

# PIGEON WING

Summer 2023



## Greetings from Hilltop

*Dear Friends,*

Greetings from Hilltop. Summer is in the air following a beautiful spring in the San Juans, and we can't wait for the Four Winds sessions to start again.

We live in interesting and uncertain times. If you had told me, as we wrestled with the reality of closing camp for the summer of 2020, that COVID would still be a factor for at least four summers ahead, I'm not sure what I would have said. Thankfully, the reality unfolded more slowly -- but it's still more than anyone bargained for.

Fortunately, we're able to have camp as close to a pre-pandemic normal as we have since this all began. Our protocols should barely be noticeable to campers, we're happy to welcome visitors back this summer, and we're prepared if we do have COVID in camp.

The bad news is that the negative effects of this pandemic on young people have little to do with the virus itself at this point. Children, adolescents, and young adults are still reeling from the effects of isolation and the uncertainty caused by realizing that the world isn't as reliable as it might have seemed. Social media, climate change, and divisions in society all add to what psychologists are calling "the inner pandemic."

Camp cannot solve all those problems, but what it can do is give campers (and staff) a reprieve, and practice in the restorative nature of being present with other people in a genuine way. At camp, we practice being a good friend with no digital filter. We slow down the pace of life. We try new things, often things that scare us a bit at first. We live by values, not status. We learn from others who are different from us. Those are the things that will help these campers to grow and become the best version of themselves, just as they always have been. That is why so many adults regard their Four Winds experience as one of the most significant and formative parts of their childhood, and that is why these campers, coming in the summer of 2023, in a time when the world feels less certain than any of us would like, will too.



Paul, Elizabeth, Linda and Emma Sheridan

I can't wait to be a part of it with them.

All the best,

Paul

## A Note From Our Associate Director Charlotte Horsey



Late spring is a flurry of logistical legwork to get summer at Four Winds off the ground. Hundreds of ferry reservations, intricate planning for arrival day, tweaking the staff training for this crop of counselors – plus endless conversations with staff about their travel plans, questions and concerns.

While those things are important to Camp’s success, it’s not why I do this job. I keep coming back for the singular combination of stewardship and newness that Four Winds offers—*stewardship* of our mission and culture, combined with the newness of this group that will be here, this summer; a group that has never coexisted on this sacred ground, and never will afterward. The stewardship part is learned and mastered over years observing what the Four Winds’ music, poetry and traditions have done for generations of children. The newness part, though, continues to challenge me.

A fresh summer will soon arrive, delivering joy, wonder and connection for hundreds of campers and staff. This is my 17th summer here, and that feeling of nervous an-

tipication about what this summer will “**be**” never goes away. I remember crying to my mom at age 11, just before going to my third summer at Camp. I was switching sessions, and I was scared. “What if it’s different this time?” I sobbed. “What if I don’t make friends?” My mom chuckled, bemused that after 11 months of complaining that our house wasn’t “Camp”, I was now feeling nervous.

My mom is not a ‘Camp person.’ She sent her nine-year-old to a faraway island in another state on a neighbor’s recommendation. She is, however, a genius. “Of course it’ll be different,” she consoled. “If it were always the same, and the same people were always there, it wouldn’t be magical. The fact that you’re scared right now is part of the magic, because it means that there are new things to discover and new people to become friends with! The fact that you get to be a part of something that’s always great, no matter who else is there, that’s the magic.”

I think about that as I prepare to welcome this summer’s campers and staff. I worry about whether this group will be able to shepherd Ruth Brown’s vision of inclusion, creativity and bravery. And every year, my mom’s voice reminds me that I have no reason to worry – that I’ve seen it done 16 times before, and that this time, it will be created in a new, beautiful and slightly different way than every year prior. . . and that is part of the magic.

## Ali Walker Says Goodbye

One of the longest-tenured members of the Four Winds family is moving on. Ali Walker, camper, summer staff member and most recently year-round Family Experience Manager is stepping away from FWWH.

*“I’ve spent much of my life thinking about, dreaming about, or being at Four Winds,” says Ali. “I was a camper for eight years, starting in Fir in 1997. I wanted to be a leader; I went on to be a CT, a Helping Hand, a counselor and a head. I did all those things and felt like the work I was doing to support Four Winds and its campers was filling my soul.”*

Joining the year-round staff in 2021 was another commitment to FWWH.

*“Being the Family Experience Manager taught me about camp management and how to be a good community member,” she says. “In the off-season, my job is to support parents as they prepare their kids for camp. In the summers, I did everything to support staff and campers, being a listening ear or an extra hand whenever needed. At camp,*

*helping our campers and staff feel connected and part of a greater community made my life joyful, and in that joy, I realized I needed more than three months of connecting with people in person.”*

As for the next step? That’s still “to be determined”.

*“I don’t really have plans as I leave the one place I’ve loved most in the world,” she says. “My husband and I have been working on improving our house, and we’ll continue with that. I don’t know what the future holds, but I do know that Four Winds will always be in my heart, and this won’t be the last time I support this incredible community. I’m so grateful for the last two years I’ve spent on staff, and I thank this whole community for being an incredibly supportive part of my life.” ✨*





## Alli Cobb Takes on New Roles



Alli Cobb was Camp's Maintenance Assistant last summer, but when Victor Hartney resigned as Camp's Gardener and Groundskeeper, Alli jumped at the chance to switch roles.

*"I loved being the Maintenance Assistant and learned a lot," she says. "But I really like gardening. When Victor moved on, it was*

*an opportunity that was here, and I asked for it."*

Caleb Weichert, Head of Maintenance, said Alli is already making major impacts in her new roles.

*"She has done a fantastic job of organizing, cleaning, improving and maintaining the garden," says Caleb. "Alli took on the ambitious task of pruning all of our fruit trees in the garden*

*and grounds around camp. Thanks to a donation to our camp wish list, she also added four durable raised beds to the garden, replacing four rotting wooden raised beds. They look great and will last a long time."*

Alli's official title is Gardener/Groundskeeper/Landscaper (in no particular order) because she is responsible for all the mowing, pruning, planting and just about any other "earth-related" task you can imagine. She jokingly calls herself "The Director of Plants", and she is excited to work closely with the Head of Garden this summer to create fun experiences for campers.

*"We have a garden that is bountiful with food," she says. "I've been planting intentionally with summer in mind, so I want them to harvest from the garden and use it to cook or bake something awesome. I planted watermelons and I'm getting an air fryer so we can make Kale chips every day. Stuff like that which is easy, from the garden and kids will eat." ❄️*

## MEET THE 2023 SUMMER STAFF LEADERS

### Macie Swanson, 2023 Head of Four Winds

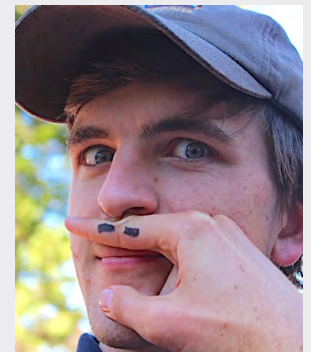
"I recently graduated from the University of Portland with a degree in Environmental Science and a minor in Environmental Engineering. When I'm not studying or serving at a retirement home, I love to go hiking, camping, surfing -- anything outdoors.



