winlock, WA on a map, and that’s what led her to Washington.
- She attended Michigan State Teacher’s College, and her first teaching job was at Greenwood School in North Seattle.
- She got involved with Camp Fire Girls, and formed the Seattle-area Camp Fire Girls in 1919.
- When she decided to start Four Winds, she looked for property on Orcas and decided Camp would be eight weeks long.

And finally, a few words of wisdom from Miss Ruth herself, straight from that interview:

“At the age of seven, I wanted dolls, I had 23 dolls. At the age of eight I wanted poetry books. Poems say for you the things you don’t know how to say for yourself.”

“All the happiness in the world is in daily life. I believe in work, in creativity. Finish what you start. Four Winds was free of strain. I never got in a tizzy.”



2017 Alumni News

Marlys (Swenson) Waller (Camper 39, 40, 44; Staff 44, 70, 71) lives in a retirement home in Woodinville, WA where the flowers dance day after day.

During a recent visit over coffee, Marlys shared lovely stories about her time at Four Winds, and she also brought up the subject of **"Magic Loot."** Many Camp alums are familiar with Magic Loot, but some have never heard of it. Marlys, in the interest of keeping long-standing traditions going, wanted to make sure we brought it back to the forefront. **"Magic Loot** is when you see something special that you weren't thinking about that brings joy," she explained. "A new born baby. The first crocus of Spring. Something that you see. The Northwest has had an unusual amount of rain, and now we are having lots of Magic Loot! The Skagit fields are in full glory with tulips, the cherry and fruit trees sparkle. My daughter, **Johanna Waller Dakopolos** (Camper 69–71; CT 73; Staff 75–77), just sent me 'Magic Loot' in the form of a picture of the daffodils from her garden, and my niece, Carole Breck (Camper 65, 66, 71; Staff 72) is forever sending me **Magic Loot,**" said Marlys. "Just the other day she emailed me a picture she took of a mountain in the sunset, with the simple message: **'Magic Loot'**. It's such a simple reminder to look for joy in the world."

Jennifer White "Jeff" Matthews (Camper 57–59), lives in Vancouver, BC and am the grandmother of seven adorable grandchildren, who live scattered throughout BC. I fill most of my time with travel, nature and acrylic painting. I have worked as a social worker in the inner city schools in Vancouver, working with many families from different cultures. When I re-visited Four Winds last year, I was surprised by my tears as it brought back so many memories of fun, friendships and huge opportunities that I now see as being the bedrock for my life's adventures. I was struck with an immediate recognition that my camp experience was the root of a very creative, adventurous life that I continue to live. I will be eternally grateful for the few summers I spent there.

Elizabeth "Miss Lisa" Poole (Camper 57, 58; CT 67; Staff 68, 69) Loving being a Grandmother to my 11-year-old granddaughter (In Santa Cruz, CA), who has an adorable 7-year-old brother, BTW.

Marion Mohler (Camper 63, 64; CT 69; Staff 69, 70; Board 84–09) George and I are happily retired, still living on Mercer Island outside of Seattle and very happy to have our grown daughters, **Jenny** (Camper 97, 01, 03; CT 04; Staff 07, 08) and **Heather** (Camper 99–01, 03 – 05; CT 06; Staff 09, 10, 12), living and working nearby. We enjoy biking, skiing, golfing, traveling and projecting. Currently we (or I should say George) is outfitting a van so that we can travel with our dog on adventures throughout this amazing country of ours. The family camp tradition that began with my grandmother Marion Homer continues with nephew **David Brinkley**, working on staff again this summer.



