

PIGEON WING

Spring 2021

Greetings from Hilltop

Dear Friends,

I write one of these letters for the Pigeon Wing every year, even last year. For some reason, this one has me a little bit stuck. There's something profound about having campers return here after our first summer without them in 93 years. It's hard to know where to begin. Just as it feels a little strange to hug your vaccinated friend for the first time after this crazy year, even though you know it's okay, the only thing to do is dive in.



I'm so grateful. I'm grateful for the health care workers, essential workers, and scientists who have minimized the damage of this pandemic and brought about its end. I'm grateful for the donors who stepped up and helped Four Winds financially through an incredibly trying time. I'm grateful for the patience of our camp families, patience they had to exercise through the many phases of the pandemic as they've related to Four Winds. I'm grateful for our summer staff, who were so understanding at the loss of their plans and jobs for summer 2020, and who eagerly signed up for summer 2021, despite not knowing exactly what it would be like. I'm grateful for our year round staff, who have navigated this uncertainty with grace. I'm grateful for our Board of Trustees, who have been a support and sounding board for me, and who have upheld their duty to protect this place through an event none of us foresaw.

Most of all, I'm grateful this soon, in just a few short weeks, maybe by the time you're reading this, that there will be campers running through this place, laughing and singing once again. They need it so badly.

This summer will be unprecedented in many ways. We don't know all of them yet. As I write this, we're operating under guidance issued by Washington State at the end of March. There's new guidance for camps from the CDC, but the old Washington guidance supersedes it. I expect that will change at some point. This year has been defined by change and uncertainty. That will continue throughout the summer. (I keep saying that I'm out of the prediction business, but there I go again.) The flexibility and patience that's been required all year will continue to be required throughout the summer.

But, our campers will be here, together, having the Four Winds experience that they ought to be having. It will be a little different than normal, but it will still be camp.

I can't wait.

All the best,

Paul

Notes from Danielle

I am so excited that this Pigeon Wing is in your hands as we begin summer sessions at Camp. It is a surreal and wonderful feeling to know that the trails of Camp will be filled with the laughter of campers and staff once again.

As we all know too well, it has been a long and challenging year for all of us in so many different ways. The spirit of the Four Winds community has definitely kept me going through the tough moments and the knowledge that, no matter what happened, we would all gather together again. And here we are, preparing to welcome Campers back to Four Winds for the Summer of 2021.

For the Bone Family, the year began with much excitement and joy as we welcomed our baby girl Ruby at the beginning of January. We returned to Australia to be close to family, all the while keeping our fingers and toes crossed that we'd be heading north and west again to prepare for Camp! Come April and our prayers were answered with much excitement, packing and Ruby's first plane flight of 15 hours! Our little family can't wait to welcome staff and campers back to Four Winds to do the things we all know and love but most of all to just be together in person in this special place.

I don't think Neal Woodall's words have ever rung more true. "This old lodge has lasted through the years, through many a storm and the good times". The storms of the past year are behind us, the good times are to come. I can't wait to see many of you at Camp this summer!

—Danielle Bone, Associate Director, FWWH



Danielle, Ruby, and JP Bone

New Lifetime Advisor

After more than 20-years as a member of the Four Winds Board of Trustees, Alan Schulman resigned his Board seat last year – but he is not done helping guide Camp with planning, major decisions and future goals. Alan has been selected to be a "Lifetime Adviser" to Four Winds, making him just the fifth such person to hold that title.

"When I left the Board of Trustees, I was letting go of something I love—something that is enormously fulfilling and gives me great pleasure," he said. "It was very hard. But I felt it was 'my time to step aside'. In my view, Camp benefits enormously from the continued engagement of our long-tenured Trustees, but it is also important that at some point we make way for the next generation of leaders."

Alan joins Carlyn Kaiser Stark, Marion Mohler, Mike Douglas and Cynthia Coleman as a Four winds * Westward Ho Lifetime Adviser.

"Having such advisers provides the Board with added strength and experience," said Board Chair Diana Wiegel. "Alan will continue as a trusted adviser and confidante on Camp's most important topics. We are grateful to have someone as passionate and caring in this role and appreciative of his continued service to Four Winds Camp."

Alan's two daughters, Hope and Hanna, attended Four Winds and Hope worked on the staff for many years. He and his wife, Mary, are also part-time residents of Orcas Island, so the family's ties to Camp run deep—and will continue to do so.

"It is an honor to become a Lifetime Adviser," he says. "I will still be connected to the Camp culture, which I cherish, and part of the leadership for many years to come."



Right: Alan Schulman;
below: Alan and Mary



New Additions to the Year-Round Staff

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e've added two new members to our year-round staff, and both have long histories with Four Winds. Ali Walker takes over the role of Registrar, replacing Mariah Armenia, who held the role for the previous eight years. Ali was a camper from 1997 to 2004, then Helping Hand, CT and staff from 2005–2016.

"I've had a life goal since I was eleven of working at Four Winds year-round," she says. "I am grateful I can fit myself in where I am best used, and support a place that has meant so much to me over the years" Ali will handle all the camper registration information, but her official title will not be "Registrar." Instead it is "Family Experience Manager."

"This title change doesn't reflect a change in duties, but a change in emphasis," explains Paul. "Every time a parent, guardian, or alum calls our office, every time a parent or guardian fills out a form, asks a question about one of our policies or practices, or needs to have the frustrating waitlist situation explained to them, they're experiencing Four Winds. For many of them, those interactions are some of the most significant interactions they'll have with Four Winds. Ali is skilled in this area and motivated to focus on this part of the job, and we feel that changing the title highlights that for everyone. We're thrilled to have Ali and are especially happy about having her smiling, can-do attitude as a part of our year-round team."

Also joining our year-round staff is Charlotte Horsey, another familiar face who spent twelve summers at Camp as a camper and staff member. Charlotte's official title is Assistant Director.

"Taking the Assistant Director position at Four Winds feels more like coming home than like starting something new," she says.

"Camp is where I spent my first nights camping, where I learned the value of working for a mission-driven and community-oriented organization, and where I saw the power of individual relationships to make change in young people's lives."



Charlotte Horsey

In recent years, Charlotte has been working as a middle school French teacher, while also serving as the 6th-grade Dean at an independent school in Seattle. In the summers, she was a hiking and mountaineering instructor for NOLS, leading 30-day back-country trips for teens and college-aged students in Alaska and Washington.

Former Assistant Director, Danielle Bone, is still on the year-round staff, but will be working under the new title of Associate Director. After working with Ali and Char in multiple summer-staff roles over many summers, Danielle is thrilled to have these two "old" friends back as "new" colleagues.

"Their insight and knowledge will be such an asset to our team," says Danielle. "In particular, the addition of Charlotte's Assistant Director role will add a much needed layer of support to both the Year Round and the Summer Staff. We will work together to hire and support approximately 60 Leadership Training participants and close to 100 Summer Staff members throughout the off season and while Camp is in session. This will create greater efficiency in both off season and in session Camp logistics—making an even better experience for our campers and staff."



