

Notes from Danielle

t is definitely a strange feeling knowing that this year's edition of the Pigeon Wing will be in your hands at the same time as First Session should have been getting underway. The past few months have certainly been very different and a challenge for everyone in the Four Winds community in so many ways.

Here at Camp, it is much quieter than it should be as the days grow long and the weather brightens. It certainly feels surreal and, to be honest, it's hard to know what to make of it, what to feel and what to say.

What I do want to say is a huge thank you. I am so grateful for every member of our community and the support and love that we have received since announcing the heart wrenching news that Camp would not be possible this summer. Your support and love has been a bright light for me through these challenging times.

The loss of this summer is filled with so many emotions and it has helped me to view it as a grieving process that everyone approaches in different ways. I want to say that, however you are feeling, your emotions are

> valid and that you are not alone. We are all in this together, even though physically apart, and we will get through this as a community.

> What I do know, in these uncertain times, is that the spirit of Four Winds burns bright, is resilient and is as strong as ever. Although Summer 2020 is not what we planned, we can look to the past and gain strength and inspiration from the courageous and creative spirit of Ruth Brown. An amazing woman who consistently used creativity to turn challenges into opportunities. Who else could have created the tradition of Gypsy Day out of, what I am sure was a very stressful, lack of water at Camp? I know that Ruth Brown would be hugely proud of how our community is supporting each other through these unprecedented times.

> To the Campers, CTs, Helping Hands and Staff of 2020, although we aren't in our middies and bloomers together this summer, keep the spirit of Camp alive wherever you are in the world. Do folk dances, write letters, make friendship bracelets, play pickleball, sing songs. Know that all of us

will be waiting for you at the top of Greenie, with more excitement than ever, at the start of Summer 2021. Take care and stay in touch, Danielle

A Visit from the American Camp Association

"Accreditation"—what it means and how it helps keep Four Winds as safe and compliant as possible.

our Winds * Westward Ho is an "American Camp Association" accredited camp, which means we abide by strict standards of safety and regulation set by the ACA.

"The main purpose of the ACA-accreditation is to educate camp directors in the administration of key aspects of camp operation, particularly related to program quality and the health and safety of campers and staff," says the ACA website. "Earning and maintaining ACA accreditation takes time and commitment."

A major component of getting accreditation comes when ACA representatives conduct on-site visits to Four Winds, which happen every five years—the most recent being last summer. Preparing for these ACA inspections is time consuming, as we work to make sure we are abiding by all the rules and standards of the ACA. Fortunately, former FWWH staff member Sidsel Gadeberg ('05-'09) has taken the lead and helped us with the ACA visits on three occasions—in 2011, 2014 and 2019.



Danielle Bone (left) and Sidsel Gadeberg (right) during the







Getting camp ready for those

visits has been educational and rewarding," says Sidsel. "When we know it's ACA-time, we go out of our way to show what an amazing place camp is. We organize, structure, double check, laminate, highlight, print, label, every little detail we can."

That includes things like—but not limited to—checking on the rope at the archery range, ALL fire alarms and extinguishers, all PFDs (life jackets), all areas working with food, following up on horse medicine, talking to all Area Heads and having them check on the standards in their areas, checking in with staff and having the last forms and certificates signed and filed, making sure all signs around camp are updated, and all the first aid kits are stocked and in their places.



"At 1:00 am you could find me and Danielle in the Office uploading and checking off standard after standard," says Sidsel. "You might be wondering 'why 1am?'. Because that's when Camp is asleep, so no questions to be answered, no 'emergencies' to attend, no in/out of the office ... just us and hundreds of standards."

When the ACA representatives actually arrive for the inspection, it feels like a final exam. How will they judge to the work we have done to prepare? Let Sidsel walk you through the tour.

"The first they mentioned is the breathtaking surroundings," she says. "They were also blown away by how camp's history is still everywhere around camp. They met our amazing staff and our happy campers, we answered all

of their questions, we showed them everything they wanted to see and so much more and finally we met up in the Office and sat down—Paul, Danielle, two ACA visitors and me—and we went through EVERY single standard. After two hours of talking and checking off we heard the amazing sound of '100%'"

This is the third straight time Four Winds has scored a perfect 100%.

"For 94 summers, Four Winds Camp has provided a safe, fun, loving and warm environment for thousands of children," says Sidsel. "What most of these children don't realize is the amount of work that is put into a magical summer—both prior, during and after, and the reason they don't see it, is because it is carried out by dedicated, passionate and hard-working people who all work with ONE goal in mind: To create summers that will forever leave a mark in the children."



Off-season Work

t was the most expensive, most complex, most challenging—and perhaps least "attractive" project we've ever tackled at Four Winds: During this past winter we had to overhaul the entire septic system that serves Camp. The massive project became a requirement when the state of Washington passed a law back in 2011 modernizing and



increasing regulation on large septic systems. After years of planning and countless hours of research and preparation, the project got done over the past nine months.

"We started working with the state Department of Health on the girls' side system, built in 1978, shortly after their new law went into effect," says Executive Director, Paul Sheridan. "We knew we were facing a big investment in the system for a while, but just how big, and how it would look, started to come into focus over the past couple years."



The new system is technically two systems, separately serving the girls' side and the boys' side. The complexity involved with weaving all the parts together was enormously challenging. Underground tanks, pipes, pumps and electrical components being connect ed to new drains field—all on a rocky, remote, tree-covered island at a Camp that cherishes it's traditional and historical setting. It was not your average project.



"Anytime there are contractors on the site, we have a time investment," added Rick Mollner, the Head of Maintenance throughout the project. "This involves monitoring their actions as well as providing support, which ultimately saves Camp a lot of money. For example, early on in the project we spent weeks burning debris and stumps from the massive tree cutting that was required for the new drain fields. There are ongoing repairs to the landscape that are underway—as well as dozens of other details to complete."

The actual construction, while daunting, may not have been the most challenging part of the project. Working with multiple government agencies and navigating their respective regulations turned out to be 'astoundingly difficult' according to Jeff Stewart (Camper '77–'83; CT '84 & '85; AC '86; Staff '89 & '90; BOT '19-present), a member of Camp's Board of Trustees who volunteered hundreds of hours to the project. His vast experience in underground construction and extensive knowledge of dealing with regulatory departments was crucial in getting the job done.