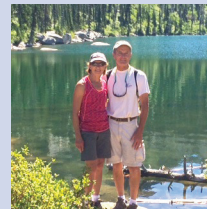
Judy Pigott (Camper 64, 65) Since attending Four Winds Camp—way back when bloomers and middy blouses were all the style—I've been back to camp a few times. Each time it's been with warmth, especially for the bench on the trail above the bay where Sheila Noonan and I used to meet after dinner, and for the black cauldron where I learned that donuts could be made in the woods. I must have been about 15 then. And I certainly have great love of the Helsell family; **Bill Helsell** (Camper 32–41) being my step-dad, without whom I'd not have been likely to find this wonderful place. Since that time, 50+ years ago, high school, undergrad at Skidmore College in nursing and then onto psychology. Graduate school at Columbia Teachers College, then on to raising four children (now all adult) occupied most of my energies during a significant period of time while living in a variety of cities across the country. My then-husband's medical school and training offered us opportunities to try out different styles of living in different settings. More recently, I've focused on being an advocate for community and justice. I co-authored *Personal Safety Nets: Getting Ready for Life's Inevitable Changes and Challenges* and its companion workbook, which focus on compassionate and effective teamwork throughout life. My motto this year is: Paying Attention: Doing less and doing that more slowly. It's working.



Marlys Waller



Jennifer White
Matthews



Marion and George
Mohler



Lisa Poole and her granddaughter

2017 Alumni News, continued



Clara Pratt and Jaculin Smith

Whitney Lane (Camper 66–68; Staff 77; Board 93–96) I live in Portola Valley, CA and am still involved in arty things. Been learning how to make mosaics and mixed media drawings. I like living near my mom, Joan Fletcher Lane (“Fletch” when she was at camp in the 40s, and later on the Board of Trustees in the 70s.) She’s amazing still and has lots of energy. I am in the process of remodeling my bathroom, working hands on with the carpenter as well as designing it, and the tile work reminds of the ceiling in the Lodge with all the different flowers.

Jaculin Smith (Camper 72–75) I live in the Portland, OR area and work as an attorney in solo practice, assisting families in life transitions. I am a volunteer mediator at the Washington County Circuit Court, and Operations Manager at a non-profit called The Northwest Hub, which provides education and transportation to all members of the community through the reclamation, repair, and distribution of bicycles. In my spare time I ski a lot—racing in an adult league and serving as President-elect of my ski club, Skiyente, located on Mt. Hood (OR). My daughter, **Clara Pratt** (Camper 01–04) is also a Four Winds alum who recently graduated from Western Oregon University with her degree in Computer Sciences.

Bill “Spill” Tryon (Camper 73–78) I am an IT consultant living in the SF bay area. My passion is the outdoors, and I am building an off-grid cabin in the woods in Shasta County. My experiences at Four Winds certainly gave me an appreciation for nature and sailing. I have been involved with sailboat racing and cruising for most of my life, even did the Pacific Cup to Hawaii. I have also traveled in South America extensively and enjoy seeking answers to the mysteries of life!



Sasha Gifford and family

Sasha Gifford (camper 76, 77; CT 80) I have been having a fun year traveling with all the Gifford kids as both Marshall and Ellie are taking gap years between grad school and college. As a family we will have hit every continent this year, with the exception of Antarctica. In between trips, I am deepening my yoga practice and broadening my resources for health coaching. I absolutely can not WAIT for reunion in September!

Rachel Treloar (CT 75; Staff 76, 03) completed an interdisciplinary PhD (Sociology, Public Policy and Law) at Simon Fraser University in December and is now looking for work. In my spare time I enjoy hiking the hills and mountains of Vancouver Island (and beyond).



Nancy Yates, Sue Hamilton, and Nadine Sheppard

Nancy Yates (Camper 77–80; CT 81, 82) I live in Rye, NY (just north of Manhattan) with my husband (a professional photographer) and our 10-year-old daughter. I work part time for Clay Art Center as their Communications Manager, and I also have my own business: “Nancy Yates Art Advisory” where I sell art straight from artist’s studios. I definitely miss the West Coast and have such fond memories of my time at Four Winds. I visited Vancouver two years ago and had a great time reconnecting with **Sue Hamilton** (Camper 79; CT 81, 82) and **Nadine Sheppard** (Camper 79–82; CT 81, 82) looking over photos of our Four Winds Days—seems like just yesterday.



Nancy Yates, daughter Sydney, and husband Geoff Tischman

“Flying” Scott Wilmore (Staff 1978–79) recently retired and moved to a houseboat in sunny Sausalito, CA!