Top: Ali Walker as a camper at Four Winds; below: Ali today



A Busy Year of Projects

The cancellation of the 2020 summer sessions not only meant no kids at Camp for the first time since 1927—it also meant the maintenance crew could attack major projects in summer months for the first time ever.

"This last year has been an eventful one for the maintenance crew," says Caleb Weichert. Head of Maintenance. "We had more time to focus on areas we wouldn't normally and were able to give Camp the care and attention it needed."



1

One such project was the complete overhaul of Glory of the Seas cabin. David Leanza, the Carlyn captain and an experienced carpenter, led the project

"Glory was the cabin most in need of renewal," says David. "I found rot in the framing, walls pulling away from the masonry fireplace, the floor platform out of level and lots of dirty, fading, flaking paint. Our plan was to keep Glory's fireplace, windows, floor and much of the floor framing. All wood above the floor was to be replaced. The new walls would be unpainted natural wood like most of the other cabins, instead of Glory's old dingy faded whitewashed interior (with some rot)."

We started by deconstructing the roofing, siding and wall sheathing planks," he continues. "We were able to salvage a lot of materials for future use including large shingles from the siding. After deconstructing the rest of the roof and walls we used bottle jacks and line levels to get the existing floor platform level."



2



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After ten months of work, the renewed "Glory of the Seas" took shape.

"I took the opportunity to make a few improvements from the original cabin such as raising the door height (to be the same as in a home built to code today) and some improved framing like 'let-in diagonal bracing, lookout rafters and a 4x4 double top-plate,'" says David. "If you don't

know these terms, it's all carpenter talk that translates to 'build it strong so it will last even longer than the first Glory cabin'."

Glory is the only cabin that got the extreme makeover, but every other cabin also got some special care.

"Our Boatwright, Jim

Kruse, completely stripped, rebuilt, stained, glazed, and painted every window and door of the girl's cabins," says Caleb. "That's roughly 14 doors and 140 windows. Jim was busy and his hard work shows."

Caleb also credits Jim for taking the lead on creating multiple new benches that are placed throughout lower Camp.



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"Over the course of ten months, we dried and protected 10 large slabs of wood that were milled from trees taken down during our recent septic system project," says Caleb. "Jim took great care of these slabs by cutting, sanding, coating, sanding again, coating again, digging holes, setting post, leveling and mounting brackets. We now have two benches near the junior girls' shower house, two benches by the Craft Courts and two benches in front of the Treehouse."

Having a full year without campers also allowed most of the vegetation destroyed by the septic project to come back.

"We reseeded the lawn in Lower Camp and spruced up the landscaping," says Caleb. "We were also able to do trail improvements, new railing and stair installs, complete rebuilds of the boat launch ramp, and numerous repairs to camp housing, tent platforms, and facilities. We on the maintenance team are excited that camp is happening again and are ready for summer 2021!"



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Photo key:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 "Old" Glory | 6 Milled slabs from removed trees |
| 2 Glory down to the raters | 7 Benches near Craft Courts |
| 3 New siding | 8 Windows "after" |
| 4 Glory new interior | 9 Glory "after" |
| 5 Windows "before" | 10 Lower camp grass |

A Conversation about Gypsy

In February 2020, before the world turned upside down, I was traveling for slideshows. I had a surprising conversation with the host mom at one slideshow before the guests arrived, and it's stuck with me. She pressed me, firmly but in a good way, on Four Winds' use of the word "gypsy." Not many people have pushed me on this issue in my 17 years at Four Winds, but plenty of people have asked about it. I was in slideshow mode, there to do my job, and I told this mom the story I've told many times. Our camp was founded in the 1920s. Back then, people had different standards about borrowing from other cultures and sensitivity around certain words. Ruth Brown, our founder, admired the Roma people as carefree, creative, and adventurous, and she wanted to infuse that spirit in Four Winds. Sure, if we were founding a camp today, we probably wouldn't use that word when building the camp's culture, but this camp is nearly 100 years old. There are some markers of that, and that's okay. No one at Four Winds bears any animosity to the Roma people.



Gypsy Day

The mom continued to press me, kindly but firmly. Isn't gypsy an ethnic slur? Or at least a non-preferred term for a marginalized group of people with whom, if we're honest, most people at Four Winds have only a passing familiarity? Making construction paper headdresses and using non-preferred language for Native Americans wouldn't be okay at Four Winds. How is this any different? Four Winds does such a good job of being welcoming and inclusive, of making it part of our culture that people of all backgrounds are welcome. How can this be consistent with those values? (By the way, if the mom I'm referring to is reading this, thank you. I genuinely appreciated the conversation and still do.)

Later that night, I was grabbing a late-night bite, as I often do after slideshows, and it hit me in the face. Setting aside the often delivered defense of our use of the word, the inertia of so many decades, and the fact that many of us (myself included) have assigned the word a camp-specific definition separate from the Roma people, the mom was right. Our use

of the word is inconsistent with our values. Four Winds owes it to our campers to address that disconnect between our values and this practice. I realized it was time for Four Winds to have a conversation.

When I say conversation, I mean it. Part of my reluctance to prompt a reckoning with our use of the word comes from the fact that I alone should not decide this for Four Winds. I'm a steward of Camp, one of many over the years and many yet to come. It's not mine. It belongs to all of us.

I'm not just a steward, though. I'm also a leader. One of my guiding principles in leading at Four Winds these last 17 years has been to find parts of camp where our actions don't quite match up to our values and ask questions about them. This is one of those times, and I think this community is ready to start asking and answering those questions.

Another reason I haven't pushed to have this conversation until now is that there are a lot of questions. I got my start at camp in northern Wisconsin. That camp had a one-day event twice a summer called Pow Wow Day, way back when. It was filled with, you won't be surprised, cartoonish depictions of Native



Americans. The camp changed the tradition back in the early aughts, and it was challenging. It was a beloved tradition. Like our use of the word gypsy and other Roma imagery, it wasn't about Native Americans. It was about people's love of camp. People don't like to see the thing they love change. It was hard for them to make the change, and it was only two days per summer.

Our use of the word gypsy permeates our entire camp culture. Gypsy Day, Gypsy Jewelry, the Gypsy Star, Gypsy Sisters, Gypsy Love, myriad song and poems. The list goes on.

Entirely scrubbing the word from every corner of Four Winds doesn't seem like the right move. I think that, at least, we should keep old songs and poems that use the word. I think we can continue to use the Gypsy Star, though I think we should come up with a different name for it. If we keep some elements, we should have some sort of acknowledgment or explanation of our history and process. Now we're getting into my opinions about details, and please feel free to disagree. But it's time to talk about it.