"We walked the property repeatedly with engineers, contractors, the maintenance crew, and an 'Alphabet Soup' of agencies," he says. "We met with the State and San Juan County Health Departments, the Washington State Attorney General's office, the Lummi

Tribe, local archeological experts, Federal Wetland officials and more to help us maintain proper compliance. We made numerous design changes to the project to appease all those concerns."

"The most difficult part was simply that the law wasn't written with a seasonal business in mind," says Paul Sheridan. "There were challenges around meeting the new regulations while also getting the most environmental and operational value out of the major investment. We're very pleased with the result in the end."

The final cost of the new septic system was \$778,000. More than \$500,000 of that came from generous donors, with the rest coming from Camp's "Major Projects Budget" and other liquid assets.



"The reason it was so important to invest thousands of staff and volunteer hours is because it gives us a long-term tremendous upgrade to the system," says Jeff Stewart. "We'll have a lower cost of operation by switching to two systems, and we'll be regulated by the county rather than the state. That is a very important detail."

Once the grass grows back and the natural look of Camp returns to the construction areas, you won't even know what happened underground during the winter of 2019/20. But the benefits of this "unseen" project will be felt for generations to come.

"Obviously, this wasn't a glamorous project," says Paul. "But it's vitally important that Four Winds have a robust infrastructure. This project was another step in that direction, improving on several other big projects we've taken on over the last few decades. We now have a modern, robust system which will serve camp well for decades."

New roof for the boat barn



Off season projects-besides the septic system!



Rick's capstone; the new wood storage area

s massive and time-consuming as the septic system replacement project was, it isn't the only off-season maintenance happening at Four Winds.

The boat barn got a new roof (which will fade over time and look more weathered). Several tent platforms received new railings and stairs, and the dock float where the entry ramp lands got new planks.

There was also one project that has been long-been on Rick's "Wish List": A proper storage area for firewood. Located across from the barn in the old "pig pen" area, it will help freshly cut wood dry and cure, before being delivered to the lodge and girls'-side cabins. After several off-seasons of having that project get bumped by more pressing jobs, Rick was able to finish it—just before his career at Four Winds comes to an end.

"The wood storage area is what I would call my 'capstone'," said Rick. "We now have ample storage for Camp's needs and a nice area where campers can split and stack wood for their own future use."



Top: New wood for the deck Bottom: New Mizzen stairs



A New Head of Maintenance

here is a big change in the year-round staff at Four Winds. After ten seasons of working for Camp—five as shipwright and five as Head of Maintenance—Rick Mollner and his wife, Heather, are moving on.

"Being camp's 'Head of Maintenance' has been fun, frustrating, challenging, and rewarding," says Rick. "I have laughed, cried, yelled, and sang. I have learned some things that I wanted to learn—like public speaking—and some that I did not want to learn—like sewer jetting."

Part of being Head of Maintenance means living at Camp year-round to trouble-shoot any emergencies. While many former campers may have dreamt of living at Four Winds full-time, for the Head of Maintenance it can be a whole different story



Rick Mollner, Outgoing Head of Maintenance

"Living and working on the same property can be difficult—especially when you are the person who gets called anytime something isn't right," says Rick. "This is a yearlong phenomenon that intensifies tremendously during the summer. Managing Camp's systems, a crew of three (who also live on the property) and contracted-out projects means that work often overflows into personal life."



Caleb Weichert, New Head of Maintenance

In the next chapter of life, Rick and Heather are planning more adventures on the mainland and on the water.

"We're going to take our boat north for a summer and south for a winter," says Rick. "Our new home on Decatur Island will be our home base, but also a place we can leave for months at a time. Heather's landscaping business is doing great, and I'll look for interesting niche work on Decatur and other outer islands. I am ready for a change. I am ready for new adventures, more free time in the summer, and more separation between work life and home life."

Taking over Rick's position is a familiar face: Caleb Weichert, the Assistant Maintenance Director at Four Winds since 2016.

"During my employment here, I have grown closer to the Four Winds family as well as developed a great appreciation of this place and what makes it so special," says Caleb. "Camp is much more than just a place—it's THE 'place' that can enhance the experience of being a camper. This why I am excited to be the leader of our maintenance team that demonstrates what makes the 'place' so special."

Although he was already part of the maintenance crew, Caleb certainly wasn't handed the promotion.

"We conducted a nationwide search for that job," says Executive Director, Paul Sheridan. "Over 50 candidates applied, and I was very impressed with the skills, experience, and attitudes of many of them. I did 13 phone interviews, and three extensive face-to-face interviews. Caleb went through the process that all the other candidates did, and I'm absolutely convinced that he's the right fit person for the job. He's been a remarkable member of our team. He's hardworking, he knows our property, he understands our culture and our aesthetic, and he's ready to step up to this new challenge. I'm thrilled to have him take this next step.

2020 Projects

he cancellation of all 2020 sessions has a unique impact on the Four Winds Maintenance Team. For the first time since 1927, the property will be vacant during the summer, which means our crew can attack some projects that need to be done during sunny summer days. Here is a list of what's on the maintenance agenda for the next several months (good luck to Caleb and his team!):

- Cabin and tent platform repairs
- Lower Camp landscape (to clean up the aftermath of the septic project.)
- Sea chest repairs
- Repair the Wishing Well
- Replace the boat launch in the Amphitheater

- Install steps to the drama stage
- Replace junior and senior boys' shower house steps
- Trail maintenance
- Oil/refinish Amphitheater and Helm benches
- Repair hole in Holiday House roof
- Repair awning on lodge deck



Carlyn Trek 2019

ach summer, our 62-foot wooden yawl, Carlyn, takes 12 campers on a three-week trek to Canada. Here is the account of the 2019 journey, as written by Captain David Leanza:

This Carlyn trip went as far north as Port McNeill, 220 nautical miles from Four Winds. We began our voyage by hitting the most-loved spots from previous summers, such as Princess Louisa and Desolation Sound. As we traveled north, the water temperature increased from 55 degrees at Orcas to 72 degrees in Tenedous Bay. We enjoyed swimming in what we called tropical Canada.