David Louchheim (Camper 82–85; CT 87; Staff 89-91) is currently living in Park City, UT with his wife and two children who are both campers: **Carter** (Camper 11, 12, 14–16) and **Arden** (Camper 14–16). David works as the radio voice of the Utah Jazz, and thru his travels has bumped into numerous FWWH Gypsies.

Jenny (Epmeier) Grady (Camper 83–86) I live in Chicago with my husband and two kids, and work in Marketing/Communications for Northwestern Medicine. The best summers of my childhood were spent at Four Winds. I loved hanging out at the barn, spending a week on the *Adventuress* for a senior trip, and participating in the East Sound Classic with Mr. D on *Carlyn* for Gypsy Day. Fantastic memories!

Shelly Machel (Camper 83) I live in Thousand Oaks, CA with my husband Simon, daughter Grace (12) and son Harry (9). We visited Orcas a few years ago and unfortunately showed up on Gypsy Day so our kids didn’t get a true feeling for what a day at camp is like but we hope they’ll attend soon and make their own great memories.



Shelley Machel (burgundy sweater) with Crow’s Nest; 1984

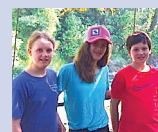


Jenny Epmeier Grady and family

Erin (Wilson) Russell (Camper 84, 85, 87, 89; CT 92; Staff 96, 97) lives in Napa where her family grows wine grapes (Rancho Chimiles) with her husband and two children. Erin works as a realtor with Coldwell Banker in Napa and Sonoma counties. Her daughter, **Harriet** (Camper 14–17), has attended Four Winds for the past three summers and will again this year! Harriet's grandmother, **Virginia (Lyn) (Belcher) Wilson** (Camper 59–62; CT 66) spent many summers on Orcas as a camper and Counselor. They continue to keep the Gypsy fires burning by singing Camp songs and telling Camp tales all year long in wine country. year long in wine country.

Amy Basey van den Dijssel (Camper 85, 86; CT 89; AC 90; Staff 92, 93) We moved to Mamaroneck, NY in 2011 after seven years in Geneva, Switzerland. We love living near the water and have enjoyed hearing more about the *Dorade's* history at the Larchmont Yacht Club, where the Olin brothers were members. She's a legend around here! Our daughters, **Sofia** (Camper 13, 15, 17) and **Emma** (Camper 13, 17) will attend First Session this summer. They can't wait to go back! We see **Kristin Eklund Weber** (Camper 85, 86, 88; CT 89; AC 90; Staff 92, 93) often in Colorado—she's Godmother to Sofia and Emma!

Meaghan (Boyle) Tozzi (Camper 86, 87, 89, 90; CT 92; Staff 94) and her husband Johnny live in Jackson, WY, with their three children. They're enjoying watching Sophia, Ava and Nico grow up and have amazing summer experiences like attending Four Winds and falling in love with Orcas Island.



Meaghan Boyle Tozzi's children

Barbara Zeppenfeld (Staff 86) I live in southern Germany, breeding historic sheep that have lived here in the Alpen Mountains for several hundred years. We also sell wool products that come from unique breeds. Recently, we added another special breed known as "Stag Creek Magpie Warrior," a curly haired horse. Four Winds was one of my most intense experiences that changed a bunch of things in my life. Thanks for that and love to all past and current staff and kids on Orcas Island.



Annie Howell and family

Annie Howell: (staff 87–90, Craft Courts) continues island life by residing on a tiny island in the East River, New York City, with her husband, Michael Gillespie, and two sons, Ben (7) and Nat (13). She's a Professor of Film at City College New York, makes independent movies, and hopes her kids will love camp (albeit on the East Coast). Gypsy love to all craft-o's and love seeing former campers on Facebook.

Ben Woolf (Camper 91, 92; CT 93, 94) I'm the father of twins living in Denver, Colorado. I spend winters skiing and summer chasing kids around on soccer fields. I can safely say I gained my love of soccer playing and coaching at FW*WH. I am married to a lovely Denver native, Jennifer, and our twins are in second grade. I work in commercial real estate as Director of Investments for Conscience Bay Company. *Dorade*, I adore thee.