I've brought this issue up with our Board of Trustees. In our conversations about this topic, one of them commented, "When you know better, you do better." Back in 1927, it would have been a very foreign thought to consider the idea that a camp shouldn't use another culture's tropes when building its camp culture. Ruth Brown and the many people who helped her build Four Winds from nothing cannot be held accountable to today's standards. But we, the inheritors of Ruth Brown's legacy, are charged with keeping Four Winds up to its own values, even as they evolve. Most of us acknowledge that our use of the word doesn't perfectly align with our values. We know better now. It's time to figure out how to do better.

What's stopped us all these years? I had another conversation with a board member that I think is illuminative. This is a board member who believes, deep in his bones, that we need to make some kind of change in this tradition. And yet, we had a conversation, and he confided in me that it would be hard for him to see the tradition change. The word gypsy had just come to mean "Four Winds person" for him. It didn't have anything to do with the Roma people, and it certainly wasn't used in the spirit of a slur, in fact, quite the opposite. In the Four Winds context, it's a term of endearment, an acknowledgment that we're all part of a special community. It was tied up in memories, traditions, and friendships. So to make that kind of change would be a loss. But then he said to me, "But that's what cultural appropriation is. We're taking something that's not ours, that's tied up in centuries of mistreatment of a marginalized group, and using it for our purposes. We have to live up to our own values here."

So that's what I'm proposing: A conversation. I do think some kind of change is in order. I have some ideas, but I don't know where we'll end up. We have to have the conversation. I intend to have it this summer with as many campers and staff as I can. I can't wait to hear what they think. We want to hear from alumni and families too. I hope you'll understand that, in the run-up to a summer (or during the summer itself) with some pretty extraordinary challenges, I may not be able to have too many phone calls about this. But, we have a task force of our Board that has agreed to have these conversations with alumni and families. Just go to the form at bit.ly/fwwhgypsy, fill it out, and a member of our task force will reach out to you.

I have a theory of life that is has borne out many times over my years at camp: Life is always better after you start a hard conversation you've been putting off. I look forward to it.

—by Paul Sheridan, Executive Director



Gypsy ring



Gypsy Court



COVID and FWWH

How it all unfolded right up 'til now.

When choosing the articles to write for this year's Pigeon Wing, we knew we had to discuss the effects of COVID on camp. But we wanted to go deeper than just explain why we chose to not have camp in 2020. We wanted to share some of the challenges and decisions we faced when we shut down—and when we decided to reopen. The best way to do that is with a Q & A with Executive Director Paul Sheridan.

What was the final straw that forced us to cancel last year?

In March 2020, I knew it wasn't looking good. At the time, everything about the virus was so new. Probably the moment I knew we were cooked was a call I had with the three other camps in San Juan County and the medical officer for the county. He confirmed my suspicion - that having people come to camp from all over the country, at that phase of the pandemic, to live in a congregate setting in a remote location with limited medical resources, wasn't in the cards. We made the call officially a few weeks later. If we had tried to have camp, either San Juan County or Washington State would have made the call for us, but our community needed the certainty of an answer.

How did the process of refunding tuitions work, with all the challenges since it's never been done on a mass scale before?

It was clunky, and I hope we never have to do it again. Our systems are a one way street. Campers register, they often go on our waitlist, they get enrolled, families pay tuition, kids come to camp, and we start all over the following year. A few people cancel every year, but we never imagined doing a mass refund process.

We're grateful that we were in a position to offer refunds. Many camps couldn't, as a good deal of tuition money is spent before campers ever arrive, but we felt strongly that offering refunds was the right thing to do. I've found over the years that Four Winds' financial strength empowers us to do the right thing. That happened again this time, just with a few extra zeros on the end.

How important were the donations we received to Camp's financial health?

They were absolutely critical. Financially, it was the donations and PPP loans that allowed us to get through the year. It was dicey, but we never had to dip into our line of credit or Board Designated Fund, which were our backup plans had we run short of cash. Without donations, we absolutely would have dipped into one of those, and we'd be a lot thinner in fall 2021 than we currently project to be.

How do we recover financially from a lost year?

Really, it's the donations, PPP loans, cost cutting from not operating summer 2020 and delaying any expenses we could. We're projecting that we'll be back to our normal cash flow pattern after this summer, which is extraordinary.

What steps did you go through to get us open this year?

Around September, I realized that COVID was still likely to be with us in summer 2021. I also knew that several camps in Maine, as well as a few other places, had operated in summer 2020 without significant COVID outbreaks. The formula they followed was pretty simple—take pre-camp precautions, move everything outside, use cohorts and wear masks. There's more to it than that, but that's the gist. I began to think that it was possible for us to pull it off, even with COVID still being a factor.

But, Washington is a cautious state with respect to COVID, and camps were the furthest thing from the state government's radar last fall. I began talking with fellow camp directors, and we realized that we needed to organize and advocate with one voice, so we formed the Washington State Camp Coalition. A Jewish Camp near Olympia had contacts with the Jewish Federation of Seattle, which graciously offered us their lobbyists' time free of charge, and their advice was critical. Governor Inslee's office wasn't ready to have discussions until late January, but the organizing last fall allowed us to be ready when they were. We worked with them through February and March to get the guidance that was eventually released in late March.

What hurdles are you still facing to open this year?

Perhaps the biggest hurdle is ever-changing standards with respect to the pandemic. Just recently, the CDC released new guidance for summer camps, but Washington's guidance supersedes it. Washington's guidance will likely be updated again, but when or how is unknown. Patience and flexibility will be required, and we're grateful that we can have camp this summer at all.

Emotionally, how did it feel when you found out we could open this year?

Really thrilled and relieved. I expect it will be the same when the campers actually arrive, and I can't wait.



An Update on Abby

Abbey Rueb is one of the most adored people associated with Four Winds * Westward Ho in recent memory. As the Camp Registrar for nearly 20 years (1995–2014), Abby interacted in some fashion with every camp family, camper and summer staff member year-after-year. She recently took a moment to catch us up on her life “after Four Winds.”

“This last year plus has, for all, been strange,” she says. “I have been thinking of all the Four Winds gang and worried about the need for friends and activities. I am not worried about academics, but the other things that one gets from participation with others. So when I heard Camp was on this year I jumped for joy—well that is if I could jump—but my heart did!”

Abby developed innumerable deep relationships in her time at Four Winds.

“The Four Winds family will always be in my heart, even though I retired a few years ago,” she says. “One of the things I love is getting visits from ex-campers and staff. It is the best... catching up, meeting spouses and children, and the parents with whom I had been friends.”

Abby’s daughter and son, Bryn and Charlie, live in the Seattle area and visit whenever possible.

“Bryn has three children and Charlie has one ...so far,” says Abby. “Not being able to see them until recently has been hard. I am so excited that my granddaughter is going to big session this year!”

Abby still lives on Orcas Island, near the ferry landing, with her husband Rollie, and says the door is always open for visits from her Four Winds family.

“Other than having some health issues, as one does as we age, we are doing well,” she says. “If you are on the island just know I would love to see you.”