We then traveled west, through Johnstone Strait and then Queen Charlotte Strait with water temperatures dropping down to 49 degrees. But was not all bad news. Whale sightings on Queen Charlotte Strait are a several-times-a-day event. There were humpbacks and orcas in the area. The first whales we sighted were Minke whales. On this trip we saw 8 different marine mammals: Dalh's porpoises, harbor porpoises, Pacific white-sided dolphins, seals, sea lions, otters, orcas and the Minkes. Queen Charlotte is a place of wildlife in abundance as I have never seen before. This spot also featured a (cool) sea breeze from the west every day, which made for great sailing.





Campers always enjoy the towns we visit on the Canada trip. This year's itinerary included different towns such as Alert Bay and Port McNeill. These towns include a greater population of Native people. We were able to experience native art in museums, shops and on display in the communities. We visited the U'mista Cultural Center at Alert Bay to learn about the life and history of the native people of that community. We also visited the Big House at Alert Bay and saw the

traditional music and dancing that is done there. Adjacent to the Queen Charlotte Strait is the maze of islands known as the Broughton Archipelago—an amazing cruising area! Among the many sights we experienced there was the village of floating houses at Echo Bay.

—David Leanza, Carlyn Captain



2020 Four Winds Camp Year-Round Staff

Paul Sheridan

Director

Danielle Bone

Assistant Director

Mariah Armenia

Registrar

Caleb Weichert

Head of Maintenance

Jim Kruse

Shipwright

Mike Smith

Development Director

Sandra Green

Finance Director

Linda Sheridan

Special Project Manager

Victor Hartney

Groundskeeper

David Leanza

Carlyn Captain

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.

Financial Aid Turns 40

The Past, the Present and the Power of our Program

our Winds Camp is exceptionally rare among sleep-away summer camps for many reasons, but one that is "quantifiable" stands out: Our Financial Aid Program. Since 1968, Four Winds has offered financial aid to help children attend Camp who may otherwise not be able to afford it. Each summer, approximately 20 percent of our campers attend on full or partial tuition grants.

"Historically the Four Winds 'scholarship' program was small and run by Ruth Brown," says Mike Douglas, Camp Director from 1980 to 2000 who was instrumental in growing the scholarship program. "It benefited friends of Miss Brown, siblings who visited Camp and wanted to stay on, or other benefits to Four Winds."

According to "Mr. D", the first "formal" scholarship fundraising began with the formation of the "Ruth Brown Scholarship Endowment." Donations to the fund totaled \$30,000 to \$40,000. He says the next extensive growth in the F.A. Program took place in the early 1980s.

"A few issues caused the Camp Financial Aid program to grow in the early 80's," says Mr. D. "For one thing, enrollment was stuttering. Camper re-enrollment was around 40% and attracting new camper families was slow. Westward Ho was expanded to equal the bed count of Four Winds resulting in additional empty spaces. The summer staff was drawn more from universities and relied less on hiring past campers. The staff voiced an interest in a more broadly-based camper population. At that point we began soliciting applications for Financial Aid youngsters to attend camp."

"The board and staff began a concerted effort to build an endowment fund to finance the financial aid program," he says. "The end goal was to fully fund Financial Aid expenses from interest generated by the Endowment."

This was also the time when many of the formal guidelines of the Financial Aid Program were established, starting with the 20-percent threshold and including the following:

- Financial Aid campers would be guaranteed three years.
- The grants would be evenly divided between Four Winds and Westward Ho, as well as the 1st and 2nd session.
- Financial Aid recipient identities were to remain in the office, not shared with the counseling staff or campers.
- In addition to demonstrating financial need, applicants were to bring some characteristic that would add to the camper community, such as leadership potential, musical ability, etc. Applications would a letter of recommendation from school, coach, youth group leader in supporting the applicant.

"To find appropriate Financial Aid applicants we began working with schools and groups offering summer programs to lower income families," says Douglas. "Our initial effort was concentrated in various Seattle elementary schools. We worked with the principals, teachers and staff to identify qualified youngsters who were on the free and reduced lunch program. We found that parents of these youngsters needed a fair amount of our support to understand and complete the application processs. Many lacked experience with application processes. Left to deal with it alone would have left deserving youngsters unserved."

Now entering its 40th season as a "formal endeavor", the Financial Aid program has grown to unprecedented heights. Camp's endowment is nearly \$3-million dollars, and donations to Camp (which also got to programs besides Financial Aid) regularly surpass \$500,000 per year.

"Starting the financial aid program, funding it and keeping it operational has required a huge expenditure of energy and resources form folks across the camper community for an extended period," says Mr. D. "It has broadened the base of the camp community effecting lives well beyond those of the recipients. It helps underscores Four Wind's emphasis on valuing the unique nature of each youngster, diversity and debases elitism claims often assigned to private camps. Camper's experiences are why we fund the camp."







Above: Mike Douglas in the 80s Below: Mike Douglas today



How the Financial Aid Program Changed My Life

pproximately 500 different kids have received full-or-partial scholarships over the 40 'formal' years of the Financial Aid program. Their stories of appreciation are extensive, and always heart-warming as they talk about the "life changing" experience of coming to Camp. Here are three such Financial Aid recipients who wanted to share what the program meant to them.

Danielle Kittleson (Camper '97-2000; Staff '02-'04)

I was 13 years old during my first summer at Four Winds. My parents couldn't afford to send me to camps, so this was my first experience at a sleep away camp. I loved sailing and being outdoors, so I was very excited to get to do those things while away from my family.

Camp played a major role in my personal development, as it was there that I learned how being outside of my comfort zone could help me grow in ways I never imagined. I was able to really enjoy being a kid without a care in the world. Camp developed my confidence to be the best version of myself, and also taught me that I wanted to be a leader for other children.





Danielle as a camper; Danielle now

I would have never had a chance to experience FWWH if it had not been for the scholarship program. The benefits of the environment have the ability to impact the trajectory of a child's life, especially one who may not have access to a place like FWWH because of financial constraints. These scholarships are an incredible investment in each one of these children, to give them an equitable opportunity to experience all that FWWH provides.

The memories I have as a camper are full of so much laughter and joy. I have incredible friendships that have lasted through the years, and I am so thankful for that. I truly feel like Camp had a huge influence on who I am today and I can't wait for my own children to experience the Gypsy spirit!