Anna (Hadley) Johnson (Camper 93–97; CT 99; AC 00; Staff 02–05) The Johnson family is doing well enjoying life in Big Sky, Montana! Anna works at CIEE (Council on International Educational Exchange), and is now managing a team of staff in the West working to send high school students from around the country abroad for summer programs in 27 international locations. Her husband, Neil, continues to work at Big Sky Resort managing the Ticket Sales and Mountain Services department for the resort. Their daughters Cora (4) and Linley (1) enjoy the outdoors too, skiing, biking, swimming, as well as ballet and hanging out with friends at school. They love singing camp songs every night for bed.

Cary Hueser (CT 96; AC 97)

Alumni Gypsies met in Santa Barbara for their yearly reunion:

Alice Crebs Tumilty, Ann Russell Felton, Daphne Edwards Opperman, Rebecca Homer-Smith Dearie, Sarah Rutledge Crump, Cary Harder Hueser.



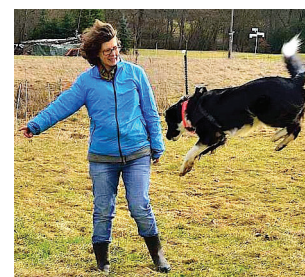
Ali Walker (Camper 97–06; CT 07; Staff 08–14, 16) After last summer as Head of Girls, I went to work at a Craft School in North Carolina (imagine the craft courts on a HUGE scale.) I also got to take a class every week they were offered, so I did a lot of quilting and fiber arts. After leaving that job in December, I moved to Orcas Island and am now working for Camp Orkila in their Outdoor Ed Program. I bought a small house on five acres on Orcas Island (near the ferry landing) and I'm so excited to continue my life as an islander, with my boyfriend, George.



Erin Wilson Russell (second from left) and her husband and children.



Amy Basey van den Dijssel with her husband Jan-Willem, daughters Sofia and Emma, and pup Patriot



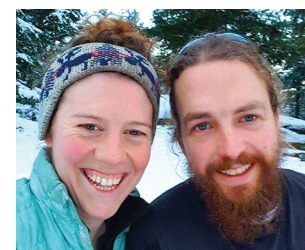
Barbara Zeppenfeld



Ben Woolf and his wife Jennifer and their children



Anna Hadley Johnson with husband Neil and daughters Linley and Cora

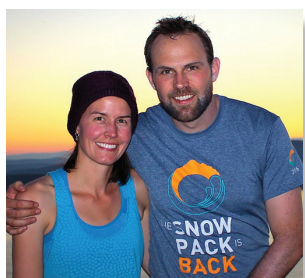


Ali Walker and George

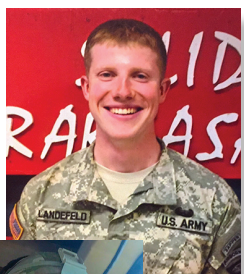
2017 Alumni News, continued



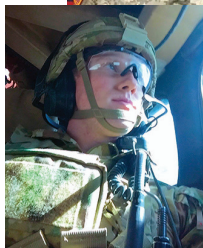
Joe Brown



Chris and Lisa Custer-Wearn



Hackett Landefeld

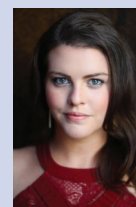


Ross Carlson (Camper 98-02; CT 03; AC 04) I live in Missoula, MT and work at *onXmaps*, a digital recreation mapping startup. I work at the intersection of digital mapping and software development and love the technology related problem solving. When not plugged in I enjoy trail running, all kinds of skiing, fly fishing, and almost everything Montana has to offer outdoors. I think of camp often and the relationship between self and place that it helped to define in me. I also think back to the hours I spent on the *Carlyn* pouring over maps charting our courses between destinations and how those experiences shaped the direction of my life and career immensely.

Joe Brown (Camper 99-06; Staff 08-09) I started as an associate at a law firm in NYC, working primarily on commercial litigation cases. And, yes, I am wearing a suit and tie everyday. I often miss the woods in this new urban wilderness, but hope to make it to Westward Ho soon!