I'm so excited to be Head of Four Winds. This is my eleventh summer at Camp, and I've dreamed of being in this spot since I was a kid. Four Winds has given me so much and has shaped me into the person I am. I never believe that I will be able to repay Camp for what it has done. The magic of Camp taught me how to show gratitude, communicate with others, and how to love those around me deeply. As a leader at Four Winds, I hope to nurture growth and compassion in my staff while making them feel confident in their ability to be leaders in their own cabins. I know that everyone coming to work this summer can do amazing things and inspire the campers to be their best selves. I hope to be the most supportive I can in making sure that this all happens."

### Jeffrey Jagels, 2023 Head of Westward Ho

"I attended William and Mary, then Santa Monica College, and have worked in data storage and User Interface Development for two years.



I'm 23 and I've been part of Camp since I was nine. I love the feeling that comes from sharing my experiences as a counselor and watching those ideas take root and change as they pass from person to person. Helping staff develop their own style and ethic reminds me that I got more out of Camp than just fun; I learned skills that help sustain not just Camp, but healthy relationships in all areas of life. Being in a position to share triumphs and failures with my staff—and seeing how we and the campers change from it—makes this such a gratifying job.

This is my second time as Head of Westward Ho, and I plan to expand on the vision I had last year: Create a staff with the confidence to make summer unforgettable for the campers. It's one thing to facilitate fun, but an entirely different thing to create moments for growth at the same time. I believe it is those moments that kids (and staff) will remember forever. ❄️



# Meet the new year-round staff members

We've had several changes in the FWWH year-round staff positions in recent months, filling FOUR vacancies with new members of the team.

**Daisy Sessions** is our new Assistant Director, taking the role previously held by Charlotte Horsey (who slid over to take the Associate Director position previously held by Danielle Bone.) After a national search with more than sixty candidates and four finalists, we ended up close to home: Daisy was a camper, Helping Hand and CT from 2007-2016, on summer staff 2017-2020, and was Head of Four Winds side in the summers of 2021 and 2022.



*"I was inspired to apply for Assistant Director after working another summer as the Head of Four Wind's Side," she said. "Last summer I was able to expand my role, taking on new leadership opportunities and working more closely with parents. I loved fostering new relationships with staff and campers and didn't feel ready to say goodbye to Four Winds. My proximity to summer staff has allowed me insight into what changes need to be made for the longevity and success of camp. I am always asking . . . what we can do to make Four Winds a better place to work and attend?"*

Paul Sheridan, FWWH Executive Director, said Daisy brings fantastic attributes to the role.

*"Daisy came into the interviews with incredible energy and ideas about our summer staff hiring and training, as well camp's social media presence," he said. "These ideas and energy are consistent with and additive to Charlotte's and my vision for camp's direction in those areas over the next several years, and so we're thrilled to have her join the year-round team."*

Daisy plans to use her personal experience as a camper and summer staff member to make FWWH the best it can be for everyone.

*"Four Winds has become one of the most important places in my life, teaching me to be authentic, kind, and adventurous," she says. "Each summer has offered a new opportunity for personal growth and reflection."*

*My number one priority in my new role is continuing our goal of more diversity at camp. Every camper and staff member benefits from being surrounded by different perspectives*

*and backgrounds. Four Winds changed my life and I hope to give that opportunity to more children."*



**Daphne Opperman** is our new Family Experience Manager, and like Daisy, is also a former camper. Daphne will be the "point person" in parent communications and will be handling everything from application documents to camper registration and dozens of duties in between.

*"Having spent the summers of 1991-2002 at Four Winds, camp was a huge part of my childhood," says Daphne. "Those camp experiences shaped me into the kind of friend, colleague and mother I am today."*

Daphne and her husband, Matt, have three sons and live in Colorado, where Daphne will continue to live during the off-season before relocating to Orcas Island for the summer months. Two of her boys will be first-session campers, and her third (age 5) will be part of the camp community.

*"I saw this as a perfect opportunity for not only my skill set but also for our family," she says. "My husband has always known how special camp is to me and supported this opportunity 110 percent. I know the magic of camp happens when the people arrive each summer, and I am thrilled to be able to take part in that again, both as a new staff member and through my children's eyes."*

Paul Sheridan says Daphne's professional experience will be a major plus in her new role.

*"She was the Admissions Director for Mt Tamalpais School in Mill Valley for seven years, and for the last seven years she's worked in insurance," he says. "Daphne's Four Winds experience, professional experience, energy and attitude will really help her in the core function of the job - family communications. When I spoke with Daphne's references, something that universally came up is that Daphne is a great member of a team - dedicated to the goal, professional, pleasant, and prudent."*

Oh, and one additional fun fact about Daphne: She is the Daphne of "Daphne, we adore thee" in that well known barbecued rat song...

We also filled two crucial vacancies related to camp's maintenance.





**Kyle Givogre** is our new Maintenance Assistant. A Washington native, Kyle has a long background in construction and facilities maintenance throughout the state.

*"I was on a road trip with no aim and landed in Friday Harbor," says Kyle, about how he ended up at FWWH. "The pace on the islands, friendly townspeople, creative spirit and natural*

*features were the perfect environment I had been searching for. Four Winds aligned quite well with my skill set, lifestyle and future trajectory, and I feel incredibly grateful to be a part of camp, to help create a safe and comfortable space for our youth to learn and grow with one another."*

**Jared Sjolin** is our new Boatwright, and he says boating has always been his passion.

*"I've spent hundreds of hours boating the Puget Sound," says Jared, also a Washington native. "I began acquiring boats at the age of 13, and at 19 went to Maine to study boat building*

*and followed that up with a two-year degree in Manual Machining & CNC Programming. I've since worked as CNC Machinist/Boat Builder in Rhode Island, and in Portland, OR. I think Four Winds is an opportunity to combine all my skills, and maybe share the boat-bug with a few young people along the way. As an Eagle Scout I understand the important life lessons camp can offer. I see great value in exposing teens to all the values that FWWH offers, and that made the choice to relocate to Orcas an easy decision."*



Welcome to the Four Winds family Daisy, Daphne, Kyle and Jared! ☸



## WELCOME BACK CAPTAIN RYAN



Camp's big boat, the 61-foot yawl Carlyn, has a new captain – and it's someone who is very familiar with the boat: Ryan Downs, captain from 2015 through 2017, is back at the helm.

*"The job checks a lot of boxes," he says. "I don't sail professionally every day anymore, so I miss sailing, and I really miss taking a boat to*

*Canada, and I frankly miss taking campers to Canada."*

Captain Ryan is so excited about that trip that he is already making plans.

*"Our limitations are that eventually we run out of drinking water, fuel and food, so we have to plan to stop someplace about every five days," he says. "Other than that, we can go wherever we want."*

Some locations are considered "must visit" places because they are Camp traditions and are so special – like Princess Louisa Inlet in British Columbia.

*"It takes about four days to get up there and back," says Ryan. "You have to go through rapids, there are two slack tides a day. It takes some doing, but it's a magical place and is worth it."*

Besides that, the itinerary is flexible, and Ryan lets the campers make many of the decisions.