Rollie and Abby

Mariah Armenia says Goodbye

After eight years as the Registrar at Four Winds * Westward Ho, Mariah Armenia has moved on to other opportunities.

“From time to time I lose sight of a phrase which has been knocking around in my head as of late— ‘The only constant in life is change’,” says Mariah. “When Abby handed me the reins as Registrar, I pictured myself following in her footsteps by likewise retiring from the position decades in the future. Each magnificent summer passed with campers maturing into staff, hearing happy voices raised in song and laughter as dusty feet tramped past my desk overlooking Gatehouse Circle. Apparently, I did not properly appreciate how much life truly can change though, and how it could change me in the process.”

Mariah and her husband, Michael, and teenage son, Thian, still live on Orcas Island.

“Choosing to forge a future for myself without the daily magic of Four Winds was one of the hardest decisions I’ve ever made,” she says. “But I’m thankful to travel through the remainder of my days carrying a bit of Gypsy Magic with me as I go.”



Mariah, Thian, and Michael

Supporting Four Winds Financially

The Moonraker Monthly Giving Club

Four Winds is fortunate to receive hundreds of donations each year, and now we are focusing on ways to make donating easier. The “Moonraker Monthly Giving Club” is for people who want to establish a recurring donation and have their contributions automatically sent to Camp on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual basis.

“Recurring donations are great because they allow donors to set up the donation once and forget about it,” says Mike Smith, Four Winds Development Director.



“For people who don’t want to think about another manual payment on top of all their bills, or don’t want to try and remember to make their donation to Camp, having the donation sent automatically from their bank account or charged automatically to their credit card is a perfect solution.”

Automatic deductions can also be an easier financial commitment for many.

“Camp supporters are at all stages of life and a monthly giving program offers great flexibility and ease,” says Ann Felton, a member of the Board of Trustees and the chair of this recurring gift campaign. “Small donations each month add up to significant gifts that truly make a difference.”

For example, if someone wants to give \$240 in a year, it may be more manageable to turn that into 12 monthly gifts of \$20-dollar each.

“We hear from younger donors who are just starting their philanthropic giving,” says Mike. “They say it is tough to budget for a one-time large donation, and multiple smaller donations adding up to the same total work better for their budgets.”

Four Winds already offers recurring donation options through the Camp website’s giving page, but wants to formalize and focus on the program more, which led to the idea of giving it a name—similar to the “Ruth A. Brown Legacy Club”, which is for people who have added Four Winds to their estate plans.

“We are lucky to have such committed and thoughtful donors who make these meaningful contributions,” says Ann. “It’s our hope that this recurring donation option offers more space for all friends of FWWH to more easily join the giving community.”

For information about how to set-up your recurring donation and become part of The Moonraker Monthly Giving Club, contact Mike Smith via email at mike@fourwindscamp.org.

Exciting Information from our Annual Report

Our Annual Report is a document we publish each spring that lists every single donor from the previous calendar year, as well as providing a snapshot of Camp’s financial status and numerous other items of interest. In recent years, we added some things to the report that are worth noting today.

A few years ago, we started adding “consecutive giving symbols” next to donors’ names, representing a donor who has given five-or-more consecutive years, ten-or-more, 15-or-more and 20-or more years. It’s a great way to acknowledge loyal donors, and a fun way to track how many people give every year. There is a fascinating spike in the “20-year-or-more” of consecutive giving. In 2016’s Annual Report, there were four such donors; in the 2020 Annual Report, there are 20 people who have given at least 20 consecutive years! That is AMAZING!

Something else we recently added is a list of the very generous donors who have given more than \$100,000 to Four Winds in their lifetimes. That list grew by three members this past year, and now stands at 25! Thank you so much! (By the way, people who pass the \$100,000 mark also get a flower on the Craft Courts’ ceiling.)

We encourage you to download the Annual Report from our website by going to <https://fourwindscamp.org/giving>, scrolling to the bottom of the page and clicking “2020 Annual Report”

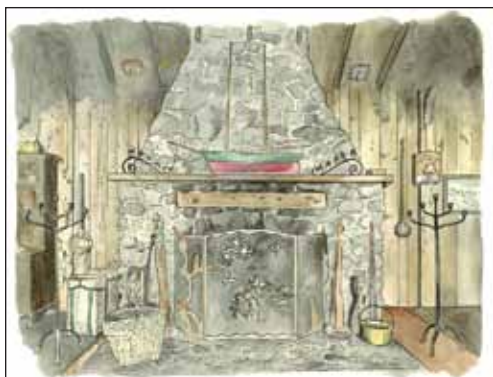


Flowers blooming on the Craft Court ceiling

Beautiful New Camp Paintings—for a Good Cause!

Thanks to the generosity and amazing talent of *Emily Brock Lewis* (camper '00-'04; CT '05; staff '08-'10), we have a new series of paintings of some of the most iconic spots at Four Winds.

"The series is called 'From Afar'," says Emily. "They were created in response to Camp pausing for the summer of 2020. The work is a way to celebrate Four Winds even while we are far apart."



There are twelve images in the series, including the Lodge, Garden Gate, the Promise Well, the Jr. Girls Shower House, the Pirate Goon Bird, the Taller Goon Bird, the Signpost Crow, a rowboat, the Lodge Owl, the Gypsy Wagon, the barn and Cedar cabin. The pieces are 8.5" x 11" and are watercolor and archival ink.

"I was thinking of it sort of as a virtual residency, as I felt like I was at Camp in my mind's eye as I worked on the paintings," says Emily

Emily had another idea in mind for these paintings—an idea to benefit Camp.

"I hope the pictures will help generate some money for Camp, either through print sales or auctioning off the originals," she says. "This is such a difficult time and I wanted to do what I could to help ease the burden. Your leadership during this time has been exemplary and I am so proud to be part of this community."

We are solidifying how to fulfill Emily's wish of selling her art to benefit our Financial Aid Program. Look for an announcement in coming weeks.



If you'd like to see more of Emily's work, check out her website www.emilybrocklewis.com and follow her on Instagram [@emilybrock](https://www.instagram.com/emilybrock).

The Ruth A. Brown Legacy Club

Donors who include Camp in their estate plan become members of the "Ruth A. Brown Legacy Club." This year, we added eleven new people to the RAB Club, bringing the total number up to 50 members! Thank you all for including Four Winds Camp in your estate planning.