Chris "Topher" Wearn (Camper 99; AC 04; Staff 07-10, 13, 15) and his wife, **Lisa Custer-Wearn** (Staff 09, 15), are excited to return to Seattle in June, after Chris finishes his MBA at Yale. They are planning a road trip across the country, visiting National Parks along the way and look forward to the 90th reunion in September.

Susannah "Wolf Mother" Corrington (Camper) After five glorious summers on Orcas, I turned my love of music and acting into a life of performance. After graduating in 2012 with a BFA in Musical Theater Performance from Columbia College in Chicago, I enrolled in Second City Chicago's Comedy Studies program. My career then took me to Los Angeles where I do voiceover, film and TV gigs, as well as some work for The Weather Channel and multiple live-stage shows in the LA area. Besides those performances, I also work as a Production Coordinator at a post-production studio in Burbank.



Susannah Corrington

Hackett Landefeld (Camper 00-08; HH 09) graduated from the US Military Academy in 2014 and is a combat engineer serving in Afghanistan.

David Treloar (Camper 00-02; Staff 03) married Chelsea in June 2016, followed by a reception at her family farm in Ohio and a honeymoon in Portugal. They are living in Vancouver, BC, where he works for a biotechnology company.

Adam Kaplan (Camp Director 01-03) and his wife, Stephanie Hanson, live in Boise ID and have been running Camp Nebagamon in NW Wisconsin for 15 years. Adam, Stephanie and multiple family and friends came to visit Four Winds this past March, and Adam reminisced about his days as Camp Director—and how hard it was to leave. "When we made the decision to leave Four Winds, it was an incredibly difficult because we really loved Four Winds and got very attached to this place," he said. "The people here were wonderful to us and it was a great experience, but the chance to run the Camp where I went as a boy was too much to pass up. It was literally the one job that could have lured me away from Four Winds."



Adam Kaplan

Henry P. Gray (Camper 02-07; HH 09; Staff 11, 12) Ever since I left Ruth's old adobe I've been pretty consistently shipping—mostly due to what camp taught me, and exposed me to, in regards to Salish lore and love for the seas. Currently I am working as a Third Officer (ships safety officer) aboard the *MIT California Voyager*. We ply the sea waves between the Gulf of Mexico through the Panama Canal, rolling up Mexico's coast to Southern California, San Francisco, Oregon and very beautiful Puget Sound. Nothing brings me closer to Camp than standing on the bridge wing alone on a cloudless night at sea. Watching the big dipper pointing to his friend Polaris just as we did sitting in the amphitheater singing songs.



Molly Sullivan

Molly Sullivan (Camper 02-06; Staff 10) I am nearly half way to a Master in Social Work degree from USC, living in Los Angeles and providing individual therapy for youth living in a homeless shelter in Hollywood. Every day of working with these youth provides a sharper focus on just how lucky I was to have had the experience of camp. I am so grateful for the supportive and loving role models, lasting friendships, and pure, wild joy that camp brought to my life!

Nick Rhodes (Camper 03–07; CT 09; HH 10; Staff 12, 13) just accepted an offer from Qualtrics and relocated to Park City, UT in April to start his new position as a Client Success Manager. He's very excited to be hitting the slopes on the regular, and hopes to connect with any gypsies who may be out there!

Laura Lilly (camper, 03–05, staff 08–09) I am currently living in San Diego, CA, and following my life dream of studying the ocean by pursuing a Ph.D. at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. In my (scarce) free time, I play horse polo and surf balmy SoCal waves. Although I miss sailing small boats across Westsound, my research has taken me out to the high seas on plenty of larger ships, and I use the knots I learned on the Dock all the time! The Four Winds songs and poetry continue to be sources of comfort and inspiration to me, in my own poetry and in life.

Sierra Treloar-Searing (Camper 03–05; Staff 16) is now living near Vancouver BC, where she is working in the travel industry. She is also in the midst of planning a holiday to Colombia and a road trip to Alaska.

Gates McGavick (Camper 06, 07) is a sophomore at the University of Notre Dame. Active in student government, he was just elected president of his dorm. **Marco McGavick** (Camper 07, 09) is a Senior at Groton School in Massachusetts. He has accepted an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy and will be a Plebe beginning this summer. Both boys have very fond memories of Four Winds, and love meeting other kids in the "small world" of those who know this special place.