Adam Lion (Camper '04~'07; Carlyn '08; HH '10; Staff '13 & '14)

Four Winds had a significant impact on my childhood growth. I learned so much about independence and self-determination. Four Winds helped me understand what it meant to be truly alone, both in a physical and spiritual sense. I will never forget my first year at camp when I was nine. I left Evening Fire to go to the bathroom, only to find that the toilet was clogged. Disgusted, I returned to the lodge and shared the problem with my counselor. He marched me right back to the bathroom and taught me how to use a plunger. I don't know why this memory is so vivid, but the experience was shocking to me—in a good way. Experiences like this that taught me to take action into my own hands. If I wanted something done, I had to do it myself.





Adam as a camper; Adam now

I learned a lot about creativity and self-expression. Four Winds is a judgement-free culture that encouraged me to be myself. I took classes across many disciplines: sailing, fiber arts, drama, woodworking, pickleball, etc. The opportunity to learn many different skills in a supportive environment nurtured my own self-discovery and development from young-child to young-adult.

Four Winds taught me the importance of community. There is this sense that we are all sharing an extremely special and unique experience together. Some of my most cherished memories at Four Winds were around campfires or chatting late into the night with my tent-mates before falling asleep. By the end of the session you have an unbreakable bond with your friends because you have shared these delicate moments together. This taught me the importance of community building at a tender age.

I feel extremely fortunate to have benefited from the Financial Aid program, because without it, I would not have been able to attend Camp. One of the best parts of Camp is the diversity of the community. The FA program helps create a community at Camp that is encompassing of kids from a wider selection of economic backgrounds, and it helped make me the person I am today.

Annie Ryder (Camper '09 & '10; CT '11; HH '12; Staff '13-'16)

Camp was incredibly formative for me. Before Camp, I was pretty quiet and self-conscious. I did well in school but I wasn't great. I had friends but I didn't feel like I really belonged anywhere. Camp changed the way I viewed my own value. At home, I didn't feel visible. But at Camp, I was valued as an integral member of a community. I was known for the things that made me happy - I was the sailor girl. This gave me a sense of individuality and identity that I didn't have before. This gave me the confidence to push myself both at Camp and back home. I graduated at the top





Annie as a camper; Annie now

of my high school class with honors and scholarships. I don't think this would have happened without the confidence I gained from my time at Camp. People are 100% their best selves at Camp. The emphasis on community, compassion, fun, and authentic experience are all a huge part of it. But the biggest thing is love. I have never felt more loved than when I was at Camp. As a result, I have never loved myself more than when I'm at Camp—though it's hard without the support of the Camp community.

I was incredibly lucky to be a Financial Aid recipient. To the people who donate to FA, you honestly change lives. My experience is a testament to that, and it is only one of many. You also better Camp. The diversity that the FA program brings to Camp is SO important. Without it, the social make up wouldn't be as rich. Scholarship kids are shining stars. They know how fortunate they are to be there, and so they do everything they can to get the most out of Camp. I remember one Financial Aid camper who wasn't close with most of her cabin mates and could have used that as a reason to have a terrible time. Instead, she had compassion and understanding for the reasons why they were different. She never held a grudge and never let it bring her down. She ended up coming back as a counselor and is passing that message on to her own campers..

Supporting Four Winds Financially

Ways to Give and Help Camp

our Winds is a 501(c) 3 non-profit corporation, and as such, we rely on the generosity of donors to offset the costs within our annual budget. Donations are crucial to our operations, and help support our programs, facilities and Financial Aid. During 2019 alone, we received more than \$700,000 in donations. We are humbled, grateful and forever thankful for the loyalty and support we receive, and would like to thank everyone who gives to FWWH. Without your kindness and sharing, Camp would be a very different place.

Here are some of the ways donors contribute to Four Winds:

Cash Donations: Via cash, checks, credit card, Pay Pal or stock transfers, generous people send us gifts of various sizes. Those gifts can be directed to specific areas of Camp, such as "Programs and Preservation" or "Financial Aid."

Gifts in Honor and Gifts on Memory: Many people donate to Camp in "honor" of a friend or loved one. We'll send the person being honored a card letting them know about your gift. Want to remember someone who loved Camp and has passed away? Donate in their "memory". We will send a card to the family of the one being remembered to let the family know of your donation.

Annual fundraisers: Each year we create a Wish List of items we need for Camp, and each year generous donors offer to supply them. Everything from kayak paddles to paint supplies, arrows to new Bloomers! The Wish List is such a fun way to support Camp.

Another annual fundraiser we participate in is "Camp Moves Me", which is run by the American Camp Association. In October, Camp staff and alums pledge to exercise in exchange for donations. Similar to a "walk-a-thon", our team raises money for each step, pedal, swim stroke or hike they accomplish in a month. The proceeds go to our Financial Aid Program.

The Ruth Brown Legacy Club: Another meaningful way to donate is via "Planned Giving." Please read the article on the RAB Legacy Club on the following page for details.





The Ruth A. Brown Legacy Club

n recent years, we have seen a growing interest in a wonderful way of donating to Four Winds—by including Camp in your "Estate Planning." In this manner, you are promising to contribute to Camp via your will after you pass.

Donors who include Camp in their estate plan become members of the "Ruth A. Brown Legacy Club." There are currently 44 people or families in the RAB Club, including nine new members in 2019/2020. We have made growing the RAB membership a priority, and have set a goal of ten new members each year. In 2019, we received more than \$100,000 in donations via Estate Plans from alums who passed away.

Here is what one donor said when she decided to put a gift to Four Winds into her will:

As a professional fundraiser, philanthropy and volunteering has always been important to me and a big part of my life. I created a will because I wanted to ensure that, even though I didn't have a lot of assets, I wanted to be intentional about what happens to them after I'm gone.

I think of my will as 'the last thing I say', so while I have a husband and four kids, and they are, of course, included in my estate plan, I also wanted philanthropy to be part of it. My family would probably find it odd if I didn't include philanthropy in my end of life plan, since it has been so important during my lifetime.

While there have been many organizations I have supported over the years, there are two that have had a significant impact on my life. One of those is Four Winds. So, I joined the RAB Legacy Club to give back to a place that I (and my kids) have enjoyed immensely over the years. No matter how large or small my gift is in the end, I feel great about the opportunities future campers will have due to my generosity.