RAB Legacy Club June 2021

Anonymous (4)	Diana Wiegel	Joanne "Charlie" MacPherson	Paul & Linda Sheridan
Catherine Adams	Don Priday	John DesCamp	Pieter Van Zandt
Alexandra Torrance Okner	Dr. Kris Saldine	John Wineman	Ryan Glant & Alison Bettles & family
Ann & John Felton	Eleanor Dootson	Karin McKinnell	Sam & Cynthia Coleman
Arden & Brad Hofler	Eleanor "El Bell" Crebs	Katie & Jess Weinstein	Sarah Baker Morgan
Barbara W. Demere	Elizabeth Crispin	Margaret E. Enderlein	Sue Clauson & Jim Koskinen
Bruce & Marty Coffey	Ella Brittingham	Marilyn J. Anderson	Sue Metcalf Robertson
Carlyn Kaiser Stark	Emily Glass & Gerry Santillan	Megan McCaslin	Thomas Russell
Charles & Alberta Lamson	George & Marion Mohler	Melissa Palmer & Michael Marshall	Valerie & Scott Corvin
Dave & Mary Beth Baker	Henri & Joni Broekmate	Mike & Sharon Douglas	Wendy Gilbaugh Kelley & Steve Kelley
David & Akemi Louchheim	Jackson Payne Ballard	Nate Benjamin	W.P. Stewart
David Lowy	Jeff & Samantha Stewart	Nicole & Matthew Murray	

Alumni News



Carlyn Kaiser Stark,
former Camp
Director

Carlyn's daughter,
Kathy Wehle



Carlyn Kaiser Stark (camper 1944-'50; Camp Director '67-'73; Board '78-'08) (Update submitted by her daughter, Kathy Wehle) Carlyn started as a camper at Four Winds almost 80 years ago! She recently savored memories of her six years as Camp Director looking through a photo album of an open house at Four Winds in 1968. Photos of Miss Ruth, Ernest Norling, Orcas fixture Father Benson, Miss Helen, long time neighbors and critical financial supporters Sue and Edgar Kaiser, brought back wonderful memories. As always, Miss Carlyn was in full uniform in all the photos.

After her stint as Camp Director, Carlyn served on the FWWH Board of Trustees, married the love of her life, Frank Stark, and continued boating, mostly sailing, for many years. Mike Douglas once described her as the best woman sailor he knew. In recent years her boating has been more sedate with cruises down the Mississippi, in the Mediterranean, a family cruise to Mexico and a couple of small boat salmon fishing trips around Sitka, AK.

Currently, Carlyn is living in Port Townsend, WA and charming all those she meets. Until recently, she held regular sing-alongs, playing the guitar and singing Camp songs. Now she plays bridge and Scrabble, maintains ties with her church, and continues to host family and friends at her home. She shares her life with a much loved, energetic Havanese dog, Mandy and regal cat, Max.

If you would like to share memories of your times at camp with Miss Carlyn, please email them to mike@fourwindscamp.org



Carlyn and catch

Linda & Len Good (camper '63, staff '72-'77 & '98) Linda is teaching music with Island Strings. Daughter **Nancye (camper '74-'79)** conducts Earth Living Skills classes & camps in the Catskills, NY while granddaughter Faye teaches in Brooklyn. Len and Linda enjoy bird watching, which was a safe hobby during the pandemic. We enjoyed the virtual firesides and are glad there are so many alums playing guitar. I love singing Camp songs!

Whitney Lane (camper '67-'69; Weaver in Residence '77; Board '93-'96) I bought a house on Bainbridge Island, WA and that's been fun. I'm also getting into gardening.

Erin (Fray) Reid (camper '68 & '69, '73 & '74; staff '81) My family was closely connected to Four Winds, from my mother, JoAnn Isaacson (Fray), who was a camper in the late 30s and later sat on the Board, to my sisters Martha, Leslie, Heidi and brother John who were involved in every level of Camp.



This is a picture of me in 1968, happily carving a Wishing Stool that I still have to this day. Ruth A. Brown, who was no longer the Director, would often come down for Evening Fires to tell stories and recite poetry, and she was deeply impactful to my life's journey. That was also the summer "Magic Ring" entered my life. The poetry Miss Ruth so masterfully curated remains close to my heart and marvelously transports my spirits to the joy of adventure and beauty in everyday life.

I currently live in Seattle with my husband, Tom Reid.

Karinda (Love) Boone (camper '70-'73; CT '79; staff '97) I was at FWWH in the 70's and my children, Taylor and Niklas Hedlund, attended as campers. Taylor married Wren Anthony in 1999 and they are looking forward to sending their children to Camp as third generation campers one day. Our family purchased Three Creek Lake in Sisters, OR and are planning to add sailing to the lake's activity offerings. Come visit us at the lake!



Karinda Love Boone and family

Anne Foster (camper '72-'76) FWWH gave me magical summers! After growing up in the Bay Area, I went to college back East. I landed back in San Francisco and worked in financial services. We moved to Colorado after my second son was born, and now have three boys and have lived in the Denver area 22 years. COVID was actually the gift of time with my younger two boys. I am so excited that my niece will go to her first session this year!

Alexandra Gifford (camper '76–'77; CT '80) Our big news is Katharine's wedding! Lots of Gypsy magic at the wedding. I loved having all the adult kids with us in Ojai for ten weeks last spring when the pandemic sent us all racing for safe shelter, and now am relishing some alone time with my husband, Hanson, and our dog!

Tammi Doyle (staff '77 & '78) I had campers in Madrona my first summer and was up Senior Hill my second. I taught Drama, Archery and Sailing, led Folk Dancing for the whole camp every week and was the first female Santa Claus. Met my best friend Tish Nicolls there. Great memories! Now for the present: I live in Seattle and am a theatre director, playwright and Professor in Theatre Arts at Bellevue College. My wife and I have three fab daughters in their thirties. Love & Laughter, Music & Mayhem to all!

John DesCamp (camper '77–'80; staff '81–'88; Board '07– current) It's been quite a year in the DesCamp household. I got COVID in March of 2020 and fortunately made a full recovery. While it was no fun to be sick, I was blessed with spending the rest of the year not worrying about getting it. I gave blood several times to help the vaccine research so I felt good about that. My oldest son Nick (camper '97–'05) and his wife Kelsey still live in Bellevue. Nick is an engineer with Blue Origin (yes I have a rocket scientist in the family) and his wife Kelsey just got another promotion at T-Mobile. Michael (camper '08–'15) is a sophomore at University of Oregon and starting the business school next year. Tyler (camper '11 & '12) is graduating from Bellevue High School and will start at the Savannah College of Art and Design in the fall. Everyone is healthy and doing well. Last year I fulfilled a life-long dream and bought a 10–acre ranch in Bend, OR. Yes, I named it "Polaris Ranch." Eventually this will be home, but for now it's a wonderful getaway. Doors are wide open for anyone from FWWH if you are ever in Bend. Come watch a sunset and share some stories around the fire pit.



Tammi Doyle



The fire pit at Polaris Ranch

Marianne Wisner (camper '79–'82; staff '85), Kat Royer (camper '19 & '21) and Kat's dad, Kendrick, plan to move back to California this summer from Dallas, TX.