Nicky Steidel (Camper 07–09, 11; Carlyn 10; CT 12; HH 13) I am a Junior at Princeton University majoring in African American Studies. I'm also a radio DJ at WPRB in New Jersey, and started a chapter of the Young Democratic Socialists of America at Princeton. I still play guitar and bass as much as I can, and love going to shows with my friends.

My twin sister, **Lizzie** (Camper 07–11) is a Junior at St. Olaf College in Minnesota and my older sister, **Emily** (Camper 01–06; Staff 09) is pursuing a Master's Degree in counseling in Minneapolis.



Miranda Treolar

Following graduation in June, I'll be moving to Chicago to teach special education at the elementary level with Teach For America.

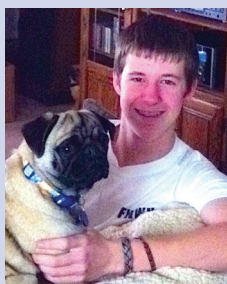
Miranda Treloar (Camper 06–08) is the head wrangler at Sundance Guest Ranch in Ashcroft, BC. She is currently responsible for 115 horses and 11 wranglers. A great example of how camp can shape a life!

Lisa Smith (Camper 09) I am a fourth-year Political Science student at the University of Oregon, where I am an active member of the ASUO student government, acting as a student senator. I previously worked with Planned Parenthood and interned in the



Lisa Smith

office of Senator Jeff Merkley, and I envision a career in politics and government. Following graduation in June, I'll be moving to Chicago to teach special education at the elementary level with Teach For America.



Jeff Millick

Jeff Millick (Camper 10; HH 11, 12) has been busy with school and work. He has been a pizza chef and a waiter, but school has been the focal point. Jeff graduates in May with degrees from Santa Rosa Junior College and Sonoma State University.

Ethan Bankowski (Camper 12–15) is sad to miss Four Winds this summer. Really sad. As a high school student, he was ready to try some new summer adventures. He will be traveling to Ghana with Global Leadership Adventures to work and learn on a Public Health Service trip!

Sydney Heath (camper 07–14) is spending spring of her junior year of high school at a wonderful program in DC called the School for Ethics and Global Leadership. **Charles Heath** (camper 10–16) is going to be an AFS exchange student this summer in Argentina so it will be the first year in a decade that the Heath family won't have a child at camp.



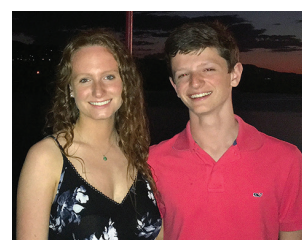
Gates McGavick



Marco McGavick



Nicky Steidel



Sydney and Charles Heath

2017 Alumni News, continued

Alumni Spotlight

Margaret Woodbridge (camper 99–04; CT 05) When considering colleges, I knew I wanted to study engineering, having always enjoyed practical, problem-solving aspects of my math and science classes. Growing up, I didn't know anyone who had served in the military and never considered it as something I would do, but after considering the U.S. Naval Academy I decided on the U.S. Coast Guard. It appealed to me because the humanitarian and safety-focused maritime missions of the Coast Guard really spoke to me on a personal level—a calling that I think Camp helped me develop. I knew I could get a great education and be challenged in a meaningful way in the Coast Guard, and have some interesting adventures with similarly service-minded people along the way.



Margaret as a Four Winds camper



Margaret racing

At the Academy, in addition to a rigorous course of studies, I joined the dinghy sailing team—a love that started at Four Winds! I also sailed off the coast of New England on the 295-foot *Barque Eagle*, crossed the Pacific from Hawaii to the Solomon Islands on a Coast Guard Cutter, raced a 42-foot sailboat from Rhode Island to Bermuda, and operated a patrol boat on the U.S./Mexico border.