Thank you to all the members of the "Ruth A. Brown Legacy Club." Your commitment to Camp will carry on your legacy for generations to come.

The Ruth Brown Legacy Club Members:

3 Anonymous RAB Legacy Donors Ella Brittingham Arden & Brad Hofler Emily Glass & Gerry Santillan Barbara W. Demere George & Marion Mohler Bruce & Marty Coffey Jackson Payne Ballard Carlyn Kaiser Stark Jeff & Samantha Stewart Charles & Alberta Lamson Joanne "Charlie" MacPherson John DesCamp Dave & Mary Beth Baker David & Akemi Louchheim John Wineman David Lowy Karin McKinnell Diana Wiegel Katie & Jess Weinstein Don Priday Margaret "Peggy" Enderlein Marilyn J. Anderson Dr. Kris Saldine Fleanor Dootson Megan McCaslin Eleanor "El Bell" Crebs Melissa Palmer & Michael Marshall Elizabeth Crispin

Mike & Sharon Douglas

Nate Benjamin

Nicole & Matthew Murray

Paul & Linda Sheridan

Pieter Van Zandt

Ryan Glant &

Alison Bettles and family

Sam & Cynthia Coleman

Sarah Baker Morgan

Sue Clauson

Sue Metcalf Robertson

Valerie & Scott Corvin

Wendy Gilbaugh Kelley &

Steve Kelley

W.P. Stewart

If you are interested in learning more about Planned Giving, we can help. Email *mike@fourwindscamp.org* to find out how you can become part of the Ruth A. Brown Legacy Club. For details about giving to camp, go to our website and click on the link called "Giving to Camp."







Virtual Evening Fires

hen "Social Distancing" became the norm throughout the world, and so many people felt isolated from their community, it seemed like the perfect time to remind each other that we are so fortunate to be a part of this Four Winds Family. No matter how physically far apart we may be, we are all very much connected and going through this challenging COVID time together.

But how to spread that sentiment and Gypsy love to our alumni? By taking our very "non-tech" Camp's most beloved tradition onto the latest tech platform: A virtual Evening Fire via Zoom.



Ayja Bounous performing from Utah

While physical

norm at the

distancing is the

moment, social

and community

connection is vital.

"I was chatting with some of my best friends from Four Winds via group text, and we threw out the idea of a digital Evening Fire," says Stephanie Roush (former camper), one of the leaders of the group that drove the project. "We reached out to Ayja Bounous (former camper) about performing, and she told us that she had the same idea and had reached out to Four Winds about making it happen."

After some email exchanges with Paul and Danielle, and some sharing of information about the technical aspects of making it happen, everyone agreed to make it an "official" Camp event.

"We all felt like 'this is such a crazy time', and Camp is such a comforting and familiar tradition and place for so many people," said Stephanie, who also credits former campers

Elizabeth Field, Wells Fray Smith and Eloise **LaHorque** for putting the details into place. "Pre-pandemic we would have said 'Digital Evening Fire—I don't know about that.' But unprecedented times called for something like this."

On April 2nd, the first ever virtual Evening Fire took place, with Paul and Danielle in the lodge, joined digitally by performers from across America and the UK. It was a coordinated hour of singing and poetry, with Stephanie Roush at the controls of the Zoom Meeting, switching

to each performer right on cue. The reactions were immediate and intense.





Elaine McDonald

"What a lovely and special afternoon," said Alex Neureuter. "It was wonderful to hear familiar names and get to see the folks behind songs I've come to love."

"It's weird how connected it made me feel to you all, and to the Four Winds community at large, even though I was sitting alone on my side of the computer screen," said Will Drake.



Top: Tom Goff performing from the U.K; below: Maria Elzinga performing from The Netherlands

"That sort of emotional resonance is something that Camp is uniquely capable of creating."

"Memories of long ago came flooding back of what great people and incredible Camp culture has meant in my life," said **Scott Linberg**. "We can do this!"

"Just what my heart and soul needed," added Pam Krepchin. "Gypsy love and song!" Above:

The first Virtual Evening Fire was such a hit, that members of a Facebook Group aimed at alumni from the 1980's put on their own event on April 11th, catered specifically to their 80's peers. Then, another Camp-wide Virtual Evening Fire on April 19th. The reactions once again reminded us all of the love we share, connected forever by the magic of Four Winds.



Just what my heart

Gypsy love and song!

and soul needed.

Paul and Danielle in the lodge



David Brinkley performing from Boston

"While physical distancing is the norm at the moment, social and community connection is vital.," said *Ele Dootson*. "Thank you FWWH for creating the space for Gypsy love and connection to thrive and grow."

"I cannot thank you enough for the amazing words, songs and poems," said Katie Wisdom Weinstein. "You have filled my heart."

"My heart is filled with gratitude, memories, goosebumps, tears and Gypsy love," said Sarah Baker Morgan. "Each

song, each poem, each boon, each memory prompted. Seeing so many wonderful faces and hearing your voices was the best dose of all things good."

"Gypsy Magic rarely needed more than now," exclaimed Harry Hanson. "Such a nice idea."

"You filled my living room with warmth and my eyes with a few tears," said Katie Forsythe. "Be well, all. Gypsy love."

Be well indeed. Now more than ever, we need each other, and all the Gypsy love we can get.

Through mid-June, we had hosted four Virtual Evening Fires, and with all summer sessions cancelled for 2020, we feel there is certainly a need and a purpose to keep the newest Camp tradition going. Look for more events through the rest of the summer, and check our website and Facebook page for dates.

You have filled my heart.



Anne Zesiger and family



Marni Sheppard

A Return to Camp—After 64 Years



oanne Sherrod Whittington Sigler was a counselor at Four Winds in 1955, and says she still remembers "that wonderful summer on Orcas Island—because once you've slept on an Island, you'll never be guite the same."

Joanne had not been back to Camp in 64 years until last summer, when her daughter, Liz, brought her to Orcas as a birthday present. Here is Joanne's story about that visit, 64 years after she had worked at Four Winds.

"When we drove off of the Ferry my 'Memory Book' broke open—as did my tear ducts. I'm back at Four Winds, walking up and down the hills, riding in a boat in that beautiful water, and remembering my bloomers and middy and my red scarf.