*"We can typically do six nautical miles per hour for about eight hours a day," he says. "So we make a circle on the chart and I say 'Where do you want to go today?' I make some recommendations of places I've been to before, and there are certain things I've heard about but have never done, so we talk about it. They have a lot of choice of destinations."*

The "new" job as Carlyn captain is not the only big news in Ryan's life: He just got married on May 13th to Kati Chapman. ☸





# Off-season Projects

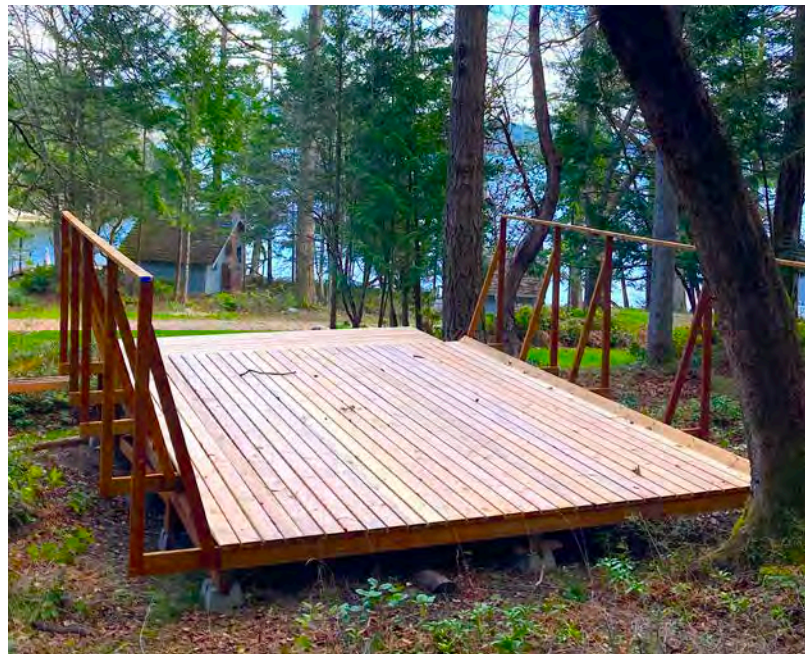
Off-season work at Four Winds is always challenging, but this winter was made even harder because the crew was half the size as usual due to job openings.

*“We definitely felt the weight of being shorthanded,” says Caleb Weichert, Head of Maintenance. “But with the strength of Alli Cobb and dedicated help from Linda Sheridan and others, we were able to maintain a successful and productive season.”*

Perhaps the most impactful project was the addition of two new tent platforms on the Four Winds side of camp that will be used to house staff and specialists.

*“These tent platforms will accommodate the staff that had been living in Lower Mountain Thyme,” says Caleb. “The first platform is located next to Holiday House in the junior girls’ area. The second is located near Mountain Thyme and Big Rock. Alli and I got a head start on building two tent platforms in December. We were able to get the bulk of the project done and now with Kyle’s help, the platforms are nearing completion.”*

Thanks to generous Wish List donations, the maintenance team was able to purchase more Wi Fi capable smoke detectors, new radios for summer staff, battery powered



Top: Tent platform near Holiday House. Bottom: Tent platform near Mt. Thyme.

tools including a weed trimmer, pole saw, hedger and edger – and a zero-turn lawn mower to more quickly maintain the enormous swatches of grass around the property.

*“With the board’s approval from the fall meeting, we budgeted and purchased the new zero turn commercial mower,” says Caleb. “The size and power of this mower at camp will certainly make a dent in our grass height control efficiency so we thank you all very much for that.”*

One of the more eye-catching projects this off-season was the repainting of numerous fences and posts on the property.

*“The gate heading down Senior Hill was one of the first things I noticed,” says Alli Cobb, who painted the fences. “I thought, ‘Wow, that’s beautiful but hasn’t been maintained as much as it should.’ So, I gave it a good spray and scrub and painted within the wood carving. I looked at old photos from when it was newer and what colors were used, so the blue, the yellow and red are all the same. I added a few green leaves to the yellow vines, but everything else is identical.”*







Gate entering Westward Ho.

Alli also painted the Westward Ho entry sign and plans to paint the Garden Wagon Wheel, gate to the Helm and Rabbit Rooster gate before summer starts.

*“Someone spent the time to carve those fence posts,” she says. “So, giving them a fresh coat of paint goes a long way.”*

Interior paint jobs also spruced up a number of buildings, including Lower Mountain Thyme, Gatehouse apartment, Baghdad and the Helm.

*“We also replaced lots of furniture, window drapery, and bedding in those residences,” says Caleb. “A special thanks to Alli and Linda for their strength in removing and installing furniture all over camp, and thanks to Board Chair Charlie MacPherson for being the driving force behind this project. Her creative instincts, determination and endless hands-on work really made this happen. Many hands contributed to the residence refresh projects and we couldn’t have done it without them.”* ✚

## The Promise Well

One of the most iconic features of Four Winds \* Westward Ho is back after being gone for two summers. The Promise Well near the Craft Courts is fully rebuilt after being dismantled in 2021 for the installation of a new septic system in lower camp.

*“We know how much the Promise Well means to people at camp,” said Caleb Weichert, Maintenance Director.*

*“Having it gone for two summers felt weird, like there was a void in lower camp. We were so eager to get it put back together.”*

Caleb and Alli made a concerted effort to involve campers.

*“We would intentionally go down there during third or fourth period, so that*



*we were working on it when the kids were around,” says Alli. “There was a fourth period class where kids made ceramic tiles and glazed them, and those will be placed around the top edges as the last step in the rebuild.”*

Campers also helped gather the rocks that formed the base, collecting them from the forested area near the Garden House. Finally, summer staff members pitched in to make the project truly an “all camp” creation.

*“All the flowers you see painted on the blue were done by the summer staff, by a handful of counselors,” says Alli. “The only condition was to make the flowers fit with the vibe of the Craft Court flowers. We tried to involve people that were around so it would be a group*

*effort. For example, the kitchen crew happened to be walking by when we were ready to put the roof back on, and they were happy to lend a hand. That was cool!”*

Neither Caleb nor Alli attended FWWH as campers, so they were excited to add to camp’s legacy by re-creating such a beloved treasure.

*“We always try to honor the person who originally built something and their original intent” says Alli. “We looked at photo albums and pictures through the decades while also making it for today, making it for the kids today. Someone took time to do this originally, but it needs some love today to look fresh and new going forward because nothing’s permanent.”* ✚



Caleb and Alli at the start of The Promise Well project.



# Campers Share Floral Beauty

Campers shared some Four Winds beauty with residents of Orcas Island last summer. Alli Cobb, part of Camp's maintenance crew, recognized the incredibly immense number of blooming flowers in Camp's Garden and thought it would be fun to take bunches of them to the Orcas Senior Center.

*"We have so many flowers – just an abundance of flowers," says Alli. "The kids pick them for the lodge and for so many other purposes, and we still have so many left over. The idea just came to me to email the senior center. They deliver food on Mondays to about 50 houses and said they would love to have flowers in those deliveries."*

The campers put the bouquets together and added personal touches as well.

*"The kids wrote little notes, like 'Have a great day – from Four Winds' or 'Thinking of You!', stuff like that. You know – cute kid notes!", she says. "We got several calls from folks in the*



*Senior Center thanking us and saying it was so thoughtful."*

Engaging with Orcas even further is something Alli wants to expand.

*"This summer we're planning to connect with the Food Bank," she says. "We donated a bunch of apples last fall, so I'm thinking if there is something we are growing that we have a bunch of and can't possibly use it all, then giving it to the Food Bank seems like a perfect fit and opportunity for us to give back to the community." ❄️*

## AN AMAZING ARTIFACT FOUND AT CAMP

Alli Cobb, the FWWH Groundskeeper, was cleaning out the garden storage shed this winter when she made a fascinating discovery. While chopping back overgrown blackberry bushes in a room that was part of the original Camp barn and later a chicken coop, she unearthed a dust-covered, rusty, cage-looking item. After several minutes of musing about what it could be, it hit her: It's an original Carrier Pigeon backpack.