Roscoe, Sarah, and Abby Bernard

Sarah Bernard (camper '79–'81; CT '82 & '83; staff '84); Abby Bernard (camper '06–'11; CT '12; HH '13; staff '16) and **Roscoe Bernard (camper '08–'13; CT '14)** We were all in New York City during the pandemic and the virtual Evening Fires definitely got us through some tough times, with Abby alone in her apartment in Brooklyn and Roscoe and I in my apartment. Thank you to all who put on those Evening Fires. I'm now back in San Anselmo, CA if anyone from my era wants to meet up for a Mt. Tam hike! Abby and Roscoe are roommates in Brooklyn, where she is a digital designer and he is doing editing and hoping to put his film degree to use!



Karen Holl and family

Karen Holl (camper '79–'83; CT '84; staff '86) I have been a professor in the Environmental Studies Department at UC Santa Cruz for 25 years and I do research on ecological restoration of ecosystems in California as well as rain forests in Latin America. My son is a freshman at the University of Denver. I enjoy reminiscing about FWWF with my brother, Brian Holl, and my next door neighbor, Marty Schafer, who coincidentally was my CT leader!

The Wisdom-Weinstein family: Katie (camper '79–'83; staff '87–'96; year-round-staff '95 & '96) took a trip to Orcas in March with Andrew Roberts, to see old friends and walk around camp with masks on! Katie is now Executive Directorship of a creative nonprofit she helped start back in the 90s, called Caldera Arts, serving youth and artists in Portland and Central Oregon. **Jess Weinstein (staff '89, '90, '92 & '94–'97)** is the Brand Director at FX Chocolate, developing amazing artisanal chocolate with supplements—healthy and yummy! When not working in their home offices, Katie and Jess

The Wisdom-Weinstein family



Alumni News, continued

garden, cook and hang out with their cat, Amos Moses and dog, Ridley. This summer marks 31 years since we met at camp. **Carrot (Ruby) Weinstein ('07-'13; CT '14; '16-'19)** lives in Portland and works at a garden nursery. She also cooks amazing food, supports social justice causes, and is building out their garden and patio and taking care of Bjorn the Cat. **Skylar Weinstein (camper '07)** lives in Bend, OR, going to school for Forestry and spending his summers fishing and working on the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska.

Karin McKinnell Leidel (camper '80-'85; Board '99-'06) Camp lives in us forever—with the friendships we make, the connections we build, the traditions we practice and even the names we keep close.



Karin McKinnell Leidel and the sailing club in New York

When I moved from San Francisco to New York in 2006, I joined a sailing club. To think I started on a flipper launching off Peppermint Dock to now becoming an amateur competitor running a big boat program for fun! In 2019, I had the honor of competing in a SuperYacht Regatta in Newport, RI, as the only helmswoman. There is nothing more exhilarating than being part of something bigger than you are, accomplishing more than you thought possible and getting to share it with your team. Camp gave me the initial skills to build on in this experience, but also played a huge part in instilling the importance of team dynamics, communication and hard work needed to achieve things bigger than oneself.

While I'm still connected to NY, my husband and I now live in Texas

on an exotic animal ranch. It's been a wonderful move, and I often use the practical skills I learned at Camp on the property. We even have a donkey named "7up" (named after Camp's donkey!)



Jennifer Brown

Jennifer Brown (camper '81-'85; staff '90) I own and operate my company, JBC, assisting companies with their strategies and education on diversity, equity

and inclusion. I recently had my second book published: *How to be an Inclusive Leader*. I still live in NYC with my partner, Michelle, and our rescue kitties. Visit my website at jenniferbrownconsulting.com

Amy Latrielle (camper '81-'89; staff '92); Saphira Lohof (camper '17-'19); Mons Lohof (camper '19) We live in the DC area. Amy works in global health, implementing malaria, family planning and HIV/AIDS testing and treatment projects throughout Africa, Asia and Latin America. Saphira (8th grade) and Mons (10th grade) weathered COVID with full time remote schooling. Amy keeps up with her '80s FWWH crowd on Facebook (and lives vicariously through Jenny Plummer's posts) and looks forward to walks with fellow Gypsy, Sarah Baker, also in D.C., when our lives return to semi-normal.

Koryne Berry Smith (Camper '83-'85) Last year when I received the Pigeon Wing, I saw that there is an '80s Facebook page, so I had to join. It's really fun to see familiar faces in the pictures people post. I live in the Bay Area, have been married for 25 years and teaching longer than that. My two oldest children were drawn to the Pacific Northwest, with one in college in Oregon and one in Washington. My youngest is still in high school.

It is such a small world. A few years ago I spied a Gypsy ring on our new first-grade teacher, Marie Keating. She was my niece Emily's counselor several years before! One more thing: My husband's aunt, Mary Wade, was a camper in the '50's!

I have fond memories of camp, and I love that two of my nieces will be campers this year. I can't wait to hear all about their summer. It brings all the memories back.



Karin and her husband in Texas



Koryne Berry Smith

Becca (Sher) Wellington (camper '83–'90; CT '91; staff '94, '96, '99 & '03) I teach in the Seattle University Master in Teaching program. My husband, Bill, works from home doing cloud engineering. We are sending all our love out to the amazing FWWH community. FWWH continues to be a bright ray of hope and joy that pulls us through dark, hard times. Love to all!



The Rutledge Crump family and friends in Aspen

Jason Taormino (staff '86 & '87) Super excited that my 13-year-old daughter, Bea, can make it to camp this summer after missing out on her first try last summer.

Sarah (Rutledge) Crump (camper '89–'94; CT '96; AC '97; staff '99) I live in Steamboat Springs, CO with my husband, Will, and our children—Henry (11), Louisa (9), Mary Grace (5) and Georgia (2). We feel very fortunate to be in a small community where our children are able to play hockey, compete on the ski team and ride horses all during a pandemic! We even got to visit Camp friends, Layne (Potvin) Shea and Wil Rousch during a day of skiing at Aspen.



Becca (Sher) Wellington, Bill, daughter Maria (camper '17–'19 and '21) and daughter Victoria Wellington (camper '19 and '21).



Shannon O'Brien

Shannon O'Brien (staff '89, '90, '93, '94 & '99) I just wrapped up my first legislative session as a state senator for Montana. I mustered the courage I learned at FWWH to sing "Danny Boy" a cappella on the senate floor on St. Patty's Day. My husband, Chuck, and son, Carter, age 12, love skiing, hiking and playing in Missoula. We would love a Gypsy visit if you're ever in Big Sky Country—ust be prepared to sing a Camp song or two!

Daphne Opperman (camper '90–'96; CT '97; staff '98–'02) My family and I relocated from California to Colorado last year for my husband's job. Our boys, Ben, Charlie and Joey love the outdoor space! This past year was a lot with relocating, working from home, homeschooling and figuring out the new normal, but I am happy to say that we found our groove, look forward to meeting more people and making new friends. If you're in the Boulder area, come say hello!