In 1955, my cabin had a centered fireplace. Across the mantle was a carving that said 'The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step.' Throughout my 87 years of life, I have taken many personal journeys, mentally, physically and professionally. And, they have always begun with that one step!

Joanne on the Yuk

Camp itself has changed since 1955—but only physically, with taller trees and a few new buildings, but the atmosphere is the same as ever. Campers learn so many more wonderful things that they can't be taught at home. Those who are reading this certainly can reflect on sunrises and sunsets, as well as the unique experiences for which Four Winds stands for and please don't forget! If I remember correctly, there were 34 states and 27 countries represented this past session. How special for the Camper's address book!



Joanne in Madrona

I was at Camp in 1955 with my best friend, Beth. She and I shared memories of Four Winds all of these years. Beth died this past year. However, I felt her presence with every step, looking at the beautiful blue waters and seeing Ms. Ruth's house up on a hill. How proud I am that I am a part of the 92-year history of such a special summer I spent there."

The Gypsy "Ambassador" Program

hortly after the Pigeon Wing went out in 2019, I received a call from *Eve Nott* (nee Bascom), who lives in Boulder, Colorado and was a camper from 1950-55. Evie wanted to chat about a few things she had read, and also mentioned that she was excited to still be connected to Four Winds. After several minutes, I asked if she would like to re-engage with Camp even further—perhaps having coffee to share stories and memories with a fellow alum who lived in Boulder. She accepted without hesitation.

I reached out to Julie Teel Simmonds (camper '82-88; CT '89' AC 91) who immediately accepted my proposal to take Evie to breakfast... and thus was born the idea of Camp's "Gypsy Ambassador Program", a way to connect alumni from the earliest years of Camp with alumni from more recent years, or even current campers and staff.

"When I first met Evie, we hugged and smiled ear to ear in that understanding that is wrought from shared experience," says Julie. "She is amazingly youthful, sharp, and fit for her age of 81. We spotted each other's Gypsy bracelets, and she mentioned that hers was too large to comfortably wear. I let her try my newer one on, which fit, and we simultaneously suggested 'Let's swap?'. Just like that, we were wearing each other's Gypsy bracelets. It feels symbolic of how Camp bridges generations. I am



Julie Teel Simmonds and Eve Nott

carrying around Evie's memories of Camp and she mine."

"My get-together with Julie was absolutely amazing," said Evie. "Both of us, even with a huge gap in age and years at Four Winds, bonded immediately with shared experiences, tears and laughter. We shared our thoughts of Camp's influence on our lives after so many unique experiences. We could have reminisced for hours!"

"Evie told me about her first summer at Camp," said Julie. "Maintaining the garden (which at the time was at Hilltop) under the kind but stern tutelage of Miss Ruth, and spending time with her friends. Her memories of Magic Ring, the Gypsy Wagon, Gypsy Day, the dock, craft courts, and cabins, wearing flowers in our hair, evening light and evening fires seemed touched by the same essence and magic as my own."

Would you like to have a similar experience, and re-connect with an alum who lives in your area to share Camp memories and stories? Email Mike Smith at mike@fourwindscamp.org.

Alumni News

Nancy Johnsrud Dudley (Camper '52 & '53) Majored in Biology in college, including some marine biology. Rode horses for 50 years and competed in dressage. Have been fortunate that my husband enjoys traveling. We have been to the Arctic, South Pacific, Antarctica, Africa and on a number of trips to Europe. I still have wonderful memories of Four Winds-and look where the winds have blown me!

Linda Good (Camper '63; Staff '72-77 & '98) Len & I are semiretired, still doing some teaching. Our daughter, Nancye Good, is living in the Catskills in NY state. Our grandson, Jason, will start college this fall. Our granddaughter, Faye, is in Brooklyn, NY and has been helping Nancye with her camps, "Earth Living Skills School."



Nancy and Stephen Dudley

Deirdre McCarvill (Camper '66-'70) One of the dearest friends I ever made was Robin Patterson-Nenninger, who I reconnected with just a few years ago! It was fantastic!!! I have such incredible memories of Camp, but in particular sailing, horseback riding, evening songs, poems and stories at night in the lodge -- and of course, Gypsy day! I work in family law, have three grown children and my husband and I are retiring this June. We're building a home in Vernon, British Columbia, to live a slower life while still remaining active.

Whitney Lane (Camper '67-'69; Weaver in Residence '77; Board '93-'96) I went to Manitoba, Canada in



Whitney Lane enjoying a Manitoba igloo

February on an all-women's trip, where I learned how to build igloos and got to see the Aurora Borealis. It was truly a once in a life time event!! I spend my time between Portola Valley CA and Bainbridge Island WA. My

mom, Joan Fletcher Lane (Camper '40-'43; Board '68-'86) is doing well and in good spirits despite being confined indoors most of the time to keep her safe during the corona pandemic. She likes to read novels about women set during WWII and has suggested singing Camp songs from her balcony!! We both loved the Zoom evening fire! Thanks to all who organized it!



Aurora Borealis in Manitoba

Jennifer (Tuck) Hobson (Camper '67-'71; CT '72 & '74; Staff '75, '76, '82 & '01) I live in British Columbia and am finishing my 38-year teaching career, most of it at a co-ed in Vancouver. It has been a hugely rewarding career teaching history, geography, and a number of other subjects. I am currently teaching online during the coronavirus isolation and am loving the connections I can still have with my students online. My current pursuits are pottery, painting, cycling, baking, walking my dog, small-boat sailing, reading, and listening to podcasts; soon I hope they will also include international travel.



Katie Wisdom Weinstein (Camper '78-'83; Staff '87-'96; Asst. Director '95 & '96; Board '05 & '06) The Wisdom/Weinstein family is busy and creative! Skylar (Camper '07) is living in Bend, Oregon and studying forestry in between fishing, skiing and working on his beloved car. Carrot/Ruby (Camper '07-'13: Carlyn '12; CT '14; Staff '16 & '19) is living temporarily in Portland since her big trip to New Zealand got cancelled due to the virus. She plans on going back to school this fall, unless a pirate ship lures her away! Jess (Staff '89, '90, '92 & '94-'97) is working his magic with brands who

need a hilarious, experienced Brand Director. He is working with some awesome CBD brands. Katie is teaching crafts and art to teacup humans until she finds her next gig. Life is good for this band of Gypsies!