*"It's been sitting in chicken manure for who knows how long," she says. "It could use a good cleaning. It's been in the weather and rain, so it's warped and doesn't have straps. It has a sliding door at the bottom and chicken wire over the top. You could fix it up and put two pigeons in it."*

Carrier pigeons were part of FWWH back in the 1940's. When campers would go on trips outside the property, they would bring along carrier pigeons to send a message back to camp letting people know they had reached their destination safely. That program is also the inspiration behind the name of this newsletter.



*"The carrier pigeon program and tradition is such a fascinating piece of Camp history to me," says Board Member Judy Murphy. "I learned about it a few years ago when I was talking to the late Mona Janney Brett, who was a camper in the 30s and on staff in the 40s. I was so intrigued and started digging through the camp archives to learn more. To find one of the actual pigeon cages is such a delight to me!"*

Alli plans to refurbish the cage to display in a future camp archive space. ❄️



# Fundraising – A Crucial Part of Four Winds

As a 501(c)3 Non-Profit, Four Winds depends on fundraising to cover many expenses – most notably, our Financial Aid Program, which allows 20-percent of the camper population each summer to receive tuition assistance. Without your kindness, those deserving kids could not attend Camp. Thank you for supporting our cause.

Here are the major fundraising methods we schedule each calendar year.

The **Polar Bear Plunge** is in February, and we have volunteers from all over the world jump into a cold body of water in exchange for donations. This year, our team of 17 volunteers received 219 separate donations worth nearly \$28,000 – enough to pay for almost four scholarships!

Our annual **May Match** is a one-day event where every donation made that day is matched at a 20-percent level. This year, we received 131 different donations for \$71,450, and with the matching funds we raised a total of \$85,740 – enough to pay for approximately eleven full scholarships!

Our **Annual Appeal** letter and **Wish List** are mailed out each November to fall within the traditional “Giving Sea-

son.” The 2022 campaign resulted in 134 donations for nearly \$132,000!

Finally, 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 basis. Automatic deductions can also be an easier financial commitment. Breaking up a donation into smaller amounts – such as donating \$50-dollars per month rather than making one \$600-dollar donation – can be easier for some people budget-wise.

For information about how to set-up your recurring donation and become part of **The Moonraker Monthly Giving Club**, or if you have any general fundraising questions, please contact Mike Smith via email at [mike@fourwindscamp.org](mailto:mike@fourwindscamp.org).

Thank you all for your continuing generosity and loyalty to Four Winds. Your support helps keep Camp such a magical place.



## A Milestone in Giving

We would like to give special recognition to each of the following donors who have exceeded \$100,000 in lifetime giving to Four Winds \* Westward Ho.

Alan and Mary Schulman

Andrea and Chris Shaw

Anonymous

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Brodie Family

Bruce and Marty Coffey

Carlyn Kaiser Stark

Crowley Family

Dachs Family

Daniel and Morgan Smith

David and Akemi Louchheim

David Syre

Dickson Family

Elizabeth “Libby” Holden

Emily Dachs Taylor and Chad Taylor

Friends of Four Winds

Hanson and Alexandra Gifford

Jackson Payne Ballard

Joan and Mel Lane

Judy Murphy

Julie Dickson

Martha Morgan

Pieter Van Zandt

Ron and Eva-Marie Sher

S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation and Bechtel Family

Scott and Ella Brittingham

Sue Metcalf Robertson

The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation

The Marty and Bruce Coffey Family Foundation

The Paul G. Allen Foundation

The Prairie Foundation





# FWWH and National Camp Groups

## A Beneficial Partnership

In recent editions of the Pigeon Wing, we've intentionally included articles about the "inner workings" of Four Winds – how we hire international staff, how the kitchen manager feeds 300 people three times a day, the role of our Board of Trustees and various informational articles like that.

*"The world is changing in ways that can challenge our ability to make the Four Winds experience happen for young people each summer," says FWWH Executive Director, Paul Sheridan. "While most of our best feelings come from memories of a special Evening Fire or a deep conversation with a friend, a lot must be done behind the scenes first before those things can happen. We think it helps for people to understand a bit more about what it takes to actually pull it off."*

One critical piece is our participation in professional associations for summer camps. We're members of several, but we're most active in the American Camp Association (ACA) and the Western Association of Independent Camps (WAIC).

*"They're both great organizations, and different from each other," says Sheridan. "The ACA is the largest national group of summer camps. It provides us with our accreditation, which is like peer review for summer camps, and being an ACA camp gives us a voice in settings where we'd be too*

*small on our own. For example, you never know when it would be helpful to have the CDC on speed dial and know that someone would pick up."*

The ACA has between 2,500 and 3,000 member camps, and conferences with 1,500 to 2,000 attendees. All WAIC members are ACA members, but WAIC is something like the opposite side of the coin. Paul is the current President of WAIC.

*"WAIC is an intimate group of 45-50 like-minded camps, mostly in the West," says Sheridan. "Its strength comes from the quality and similarity of the camps involved and the consistency of participation from year to year."*

We know, from talking to many Four Winds alumni over the years, that most of you are not too interested in what other camps are doing. Four Winds has all of your hearts, deservedly so, and other camps often get viewed with a bit of comparison and suspicion. All of us on the year-round staff love Four Winds more than any other camp as well, but if we didn't talk to other camps regularly, it would be easy to become insular.

*"Our relationships with other camps, and the camp associations, give us ideas, warnings about the road ahead, fellowship and renewal," says Sheridan. "It's a critical part of ensuring that Four Winds thrives for years to come." ✨*







# Sunsetting Junior Session

## The new realities of shorter summers

Earlier this year, we announced that 2023 will mark the end of our week-long Junior Session that has traditionally been held after our two main sessions. We did not make this decision easily; it was made after a critical review by the board with year round staff input and with the heart of camp's mission in mind

*"Our decision is tied largely to the reality that summer schedules have been changing dramatically for our campers and staff," says FWWH Executive Director Paul Sheridan.*

*"The primary challenge is the shrinking period of time in which our campers and staff are all off from school."*

The different regions where our campers live continue to adjust school schedules, reducing the overlap in which all children are off. Further, the colleges that many of our summer staff attend require students to return much earlier than in the past, making staffing Junior Session to our high standards increasingly difficult.

*"We are at the point where we must acknowledge the reality of the shortening summer and adjust our program calendar accordingly," says Sheridan.*

*"We believe that the best way to serve our mission at this time is to focus on the four-week sessions, because those are the heart of the Four Winds magic. It's what we do best. Faced with the simple math of fewer days where our staff and campers are available, it makes sense to focus on our core program."*

There is no doubt that this decision will impact families with Junior Session-aged children more significantly than families of older children. We also realize that altering a dearly held vision of a camper's future experience is jarring, but we think this is the best decision for camp's overall well-being.