After graduating from the Academy, I was deployed to Venice, LA as part of the Coast Guard's Deepwater Horizon oil spill response efforts in 2010. It was a moving experience to see how many organizations came together to clean and protect the sensitive marshes of the Mississippi River Delta from the oil that kept gushing from the sea floor. Then I was assigned to be an engineering watch officer aboard a 400-foot polar icebreaker in the Arctic, providing a U.S. Presence and supporting U.S. scientific operations in the area. My responsibilities included standing watch over the engineering plant, managing an engineering division and running the ship's training program for responding to shipboard casualties, like fires and flooding. It was a great way to put my engineering education into practice!



Margaret at her graduation ceremony

Following the Arctic tour, I was sponsored by the Coast Guard to get an MS in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University. Currently I serve at the Marine Safety Center in Washington, D.C. where I review engineering plans for commercial ships, aid in regulatory and policy development, and provide technical consulting for Coast Guard ship inspectors. I'm not sure what's coming next for me, whether that's staying in the service or leaving after this tour expires, but it's been an incredible adventure so far.

There's a grand energy and romanticism to the ocean that can inspire incredibly deep, personal connections. It's the same kind of Gypsy Spirit of adventure and spiritual connection to nature that Camp nurtures. To be at Four Winds is to be almost constantly aware of being near water, and I was introduced to the sense of community in the boating world on senior trips. The sense of camaraderie at Camp is fiercely strong, and similarly, I think mariners have an instinct to help other mariners.

The Camp inlet is where I started to grow more confident on the water and nurtured a deeper connection to it, a scope that only expanded during Senior Trips. It's this momentum that helped push me to join the Coast Guard. I have a distinct memory of standing on the deck outside the bridge of the icebreaker while steaming through the Straits of Juan De Fuca with one of those beautiful cloud-scattered sunsets ahead as we made our way towards the ocean, the Olympic Peninsula on one side and the distant San Juan Islands on the other. It really did feel like a natural progression to be heading to the sea, and I will always feel a strong connection to the islands that first gave me the confidence and community on the water.



Margaret in the Gulf of Mexico area



Margaret at the South Pole

Alumni News—with stories from the forties!

While gathering “Alumni News Updates”, we occasionally get to catch up by simply asking people to send us an update. Sometimes, however, we actively seek it out through face-to-face visits with certain long-time alums who have been part of Four Winds * Westward Ho for more than eight decades!

Sue Metcalf Robertson is one of those alums. As a camper in the 30s, staff member in the 40s and Board Member in the 60s, 70s and 80s, Sue can tell amazing stories about Four Winds—which is exactly what she did when we had coffee in her San Francisco apartment earlier this year.

“Campers used to get ‘Gypsy Paddles’ if they spent enough time in War Canoes,” Sue told us. “There was not a designated amount of time you had to log to earn the paddle, but it was a subjective decision of the dock staff. The paddles were ‘feather light’ and had a Gypsy Star carved into the blade. They were so nice if you learned how to paddle properly—using the handle to push off, and not the blade.”

Besides San Francisco, Sue spends half the year on her property on Shaw Island, which is adjacent to Orcas. On this visit, Sue reminded us that she is the same age as Four Winds—both turning 90 this year! Her stories paint pictures of Camp from years gone by. “Trips to the top of Mt. Constitution usually meant one group would ride horses to the top,” she told us. “A few days later, a truck would drive different kids from Camp to the top of the mountain, drop off the second batch of kids who would ride the horses back to Camp while the first batch rode back in the truck.”

Sue was a camper and counselor during parts of World War II—a time when even Camp was impacted by the outside world. “I worked in the barn. I remember waking up before breakfast to feed the horses. Sometimes I would sleep there to make it easier. I had a few boys working in the barn and they knew nothing about horses. They’d just sit on the hay bails smoking,” she said, adding, with a laugh, “Until I yelled at them to get back to work.”