Katie Wisdom Weinstein and daughter Carrot/

Alumni News, continued

Shelley Machell (Camper '81-'84) I live in Thousand Oaks, CA with my husband of 20 years, Simon, our 15-year-old daughter, Grace, and 12-year-old son, Harry. One of my biggest regrets is not sending either of them to camp: waiting lists, sports injuries, trips abroad, world threatening plagues... all the things that got in the way were legit at the time but still don't make me feel any better that they missed out on what we all know was probably one of the better parts of our childhood. Thank you, Pigeon Wing Editors, for keeping this going!





Jennifer Brown with her niece, Kay Ercil

Jennifer Brown (Camper '81-'85; staff '90) I live in New York City, working in consulting and speaking with organizations on the topic of inclusion. Business had been going gangbusters until recently due to the virus, but I continue to promote my latest book: "How to be an Inclusive Leader: Your Role in Creating Cultures of Belonging Where Everyone Can Thrive," and podcast focused on diversity, called "The Will to Change." I have enjoyed reconnecting with a bunch of 80's campers in a Facebook group led by campmate, Adrian Jones. My niece—daughter of my

sister Amy "Mimi" Brown's (pictured with me) enjoyed being

a first time camper last year!

Sonya Lenzi (Camper '82-'85; CT '86; HH '90; Staff '91) I live in Boise, Idaho close to my sisters, Kendra Lenzi Arnt (Camper '84-'88; staff '91 & '92) and Nicole Lenzi Amideo (Camper '86-'89; CT '90; AC '91; staff '97-'00) and their families. My nephews, Ben and Alex Arnt, have both been campers.

I've worked as an Interior Designer and General Contractor for the past 20 years in Boise. A true Craft-O through and through! I love the joy that Facebook brings by allowing me to stay in contact with so many Gypsies.



Sonya Lenzi

Much love to all Gypsies, and if you're in Boise let me know. All Gypsies are welcome by my fire!

Dana Shell Smith (Camper '82-'85) I stepped down as US Ambassador to Qatar in June 2017, after 25 years in the foreign service. I am living in Arlington, Virginia with husband and two sons. My older son is a freshman at Carnegie Mellon University, and my younger is in 10th grade. I am doing private consulting in international business, teaching at Georgetown University and spending summers in Maine enjoying that island spirit I first discovered at Four Winds.



Chris Sheldon and family

Chris Sheldon (Camper '90-94) Chris, Dana, Vivian (7) and Isabel (4) are doing great, living in the Outer Richmond district of San Francisco. Vivian is in 1st grade and plans to attend junior session at Four Winds in summer 2021. Izzy is in preschool. Chris works in commercial real estate and Dana is a family law attorney. We love spending our free time at the beach surfing, playing soccer, basketball and tennis, rock climbing, biking and spending time in the outdoors hiking and camping.

Andrew Roberts (Staff '93-'03; Assistant Director '97–'00) My wife, Sarah Trelease, and I are hunkered down here in Portland, where spring is lovely and the artistry of peoples' face masks is second to none! I'm a cardiac nurse, and am training up for ICU care of patients with COVID, and if things get rough, I'll be right in there fighting the hard

fight. But as a survivor of multiple summers of Gypsy Plague, COVID-19 should be a piece of cake! Sarah is a mental health counselor, so she is busy giving time to those for whom isolation is difficult to handle. So, we are alive and busy and grateful and wish all you Gypsies a lovely spring and a song in the ear.

Emily Dachs Taylor (Camper '94-'98; Staff '03 & '04) We added another child to our family! Elliot Abigail Taylor was born on March 24th, 2019. She joins Bennett, 8 and Georgia, 5.



Sarah Trelease and Andrew Roberts

Jessica (Pettus) Vose (Camper '94–'96; Staff '99–'02) welcomed second daughter, Westley, in September of 2019. Husband Greg, and older daughter Adelyne (age 2), are thrilled with the new addition to the family as we adjust to life as a family of four in Orange County, CA.

Jessica works in marketing in cybersecurity. Greg will be completing his PhD at UC Irvine in Plant Ecology later this year or early next year, at which point the family will decide where they are headed next. FWWH continues to be an immense solace to our family in these very uncertain and troubling times. We want to wish everyone in the Four Winds community all of the health, peace, and happiness possible in 2020.



Ross Carlson

Ross Carlson (Camper '98–'02; CT '03; AC '04) I must go down to the sea again. I live in Missoula, MT with my three-year-old border collie, Nemo, and make it over to smell the Pacific Ocean every few years. Montana keeps me busy and fulfilled with skiing in the winter, fishing in the summer, and trail running through it all. Work continues to challenge me positively at onXmaps; I recently moved into a Software Engineering role after a decade in GIS (digital computer mapping). Looking back, Camp was the most formational experience of my childhood. Thank you from the bottom of my heart to each of you that contributed to that magical experience. The recent online evening fire was a joy to watch and hear old favorite songs and poems, I assume I was not the only gypsy out there with misty eyes. Stay safe friends!



Yogi Letfus and Alison (Kovach) Letfus and their family

Yogi Letfus (Staff '99-'03) and Alison (Kovach) Letfus (Staff '01-'03) We live in Woodinville, WA, just outside of Seattle. Our days are filled with chasing after our fouryear-old son, Thatcher, and our one-year-old daughter, Emerson, as well as house renovation projects and work. Yogi works in business development and Alison works in nonprofit development. In our spare time we enjoy catching up with our Four Winds friends that are scattered throughout Seattle. Many of those friendships are twenty years old now and so precious to us. We enjoy escaping up to Orcas Island several times a year—it continues to be one of the most important places to our family. And this past Christmas we were able to travel to New Zealand to introduce our baby daughter to her many family members and friends that she had yet to meet. Life is busy and full and so, so sweet at the moment.

Will Drake (Camper '99–'01 & '05-'07; Staff '12 & '13) My times spent at camp have been some of my fondest memories, and I cherish the friendships I formed there. In the time since I've been at Camp, I discovered my passion for science and have been pursuing a career in physics. Skipping forward a few years, I'm now making progress towards that goal: I'm currently at the University of Arizona, studying optical engineering! (It's a type of science about how light is produced, how it interacts with materials, and how we can use those properties to make interesting things, like lasers, camera/telescope lenses, and even the screens we interact with every day.) If anyone wants to reconnect, I'd be excited to hear from you and see what you've been up to!