*"Four Winds' traditions are held dear by campers and their families," says Sheridan. "Unfortunately, camp does evolve, and our history has seen previous changes to session dates. For example, camp has moved from a six-week and three-week session in the early decades to two four-week sessions, adding Junior Session a few decades ago, and now going back to the two four-week sessions. The reason that it feels so stable, despite the changes over the years, is that we attempt to change thoughtfully, adjusting to a dynamic world in a way that is consistent with the Four Winds spirit, our values, and our mission. Thank you for all your support and trust." ❖*



# Meet the Newest Members of the Board

## Ryan Glant

When camp reached out last year about the possibility of joining their Board, I had to pinch myself. Beginning with my days at junior session and through the years as a camper, staffer and now parent to a camper, the draw back to that magical place has been forever tugging at me. As a camper and counselor, Four Winds \* Westward Ho gifted me with a love for adventure, the joy of music, a sense of belonging and much needed confidence. My hope in being a part of this already incredible Board is to continue the legacy of wonderful camp traditions while thoughtfully connecting camp to a constantly changing world. By joining the development and “campership” committees, my desire is to ensure kids from all walks of life keep getting the opportunity to have their lives shaped as positively as mine was by singing, laughing and playing at the end of Four Winds Road.



time-tested ability to build community, foster adventure, and spark moments that matter. After 20ish summers at Four Winds, including 7 on the year-round staff, dipping my toes back into the Four Winds magic/madness as a Trustee feels in some ways like coming home. And, at the same time, it feels like yet another adventure with new and old friends: friends with the shared and audacious goal of ensuring that Four Winds continues to develop and thrive for the generations ahead.



Since leaving the Assistant (Associate) Director role at Four Winds over 6 years ago, in addition to building and growing our family here in Seattle, I have continued to develop my career in corporate HR. I am so grateful to be able to contribute my time and energy to Camp as well, and look forward to reconnecting and celebrating with members of the incredible Four Winds fabric in the months and years to come. ✨

## Belinda Hanson

My time as a camper in the 1970s and my time as a counselor in the 1980s were among the most formative and transformational experiences of my life. Sitting on the bench, eating s’mores by the fire and driving the horse cart down to Deer Harbor are just some of my fondest memories. To this day, being a counselor at Four Winds is still my favorite job of all time.



I feel so grateful to be back at camp, this time serving on the board. Now more than ever, providing experiences for children that take them away from technology and immerse them in nature and friendship, is essential. I hope to continue to be a steward of camp’s simple but pure values of creating a safe place to be yourself and find yourself while nestled on an island.

## Emily Glass

I’m a true believer in Four Winds’ mission and purpose, and am humbled and delighted to be joining its Board of Trustees. I will never not be awestruck by Camp’s

## The 2023-2024 Four Winds Board of Trustees



Front row: Amy Fields, Ryan Glant, Diana Wiegel, Dave Baker; Second row: Ann Russell Felton, Judy Murphy, Allie Torrance Okner, Emily Glass; third row: ElBell Crebs, Jeff Stewart; John Wineman; Back row: Charlie MacPherson, Henri Broekmate, John DesCamp. : Not pictured: Matt Murray and Belinda Hanson.





# Thank You to Three Departing Board Members

## Sue Clauson

### Board of Trustees 1999-2022

After 23 years on the Four Winds Board and many years as a camper and staffer, it's time for me to retire and leave my Board seat to another committed and passionate person. In my youth, Four Winds fostered in me a love of sailing that led me to marry a sailor. It nurtured my spirit of adventure and inspired me to travel and explore the world.



And it nurtured a sense of magic and mischief that keeps my friends and family entertained. It has been an honor to work with so many engaged and caring folks to help steer Four Winds through several changes of leadership, major fundraising campaigns, large building and maintenance projects and the regular challenges of keeping an almost 100-year-old nonprofit on an even keel. I am grateful to have worked with the Board to fine tune our financial aid program to best serve those young people who would most benefit from joining our camp community. As a Board member, I worked to assure that we continued to grow and change as needed to be inclusive and sensitive to all our constituents. As with most folks who spend any time at Four Winds, it will hold a special place in my heart for the lifetime friendships developed, the exquisite setting on Orcas Island, the nurturing of so many youngsters to take home lifelong skills, resiliency, and self-esteem as well as a wealth of new friends, poems, and songs.

## Ella Brittingham

### Board of Trustees 2014-2022

I will never forget the feeling I had when our daughter went to Four Winds for the first time in 2009. After years of singing her camp songs & reciting Magic Ring poetry, she was about to experience camp for the first time. I was surprised that instead of feeling excitement, I had a moment of panic: "What if camp isn't anything like it was 30 years



ago when I was there?!" Fortunately for her, the stewards of camp had kept it the inclusive, magical, happy, fun, adventurous and beautiful place it has been since Miss Ruth created it in 1927.

I was honored to be on the Board to aid in that stewardship effort and was blown away by the decades of commitment many of my fellow trustees had given to camp in order to preserve its character, traditions and fulfill its mission. Keeping camp a place of simplicity, of natural beauty and wonder, of connection and community takes a lot of thought, time, money, and heart. How fortunate we are to have a community who is so generous with all the above. I want to thank my fellow trustees for giving me a chance to come back to camp and experience the magic that is made there again.

## Catherine (Lynch) Adams

### Board of Trustees 2019 - 2022

I was introduced to camp in the early 90's and spent five summers as a camper and then a CT. I quickly fell in love with FWWH. The summers were magical as everyone knows. My three children went to camp and had wonderful experiences.



While it has been an honor to serve as a board and wonderful to spend time with the incredible staff and the amazing people on the board (some of whom I was a camper with), I sadly had to say goodbye and focus my full attention on our family, including my 14-year-old son who was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes in September. I have enjoyed seeing and being a part of some of the changes at camp and the many exciting projects coming up in the future. While many things have changed over the past few years, what is most special to me is that many things remain the same. I hope to return to camp again to visit. Our family will always love and support FWWH. I am very grateful that all three of my kids got to experience FWWH as I did, and I am thankful for having the opportunity to serve on the board with such wonderful people. ✨

# The Adventure of a Lifetime – Four Winds Style!

Sitting in the back of a U-Haul truck after an airport run in the summer of 2019, Parker Woo (camper 2007-2012, CT '13, HH '14, staff '17-'19) and Jessica Swinbank (staff 2018 & 2019) had a conversation that would change their lives. As leaders of the Dock Staff that summer, the two shared a love for sailing, and hatched a plan that day to sail around the world. After graduating from college in 2020—Parker in Colorado and Jess back in her native England—the two started taking steps towards making that a reality.

*“We bought a 37-foot sloop rig named Penelope,” said Parker, a native of Seattle. “We needed to learn how all the systems worked. We had to become plumbers, electricians, mechanics and navigators at the same time. Our biggest area of focus was getting everything together for us to be self-sufficient for long periods of time.”*

However, shortly after embarking on their adventure and getting to Mexico, two realities hit that forced them to temporarily abandon their dream. First, they discovered the Penelope was not capable of extensive open-sea sailing.

*“We discovered structural issues inside her hull,” says Parker. “We spent three months in a work yard in Mexico fixing those enough to cruise around the Gulf of California but didn’t trust her to cross an ocean and therefore couldn’t make our South Pacific trip as we had planned.”*

And then COVID hit, effectively shutting down their plans for two years. Earlier this winter, the pair put the plan back in motion with a couple tweaks: a different boat and partners for the journey.