Andrew Roberts (staff '93–'03; Assistant Director '97–2000) I want to shout out to all the folks who shared during last year's virtual Evening Fires, and to say how great it was to be part of that. The fun news for Sarah and me is that we are moving to Lopez Island, where we can almost look across and see Camp! I'm looking forward to being closer to Camp and all its bright, heartfelt energy. You are all hereby welcome to come visit us on Lopez to sing around our campfire & eat s'mores. May your evening hills be purple, and remember: Don't Be the Devil's Packhorse! Books by Andrew at andrewmichaelroberts.com



Andrew Roberts



Heather Mohler

Heather Mohler (camper '99–'05; CT '06; staff '09–'12)

Last year I moved from Seattle to Philadelphia to get my Master's in Social Policy at the U of Pennsylvania. It was a wild year to move across the country, but ended up being a great experience. My program was one year and I graduated in May! Looking forward to spending another year in Philadelphia as I start my professional chapter working to reduce the use of secure detention for court-involved youth.

Molly Roberts (Year Round Staff '00–'18) I'm healthy, happy, and busy working with our local clinics to offer Orcas Island people the chance to get vaccinated before the tourist crowd descends. The thing I've missed most is getting together with friends to play Irish tunes. We're hoping to be able to do that again soon. Love and good health to you all!



Molly Roberts

Alumni News, continued



Giffords/Kline wedding in Ojai, California



Helen and Loomis at camp; Helen and Loomis at their wedding

Right: Sidsel Gadeberg

Katharine Gifford Kline (camper '00-'07; HH '09; staff '11-'14) I married John Kline in my parents' backyard in Ojai, CA, last October. We were so lucky to be surrounded by our families and close friends, including a couple of FWWH alumni (Ellie Gifford, Charlotte Horsey, Zizzy and Oliver Field). I work at a small medical device company aimed at improving contact lens comfort and we live in San Francisco, CA.



Alex and husband, Nick

Alex Cox (camper '01, CT '02, AC '03, staff '05,'07) My husband Nick and I moved back to the US in 2020 after spending four years in Mozambique and Rwanda, where I worked with the CDC on HIV/AIDS programs. Now in Seattle, I've started a job as an epidemiologist with the Washington State Department of Health, working on the COVID-19 response. It has been wonderful to reconnect with the familiar smells, island views and landscape of the Northwest.



Left: Alex Corvin; right Winnie Rae Walder

Alex Corvin (camper '01-'03; CT '04; staff '07-'09) I am delighted to share the birth of Winnie Rae Walder on May 26th. I can't wait to share the joys of Four Winds with the next generation! P.S. Please read Amy Breck Wilcox's story at the end of the Alumni News Updates for more. . .

Helen (Hansen) Heston (camper '02-'07; HH '10) I married Loomis Heston in January on Marrowstone Island, WA. We met at Four Winds back in 2006 when Loomis was in Wobs and I was in Fir!

Bridget Raftery (camper '03-'08; staff '17-'19; Camp photographer '18 & '19) I went back to school in 2019 to get my BAS in Digital Marketing & Advertising, and in 2020 was hired as the Photographer & Social Media Marketing Manager at a creative marketing agency (VMG Studios) in Bellevue, WA. I think of Camp often here. It's great to be somewhere that I can be completely me, goofy Camp songs and all. I will be moving to Seattle proper soon with my partner and former camp cook, Tori, who also works at VMG as a Marketing Assistant. Our hobbies include playing with recipes in the kitchen or taking trips to local areas with our two pups.



Sidsel Gadeberg (staff '05-'09) I teach at a boarding school, and when we were sent home due to COVID, it was all about being creative and keeping the spirit high among our students. A co-worker and I dressed up and did skits to send to the students, and we also drove around to visit some of them. It's been an intense year that taught me to appreciate the little things. I miss traveling, Gypsies and HUGS! Gypsy love from a Danish Gypsy!



Bridget and Tori

Daniel Roberts (camper '07-'08) I'm starting a new job with General Motors as "Communications Lead for Innovation & Growth." After spending several summers at Four Winds, I know that all of us walk away with a greater admiration for nature and the environment. That's one of the reasons I joined GM, where I'll be working on telling stories around electric vehicles and their positive impact on the environment.

Four Winds helped shape my worldview through meeting so many people with varied experiences and backgrounds — while showing us the beauty of the world right around us. I'm excited to be bringing the many lessons I've learned at Four Winds to my newest opportunity.



Daniel Roberts

Katie Stump (camper '07–'09; CT '10; staff '12 & '13) The past year has been the best year for my career by a landslide. All the time at home gave me the chance to focus on my artist project, BLU EYES, as well as my songwriting and production skills. I posted songs on Tik Tok, and a few really resonated with people, so I made full versions and released them. I've continued growing my fan base and I'll be releasing tons of new music this year. Find me on Spotify/Apple Music by searching "BLU EYES stuck in my head," and on social platforms at @blueyesmusic. Love to you all and hope we can see each other soon!



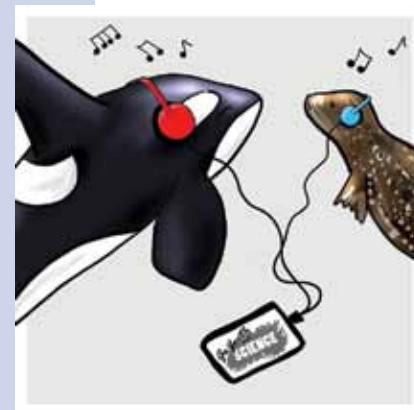
Katie Stump and friends



Ajay and Kai Rochester

Kai Rochester (camper '08–'12) (Update submitted by his mother Ajay) Kai is an assistant editor at "Beyond Productions" in Australia and is working on big name US TV shows. He often talks of his Camp experience. His fondest memory was the trip on horseback with his tent mates and seeing Canada from where they hiked to. Counselor Graeme Wallace-Davies had a huge impact on his life both as a counselor, and as Kai's friend. Thank you so much for the experiences you gave him.

Kate Hruby (camper '08 & '09; HH '10 & '11; staff '14–'16) This year I've been working on a science communication project. "Go Forth and Science" is a mix of art and media connecting nature, science & adventure. In many of the stories, it's clear that I spent a lot of time tromping and sailing around Orcas Island! Listen to the podcast and check out my comics at goforthandscience.com.



Drawing by Kate Hruby



Hallie Lee

Hallie Lee (camper '11–'14; staff '15–'19) Kia Ora and Hello! After graduating from Whittier College, I decided to venture out and see the world, so for the past year and a half I've been living in New Zealand. I am now an Au Pair living in a small town south of Auckland, watching over a girl and a lovebird. I am planning to move to Auckland to pursue modeling and acting, as well as going back to school once I have residency. I've been traveling around and experiencing Kiwi culture with my partner who is half Maori. We flew to the South Island and car camped around the North. My favorite experiences include hiking seven hours to get to the top of Roy's Peak, going to festivals, cruising around Milford Sound and getting back into pottery.



Hallie in the mountains in New Zealand

I talk about Four Winds to everyone I can and they always want to hear more and more stories about this amazing American summer camp. I am hoping to start a life here and see where it takes me.