Adam Lion (Camper '04—'07; Carlyn '08; HH '10; Staff '13 & '14) I am a professional musician based in Knoxville, TN. My practice revolves around the creation of new work, experimentation, and collaboration. A lot of what I do depends on following my heart, believing in myself and others, and unhindered self-expression—all important traits Four Winds instilled in me. The lessons I learned over my 10 summers at Four Winds had a monumental impact on my life, and helped give me the confidence and skills to build an adventurous career for myself in the arts. I would not be where I am today if it wasn't for Camp! https://www.adamlionpercusion.com/



Jessica (Pettus) Vose and her family

Alumni News, continued

Joe and Susan Babcock (Year-round staff/Head of Maintenance '05—'14) After a sabbatical apart, Joe & Susan quietly REMARRIED last year on what would have been their 40th Anniversary. Although we live miles apart—Joe is in Amarillo, TX keeping an eye on his 96-year-old mom and teaching orchestra for the school district. Susan lives near Atlanta, teaching Pilates. Living apart is hard, but practical for NOW.

We've spent recent summers on our Honda motorcycle, taking adventures as far as Alberta, Canada, and those trips have helped get our lives back TOGETHER again!! The younger Babcocks, Jackson & Trish, live in Utah and welcomed Brooks Robert into the world last July to join big sis, Cora (age 9). Jackson works for Live Nation and Trisha is



Joe and Susan Babcock

a Registered Nurse. Carly and Taurell are in Seattle, taking care of Fender the Cat—you may remember him as the barn cat with opposable thumbs!



Chet Kittleson

Chet Kittleson (CT '05; Staff '06—'09) Can't believe it's been 10 years since I spent a summer at Four Winds. It feels like yesterday, and like a million years ago at the same time. It's been a busy decade though! My wife and I have two kids (Emma is four and Thatcher is two) with a third (and final!) on the way. They each already have plenty of Camp songs memorized. Dorade and Black Socks are two they've really latched onto, but they love the goodnight song as well, which we sing every night at bedtime.

For work, I've managed a couple of different businesses for the Seattle-based real estate company, Redfin, for the past four and a half years. I love my job, and am thrilled that nobody has yet come to see how incompetent I am. Everyone feels this way though, right? (that's what I tell myself anyway) Outside of work and the family, I do my best to keep in touch with friends (picture is from a visit with Camp friends from earlier this year) and I've come to love building stuff. I'm still relatively new to the craft, but have built beds for my kids and random pieces of furniture for around our home.

I still think of my days at Four Winds often, and am thankful to still be in touch with some of my fellow Four Winds-ians!"

Mairead Willis (Camper '07-'11; CT '12; HH '13; Staff '14-'15 & '17-'19)

I am working as a research coordinator in the Department of Psychological Sciences at Purdue University. All our work has shifted online, and I am working to become an A+ Zoom user. I hope that everyone is safe and well, and I look forward to hearing their updates!

Annie Ryder (Camper 09 & '10; CT '11; HH '12; staff '13—'16) I'm currently working at the San Francisco VA Medical Center, doing research on PTSD and cardiovascular disease. I speak with Veterans on a daily basis about their mental and physical health and investigate how those two things are related. This past



Mairead Willis

year I've gotten really into rock climbing and am hoping to get into outdoor climbing soon. I'm think about Orcas Island (where I grew up) and my parents a lot, hoping everyone there is doing okay, but I take comfort in knowing that the community is supporting each other.

Pippa Lother (Camper '10 & '11) is a Freshman at Duke University studying Computer Science, where she also mentored young students in the Durham area on coding. Now back home in Alabama for the summer, she is mentoring high school students by video call.



Pippa Lother

Charles Heath (Camper '10-'16) and Sydney Heath (Camper '07-'14) Charles will be starting at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis in June. We look forward to 4 more years of watching him play squash before we head back to the west coast. Sydney is a sophomore at Claremont McKenna majoring in International Relations with a sequence in Human Rights and Genocide Studies.



Emma Walsh

Sophia Cajune (Camper '15 & '16) I'm finishing my first year of college at Montana State University and pursuing a degree in Paleontology. I am in the process of writing and publishing my first research paper, on "Triceratops Growth and Development."

Emma Walsh (Camper '05, '10- '13; CT '14; Staff '16) I am due to graduate from university in Scotland in June, but will be in the U.K. another year as I was just elected to be my university's Director of Wellbeing. It is a full-time position making sure that all students have equal representation and access to health and wellbeing services.

Besides that, I am very much enjoying Orcas Island life now that we live here, and love being a part of the local community as well as the Camp one. My parents and I have gotten into the swing of being locals and are only falling more in love with this island.

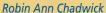


Charles and Sydney Heath

Passings

Eunice Margaret Erb Goodan (December 20, 1925–October 3, 2019)

Eunice was a camper in 1941. She graduated from Stanford University in 1946. Eunice married Douglas Goodan in 1946. They celebrated 62 years of marriage, before his death in 2009. Eunice is survived by her three children and their families. Eunice lived her entire life in Southern California. She was a long-time docent at the Los Angeles Museum of Natural History and most recently was a Governor Emeritus at the Huntington Library. Eunice enjoyed traveling and loved to read, especially books about world history.





Robin Chadwick and her family; Robin is pictured at the far right.

(June 12, 1947-March 9, 2020)

Robin was a graduate of Mannes School of Music, New York City, NY, and was an Honored member of the Music Teacher's Association of America and the Washington State Music Teacher's Association. She attended Four Winds with her sister, Marcy, from 1952-1958. Her mother, Marion Chadwick, was Head of Dock for several years during that time. Robin sent her two children to Camp, and four of her grandchildren. The photograph is of her and her family at Camp, and was framed and hung on her wall until the day she passed.





A drawing done by Robin at Camp in the 50s'



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A Gypsy Thank You to our 2020 Slide Show Host Families!

ur annual slide show tour takes us to alumni homes in five different states Including Alaska this year!) as well as the District of Columbia 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 2021, please email Danielle Bone at Danielle@fourwindscamp.org.

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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:

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