*“The boat is called Noason, and it belongs to a lovely couple we met whilst cruising in Mexico,” says Parker. “They did a pacific crossing 30 years ago and wanted to go again but weren’t as physically confident. They offered us passage in return for help sailing.”*

Noasan is a 40-foot catamaran, and Parker calls it “luxurious” compared to Penelope.

*“We have one mast with a square top main sail, roller furling jib and roller furling gennaker and an asymmetrical spinnaker,” says Parker. “We have running water (hot and cold), a shaded cockpit area and furling head sails.”*

The foursome set sail from Mexico at the end of March.

*“We’ll head towards French Polynesia to the Marquesas Island group, and from there we’ll head west exploring, re-provisioning and having a good time,” says Parker. “We expect the passage to take around 21 days, depending on weather. The final destination is Australia. One of the large incentives for making it to Australia is to see a few camp friends we haven’t seen since pre-COVID because of travel restrictions.*

Life on the open ocean has already brought new experiences and created memories.

*“I’m most excited about the wildlife we will get to see,” says Jess.*

***“We’ve already seen whales, dolphins, porpoise, pelicans and a turtle—and I’m sure there’s more to come.”***

*“We’ve got a lot of fishing gear aboard and are looking forward to seeing what we can catch on the way over to supplement our fresh food supply,” adds Parker.*

And of course, there will be challenges with such a grandiose adventure.



*“Obviously the weather and big swells, but we’re feeling okay about those,” says Parker. “More challenges arise from living with people you are less familiar with in terms of interpersonal relations which can be put under strain in difficult and challenging conditions. So far we feel good about our ability to work well with one another. Another thing that could be challenging is going from being the captain of your own boat to sailing on someone else’s. No longer calling the shots so to say. It will be an adjustment but we’re grateful we are with experienced and competent people for such a big passage.”*

Parker and Jess acknowledge the role their time at Four Winds \* Westward Ho played in helping create this journey.

*“We are from other sides of the world so we wouldn’t have met each other,” says Parker. “I think we already had a pretty good sense of adventure before coming to Camp, but it does give you an outlet for coming up with new ideas and many hours to talk things through.”*



*“I’ve personally always had a dream of doing something like this,” said Jess. “My dad has done a few cool sailing trips and I grew up on his stories of sailing and with his library of books by mad people doing big trips.”* 🌊

### **Follow along with Jess and Parker:**

#### **Instagram:**

@projectpenelopee

#### **Tracking:**

followingsea.net/track/Noason

#### **Blog:**

followingseanet/blog/Noason

#### **Garmin Tracking:**

share.garmin.com/Noason



# Alumni News Updates

## Joanne Sherrod Sigler Staff '54

Being a Counselor at Four Winds became an important part of my life. The inscription on my cabin's fireplace is one of my life's lessons. It read: *"The journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step."*



I just turned 91 and recently published a children's book. I still live in my own home in Louisiana, travel to Houston often to visit a longtime friend, and travel to see family in Texas and Alabama. I attend Church every Sunday when in town; still drive myself around Shreveport; love to go to the grocery store to visit friends (but still dislike cooking.) I love my get togethers for "Friday Night Neighborhood Happy Hour" and am thankful for many young friends who include me in their dinners and social events. I do a little sewing and refuse to take a nap because I might miss something. Every time I start something new, I automatically remember, *"The journey of a thousand miles . . ."* and I say to myself *"Thank you Four Winds."*



## Susan (Rankin) Bennerstrom Camper '56, '58 & '61

My brothers and I were able to be FWWH campers because our mom did typing for Miss Ruth, and camp turned out to be one of the most formative parts of my life! I loved it all — singing at evening fire, riding horses, doing arts and

crafts under the tutelage of Ernest Norling, searching the woods for the "moss covered mansion," and most of all the freedom to be our naturally creative selves. Camp put me on my path of music and art. I've made my living as an artist and have always sung — 47 years and counting in The Whatcom Chorale, and previously in the Berkeley's California Bach Society. Thank you, Four Winds! You can see my art at [susanbennerstrom.com](http://susanbennerstrom.com)

## Isabel Lindberg Campbell Camper '63-'67; Staff '74-'77

I've lived in Gig Harbor, WA for more than 23 years. I'm retired but work in the Animal Rescue world, donating

supplies and services. I've collected many retired horses and rescued several dogs and cats. I still have one gelding, two Shih Tzu's and two feral kittens. I have three grandchildren, ages ten and eight (twins). They are the light of my life and keep me smiling and I hope one day to take them to FWWH and let them see the most beautiful place in the world.

## Linda Good Camper '63; Staff '72-'77, '98

Leonard and I moved to upstate New York to live closer to our daughter Nancye. Our granddaughter, Faye and her partner Adriano, live in Brooklyn, and grandson Jason is at Cornell University. I'm still teaching music and Leonard teaches science. I'll keep singing the Four Winds Songs — *"Laughter runs by in silver sandals shining."*

## Deirdre McCarvill Camper '65-'69

My summers at Four Winds were the best summers of my life! I met a wonderful friend named Robin Patterson who remains a treasured friend. I'm married, have three grown children, a horse and business called Cherished Ceremonies in Vernon, BC.

## Kirby Sack Camper '70 & '71; AC '72; CT '73; Boatswain on Martha '74

I am excited to be moving towards retirement and freeing up more time to spend with my loved ones (including a surprising number over 90 years old).



Belinda Hanson, far left, with family on Orcas Island.

## Belinda Hanson Camper '73-'77; CT '81; Staff '85-'86; Board 2022- present

Known as Bindy during my camp years, I live in Woodside, CA. Both of my daughters went to Four Winds (Leigh and



Kat Thomas) as did my brothers, Harry and Brad Hanson. It's fantastic to be back at camp on the Board. I usually spend 3-4 weeks on Orcas each summer. When I stand back and reflect on important events in life, camp stands out as the single most important part of my life.

### Katie Wisdom Weinstein and Jess Weinstein Campers, staff, Year-round-staff and Board Members from the 70's until 2006



Jess, Carrot, Katie and Skylar Weinstein

Katie is the Education Director at the Oregon Humane Society and loving it! Anyone need a puppy? Jess is flexing his brand marketing director chops at Allbirds—

another shoe company under his belt! **Skylar Weinstein (camper '07)** is loving his studies in forestry at University of Idaho and spending summers filleting salmon on the Kenai Peninsula. **Ruby "Carrot" Weinstein (camper '07-'13; CT '14; staff '16-'19)** is back in the dirt working organic farms in Madison, Wisconsin and loving life there. Life is good, my campers! See you on the trails!

### Drew Nelson Camper '78-'80; Kitchen staff '87 & '88 staff

### Heidi Nelson Staff '89 & '90)

With so many wonderful memories at FWWH, we married in 2001 on Orcas Island.

Fast forward to 2023 - we found a bit of land on Shaw

Island with a rustic cabin! We plan to retire there and maybe we'll get to come help or visit camp! **Noah Nelson (Camper '11-'21)** is EXCIT-

ED to be working as an AC this summer at FWWH. He is a freshman at Lewis & Clark College and is on the Cross Country and Track teams, breaking some school records. He recently finished second in the NW Conference Championship for the 800 meters!



Drew as a camper in the 70's



Heidi, Noah and Drew Nelson

### Tara (Burnett) Johnson

#### Camper '86 & '87

I can still picture the Craft Courts, hear campers talking and laughing, smell the paper and paint, sunlight filtering through the trees and illuminating the loom as I choose yarn for my next friendship bracelet. Life after camp was spent largely seeking out ways to continue feeling that sense of connection, community and special memories.