We also had a chance to have coffee with **Jack and Jan Helsell**, who still live just a few miles away from Camp on property that Ruth Brown gave to her best friend, Ellen Bringloe—who was Jack’s mom. Besides being the first male camper at Westward Ho (1931) Jack would later become the first Camp Director after Miss Ruth retired in 1967. Now 93, Jack still tells stories with a keen sense of detail, picture-perfect clarity—and plenty of humor. “Well I’m the guy that burned down the boys’ lodge,” he said, raising his eyebrows. “Not on purpose, of course. It was 1940. The season was over, and it was dry. There were a few male staff members still around, and they wanted to shower. I lit the fire to heat the hot water, and it got out of control. I sure got myself in trouble that day.”

Years later, Miss Ruth asked Jack to become Camp Director. After one summer running Camp, the Helsells returned to Seattle where Jack would have a long career in engineering. In 1984, they returned to Orcas to start and run a logging operation on their property—a company that is still in operation today, with the help of their daughter, **Ellen** (camper 1963–67)—ensuring that the Helsell family will continue to be part of Orcas for generations to come.

Passings...

Helen “Jean” Breck (camper 31–38; staff 41, 71,72) was born Helen Jean Swenson in 1918 in Stockton, CA. She passed away in July of 2016, just a few months prior to her 98th birthday. She attended Mills College, Penn State University and Teachers College at Columbia where she received her Doctorate of Education in 1951. She spent her adult life as a teacher, including stints at Penn State, UCLA, Greely College and eventually at Portland Community College. She married John Breck in 1953. They had two children: **Carole** (camper 65, 66, 71; CT 72) and **Allen** (camper 71–73).

Jean’s connection to Four Winds started because her parents were friends with Miss Ruth. She came to Camp in 1931 at the age of 12, and the next summer was offered a job as “Camp bugler” in exchange for tuition. After four years as a camper, she joined the staff and later served as an advisor and consultant. Jean was the point-person to get the *Magic Ring* published, by editing and arranging the collection of poems into book form for the American Camp Association. In 1990, Jean typed her memories of Four Winds, in which she shared stories of daily life at Four Winds. Her love for Camp echoes what so many campers say about Four Winds, and what many will feel in the future as well: “The sense of adventure, the laughter, the songs, the poetry, the fun, the evening fires. Each day held the promise of something special. Beauty was everywhere, in human character, the lodge, gardens, beach. Friendships were developed that endured a lifetime.”

Kathy (Kate) Helsell Lazarus (camper 56, 57, 59–66) died on January 18, 2017. She had lived at Sunrise Haven in Kent for the previous four months, where she received support and care from her Christian Science community. She is survived by her children, Ben and Brynne, as well as their father, (Jonathan) David Lazarus.

At a Celebration of Life for Kate, her life was described as “a life lived joyously, adventurously, generously and courageously, with unwavering commitment to her principles and great love for her family, friends and all mankind.” Her sister, Judy Pigott (camper 64, 65) recently remembered Kate this way: “She died as she lived, praying for wholeness and peace. Who could ask for more?”



Sue Metcalf and Paul



Jack and Jan Helsell



Above and left:
Helen “Jean”
Breck;
below: Kathy
(Kate) Helsell
Lazarus





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Stay connected . . . and keep up with what's going on at camp!

We always need your help keeping our database current. If you have changed any of your contact info — new email, phone number, etc. — let us know.

For former campers who still receive the Pigeon Wing at their parents' houses, please send us your own contact information. And if you have never received an email from us, send us your email address. We send great email missives throughout the year and want to make sure you don't miss them.

Also, stay in the loop during the entire year through these various means:

Website: www.fourwindscamp.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/fourwindscamp

Twitter: twitter.com/fourwindscamp

E-mail: mike@fourwindscamp.org

Call: 360.376.2277



Time Capsule

Even if you can't join us for the reunion, you're still invited to take part in a Time Capsule we will be creating that weekend. We're looking for mementos that "tell the story" of Four Winds Camp, so if you have something you'd like to include, let us know and we'll figure out how to get it from you. Photos, crafts, letters, journals or anything that would be enlightening for people who open the capsule in the future.

This Time Capsule will be a large trunk-like chest that will be padlocked and placed in the main room of the lodge—for everyone to see and wonder what's inside. We will open the trunk in ten years, look through the mementos, add more items and then lock it up again for another ten years!

Be part of telling Camp's history with your own personal contribution to the Time Capsule!



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