Graeme, Natasha, Mackenzie Lynn, and Lillyanna

Natasha Lamont (staff '09–'14) and **Graeme Davies** (staff '07–'11) We are grateful to share that we welcomed another future camper, Mackenzie Lynn! She joins three-year-old Lillyanna, who is our fun, loving, adventurous, curious and kind little Gypsy—AND a natural Big Sister! We are exploring our new home town, Gibsons B.C, Canada, just up the sea-road from camp. For our wedding anniversary I revived a canoe, and we'll be spending most of our summer in it singing camp songs.

Tom Bodo (Trip Leader, 2014) I moved to Massachusetts two years ago and am currently finishing up my sixth year as a public high school teacher. I teach AP Seminar and lead a virtual cooking club at Springfield Honors Academy.

Alumni News, continued

Sofia Tognotti (camper '14–'18; CT '19) My family and I moved from Santa Barbara to Carolina Beach, NC. I graduated high school and will be attending Tulane University, double majoring in Molecular & Cellular Biology as well as Public Health with a Minor in Exercise Science. I've also been volunteering community service with "Direct Relief" and "Unite to Light" by organizing a Global 5K and focusing on the homeless community of Santa Barbara. I miss Camp so much and hope to return one day soon.



Sofia Tognotti

Rhiannon Morgan (camper 2019) (Update submitted by her mom, Kristin) During this COVID year, Rhiannon had to get braces and a retainer BUT both will be removed before going to Camp this summer! YIPPEEE! She would also like to say that she is thrilled that her little sister, Vannora, will join her at Camp this summer! And naturally, Rhiannon is super excited to make new friends.

Olivia Higgins (Junior Session 2019) I am so excited to go to Camp this summer. During spring break I went to Hawaii and it was super fun. I have also returned to school and seen all my friends. My family has been trying to stay safe during these hard times, but also trying to get together with some close friends. I am counting down the days until Camp.



Noah Nelson

Noah Nelson (camper '11–'19) (submitted by his mom, Heidi.) Noah will be a Helping Hand this summer—his 10th year at Camp! Missing Camp last summer was sad for all. Our family—Drew (camper '78–'80), Heidi, Noah, Michelle and five animals moved after 20 years in Portland to the Nelson Family Farm in Hillsboro, OR. Noah is pictured here running the anchor leg of the 4 X 400 race for his high school track team. The 4 X 400 Relay Team is #1 in the state of Oregon.

A Special Alumni Update and Story

Amy Breck Wilcox (camper '71 & '72) This is my first submission to the Pigeon Wing. I feel moved to relay a sweet and sentimental Four Winds moment....

In April, Molly Waste Ashford (camper '71–'73) and I attended a baby shower for Alex Corvin. Molly and I had been campers at the same time, and had met there. We struck a connection which has persisted over many years and miles.

Alex was radiant and due with her first child in June. She opened a gift revealing a darling hand-embroidered "Sshhh, baby sleeping" musical door hanger, and she twisted a little knob to start the music. A tinkling tune began to play, and she exclaimed, "That's the Four Winds good night song!" Molly and I simultaneously burst out singing, "When I lay me down to sleep", followed by, "Four Winds peace..." and "Day is Done." We couldn't help ourselves. Or stop.



Alex and Val Corvin

Sitting side by side with Molly, across from Alex and her mom, Val (Board '09–'17), singing that beautiful chain of songs, brought a surge of happiness, hope and gratitude—as well as a keen awareness of an indelible bond with a beloved place and people, whose presence is ever alive and singing in my heart and soul.

Life is fleeting. Nothing is permanent. But love is eternal.

The love I received and gave at Four Winds, through its songs, people, adventures, natural beauty, and freedom is one of life's greatest and most valuable gifts to me. A touchstone of inestimable and unshakeable value. My deepest thanks and appreciation to the Four Winds Family past, present, future!



Penny at Victoria Falls in Zambia on March 17, 2015. She studied chimps in Uganda, and maintained a lifelong love of Africa: its people, as well as its wildlife. (Courtesy of the Nelson family)

Penny Nelson (camper '78; staff '79) (submitted by her daughter-in-law, Heidi Nelson)

Penny embodied Four Winds and the Gypsy Spirit. Camp was a gift she treasured, supported and shared with family & friends. She sang Camp Songs at bedtime to her boys when they were little, then they grew into campers themselves: James & Misha Hindery-Nelson both went to FWWH ('2010–'14.)

We sadly said goodbye to Penny on March 18th, 2021. During her final days we sang

and listened to FWWH songs, which was a blessing as we all connected to them and the loving heart space Camp is. Penny lived a life of adventure, traveling around the world and sharing the Gypsy Magic with everyone she encountered. Camp had such a positive impact on Penny and our families' lives. Thank you Paula Nelson for giving the gift of FWWH to your children & grandchildren—who take Camp with them wherever they wander.

Here is part of Penny's obituary from KQED radio station in San Francisco:

Penny was a frequent guest host for the station, a book agent who ushered dozens of books to print, a mom, a daughter, a nature lover, a traveler, a black belt and great company.

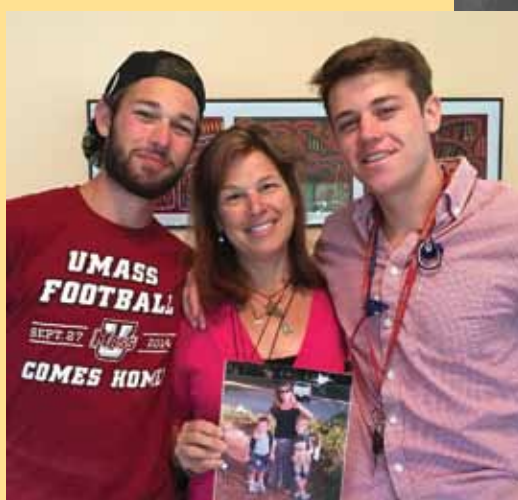
Penny was a social animal. She met many people over the course of her life, and folded them into her community. Nobody in Penny's orbit stayed a stranger. The richness of her relationships, and the breadth of her personal and professional curiosity demonstrate what it is to make the most of our measured time here.

As a teenager she wrote to Jane Goodall, asking how to follow in her footsteps and Jane wrote back, encouraging Penny to work with chimps, which she did at the Portland Zoo. This love for animals launched Penny's all-too-brief adventure, crossing the country and the globe. Penny studied chimps in Uganda, and maintained a lifelong love of Africa—its people and its wildlife. She studied bats and rodents, too, but primates were her favorite, including the human variety.



Above: Penny as a camper at Four Winds

Below: In 1980, Penny studied chimpanzees like Charlie, as she pursued a career in primatology. (Courtesy of the Nelson family)



Penny with her sons James (L) and Misha (R). (Courtesy of the Nelson family)



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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

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Twitter: twitter.com/fourwindscamp

Email: mike@fourwindscamp.org

Phone: 360.376.2277 or 541.408.5511



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.



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