I studied abroad as a teenage exchange student in Australia. The relationships with kids from around the world were the closest I had felt since FWWH. I made lifelong friends and learned amazing things about myself while testing my independence in a new land. I attended The Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA, where I designed my own undergraduate path and explored the Pacific Northwest. I focused on Shakespeare and Chaucer, multicultural studies and psychology. The collaborative environment and learning programs created deep connections with my fellow students that I continued to seek out.

I work as a National Sales Director for a hotel chain, working with companies in the aerospace, infrastructure, environmental, and construction industries on long term national projects. The ever-changing environment, connecting and collaborating with people while finding creative solutions is a perfect fit for me.

I have three kids and two grandkids! My oldest daughter, Briar, attended camp 2008 - 2010 and my middle daughter Bronte attended in 2022. It's amazing for us to have that shared experience, to be able to sing the songs, talk about crying our eyes out at the candle lighting ceremony and leaving behind the people we seemingly cannot live without.

I also dabble in the world of social media marketing with an Instagram account, @tarastinytrailer, where I hope to inspire women to get into camping and glamping on their own. This community of travelers is amazing, working to support and encourage each other.

What's next? I think your 40's are a perfect time for a new passion project, so I'm working with more than 15 artists from around the world who are creating pages for "Tara's Tiny Trailer Around the World" coloring book! It's been a busy year of collaboration, and I'm thrilled to see it coming together as another group of connected individuals find inspiration and exploration while working towards a common goal.



**Julie Teel Simmonds**  
Camper '82-'88;  
CT '89; AC '91



One thing I love about Four Winds is how it comes up unexpectedly and brings such joy and vivid memories when it does! In my role as an attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity, I was on a call recently about protecting North Pacific right whales. There were two folks on the call whom I had never met – Kevin Campion and Kate Hruby. We lit up when we realized we all had ties to Four Winds. Kevin captained the Carlyn and Kate was a deckhand (among several other roles at camp)! They continue to do amazing work with Deep Green Wilderness. My kids are looking forward to camp again this year, and I hope to run into more old friends at drop off/pick up. Here I am with fellow camper/staff George Vukasin during junior session last year.

where he writes a lot of poetry and runs around the island EMT-ing and nursing sick and injured people. Not often enough, he gets out his guitar and strums a garden song while passing an evening at the fireside with his three cats.



**Ilan Bonaparte**  
Camper '99-'05

Ilan got married in Greece last year to Emily Bonaparte, a Washingtonian. They live in New York City where Ian still has camp songs floating through his head.

**Molly Kuhns Lampone**  
Camper '99-'04; CT '05

I'm proud to share that my daughter Beatrice (future FWWH camper) turned one in April. I've been singing camp songs to her since she was born, so she will be well prepared when she goes to camp. She especially loves the Junior Goodnight song and the Martha songs.



**Jessica Pickett Martin**  
Camper '88-'92;  
CT '94; AC '95;  
Staff '96, '97 & '02

Matt and I met while working as counselors, teaching pottery on Julie's Porch. We love FWWH and

Orcas! We were married at the Victorian Valley Chapel on Orcas in 2002! We now have three kids, with Vivian and Tate enjoying scholarship support to attend camp. We've been living in Germany the last two years but will move to Czechia this summer as we will both be teaching at the International School of Prague.



**Katharine Gifford Kline**  
Camper 2000-'07; HH '09;  
Staff '11-'14

John and I welcomed John Britton Kline to our family last spring! Britt loves exploring and we cannot wait until he is off to Orcas for his own adventures. We have recently moved from San Francisco to Petaluma, CA.

**Andrew Robin**  
Staff '93-'97; Staff  
– Junior Session  
'96-'03; Assistant  
Director '97-2000



*Andrew Robin with longtime FWWH friend Ali Walker.*

Hang on to your hats, Zephyrs, because Andrew Roberts has changed his name to ANDREW ROBIN. What?!? It was a personal and necessary change.

Therefore: Andrew ROBIN is a happy little Zephyr living on Lopez Island with his super amazing wife Sarah,

**Molly Roberts**  
Year-round staff 2000-'17

Lots of changes in Eastsound: New faces, new buildings, newly opened businesses in old buildings, new Prune Alley, new higher prices. Meanwhile, much continues in the old familiar way, with plenty of smiling faces as we go through our day. I am enjoying my new volunteer gig at the Orcas Senior Center, which gives me a chance to see a familiar community service from a new point of view while also giving me the opportunity to catch up a bit with old friends - some of whom I've known for 50+ years on this island! Life is good.



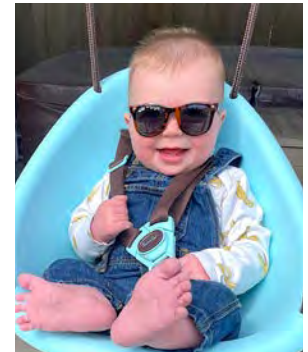
### Sue and Joe Babcock Year-round staff '05-'14

Sue and Joe are together in Amarillo, Texas. Joe is about to retire as a public-school music educator. Susan is teaching Pilates in her home studio and via Zoom. We take lots of motorcycle adventures with our mini pop-up camper. This summer we plan to cover many miles seeking our next adventure/home West of the Rockies! Thinking of all the FWWHers—you are forever in our hearts!!!



### Loomis and Helen Heston Campers '02-'07

We are thrilled to announce the birth of our FWWH baby, William Loomis Heston V (Willily)—born in October of 2022! We met at camp when we were in Wobs and Fir!



### Rachel Hutton Camper '05-'11; CT '11; Staff '14

For the past five years I have been living in Washington, DC. I just graduated from Georgetown University Law School and am moving to California to study for the bar exam and begin my career at a firm in San Diego. I am engaged and

will be getting married in the Bay Area in September. We have a dog named Odin and look forward to lots of hiking and sailing with our move to Southern Cal. Would love to connect with FWWH alumni in the San Diego area!



### Heath Family

**Sydney (camper '07-'14)** is spending a year as an Elbaz Fellow in Argentina working for a human rights organization. She'll begin a two-year graduate program at Columbia University in the fall.

**Charles (camper '10-'16)** Attended the Naval Academy for plebe year, is a sophomore

at the University of Connecticut and is looking forward to law after that. **Nicole (camper '66-'68)** I continue with my commitment to decreasing gun violence in Connecticut, working with "CT Against Gun Violence", our state's leading GVP advocacy organization. I also serve on the Board of the Emily Dickinson Museum in Amherst, Mass and the Board of the Mgrublian Center for Human Rights at Claremont McKenna College. Larry and I are still in Greenwich CT but spending a couple of months each winter in Santa Barbara.

### Will Spencer Camper '05-'09; HH '10 & '11; Staff '13-'17)

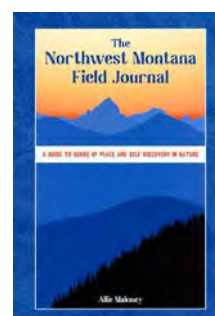
### Libby Corvin Camper '07-'09; CT '11; Staff '13-'17

Will and Libby live and work in San Francisco with their two rescue cats. They moved there after working on the Heads Team at FWWH in 2017. Will is finishing the Master's Program at the University of San Francisco and Libby has been working in tech at the same company for over five years. They're getting married on Martha's Vineyard in June 2024, which means they'll be getting married in a barn on an island – fitting, since they met working in the Camp Barn in 2011 as CTs/ Helping Hands!



### Alison Maloney Trip Leader '08 & '09

I live in Whitefish, Montana, and I wrote two books: "*The Northwest Montana Field Journal*" is both a journal and guidebook, while "*A Northwest Montana Alphabet*" is a rhyming alphabet book. I am always inspired by my time at Four Winds and the blend of art, music, and nature that is so much a part of camp culture. Please visit [www.nwmtfieldjournal.com](http://www.nwmtfieldjournal.com) to see my books.

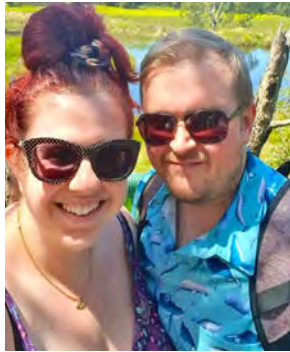






**Stefan Bancroft**  
Staff '11-'15

My wife, Sarah, and I (along with our three ragdolls - cat breed) will be moving back to her home in Melbourne, Australia, in November. Selling our house and moving halfway across the world is certainly making this a bloody busy year!



mers at Four Winds with the absolute fondness and can't wait to send future members of my family there!

**JJ Mansour**  
Camper '15-'18; staff '19-'22

JJ graduated from Marquette University in May with a BA in Computer Science and a minor in Environmental Science. He is celebrating by going to Europe with some friends from FWWH. JJ's mom, Anne, adds: "We are very proud of him and all his amazing experiences at Camp and with all the great people he has met there over the years!"

**Alexis Hatch**  
Camper '11-'15

I'm graduating from the University of Chicago in June and then heading to Harvard for a one-year Master's program in the History of Medicine. After that, I'm going to medical school at Mount Sinai in New York. I remember my sum-



**Elly Dudek**  
Camper 2021-'23

Elly met up with her former cabinmate, Margot Bardeen, when Margot and her family were in Seattle recently. Elly and Margot have been pen-pals for two years. We took Margot and her family to see the cherry blossoms at the University of Washington while having a picnic with some Dick's burgers. Two Seattle icons! We're excited for Spring and then ... summer! Elly is counting down the weeks until camp.

You surely noticed that this edition of the Pigeon Wing has a different look than in recent years. We decided to make a few changes to give it a fresh look, and asked Sarah Kulfan from Beans n' Rice Graphic Design Studio to handle the makeover.

*"I wanted to freshen up the look of the newsletter and make the design more inline with the website which really captures the spirit of the camp with photos and text," says Kulfan. "It was also important to honor the tradition of Pigeon Wing, so you'll see some familiar graphics featured throughout."*

If you have any feedback about the new Pigeon Wing look, feel free to email [mike@fourwindscamp.org](mailto:mike@fourwindscamp.org)





# Passings



**Mona Janney Brett (5/22/1922 – 11/23/2022)**  
Camper '36- '39; CT '40; staff '41.

Born and raised in the Bay area, Mona graduated from Scripps College. In 1946, she married her husband, Willis Brett, a naval aviator from the Midwest, and they settled in Chicago to raise their children and introduce them to art, music and the church. They enjoyed exploring together and traveled to Lake Tahoe every summer.

In 1969 the family moved to Portland, where Mona became a member of the Colonial Dames, Portland Garden Club, The Town Club and Trinity Cathedral. Mona also enjoyed her partnership in the needlepoint and yarn store, Flying Colours. In 2022 Mona's family and friends celebrated her 100th birthday with her. Mona is survived her children, Mary, Susan and Bill, four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

From Mona's obituary: *"Four Winds was a very special place for Mona and her younger sister, Mary. One of her favorite memories was traveling with a small group of Four Winds girls to Europe in the months while WWII was breaking out."*



**Marlys Swenson Waller (4/16/1924 – 3/9/2023)**  
Camper '39- '41, '44; Staff '44, '69-'71

Marlys passed away peacefully, surrounded by family reciting poems from Magic Ring and singing camp songs

throughout the day - including the Goodnight Medley songs after quietly taking her last breath. Marlys' parents founded and ran two summer camps in California, and a chance meeting between her parents and Ruth Brown began her family's affiliation with Four Winds. Keen to absorb as many learnings as possible on founding and running summer camps, Miss Ruth engaged them frequently for the expertise and applied their knowledge in the creation of Four Winds.

Marlys's first summer at Four winds was in 1939 and was a gift from Miss Ruth. As a camper and counselor, Marlys could be found teaching swimming, canoeing, playing tennis and dancing. She shared several camp stories with her children, including the time she decided to shear the sheep grazing in the meadow on the tennis courts. Not adept at shearing sheep, there were numerous nicks and cuts which left blood on the tennis court. Miss Ruth was not amused and made her scrub the tennis courts until there was no sign of her shearing endeavor!

After graduate school, teaching at the University of Washington and having four children, Marlys returned to camp to lead the Mountain Camp program for several years. Throughout her life, Marlys maintained close relationships with all the Directors including Ruth Brown, Jack Helsell, Carlyn Kaiser Stark and John and Leslie Clark. Her closest friends her entire life were friends she made at camp (Margaret Schiff Enderlein, Joann Norling Ferringer, Marth Holloway Cram and Shirley Simmons Newton). Marlys ensured the legacy of her love of Four Winds continued with all of her children (Kristi, Johanna, Erica, and Peter) attending as campers, and her daughters all continuing the tradition as staff as well. She looked forward to receiving Pigeon Wing updates and was never shy about voicing opinions regarding the preservation of camp traditions and Miss Ruth's vision. Even in the twilight of her days Marlys recited poems from Magic Ring and had a keen eye for Magic Loot.

**Charles "Chas" Schiff (4/24/1927 – 12/24/2022)**  
Camper '33, '34, '41 & '44

Chas graduated from UW with a degree in architecture and a masters from UC-Berkley. He married Betsy Taylor in 1955 and they raised their family in





**Theodore "Sam" Coleman (7/12/1940 – 11/8/2022)**  
1987 – 2008



Sam lived much of his life in Pasadena, CA, graduated from Colorado College, and went to Business School at the University of Southern Cal. Sam served as a Marine, and after being honorably discharged, he sailed in the Trans Pacific Race, and then went around the world.

Bellevue, in the home Chas designed. Chas enjoyed drawing, tennis, skiing, hiking, and traveling, but his true passion was sailing and racing. He had several sailboats, including his true love, Meridian, the sailboat he designed for racing. Chas was preceded in death by his wife Betsy after 41 years of marriage. He married Janet Suyetsugu in 1998 and together they shared 24 years. Chas is survived by his three daughters, Barbara, Karin and Brenda, four stepchildren, 15 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.



Sam married Cynthia Balmer of La Jolla. Sam was in the finance world his whole life with several major national companies. Sam was very involved in his community, serving on the boards of the Chandler School and Flintridge Prep School as well as being involved with the Pasadena Mental Health Board, Pasadena Senior Center, Los Angeles Master Choral, and Coleman Chamber. Sam served on the advance staff of both Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan's presidential campaigns.

Sam's passion was tennis, and he played his whole life, becoming a nationally ranked player, competing in matches and was even an alternate in the Davis Cup. In the late 1980's, Sam and Cynthia started to spend summers on Orcas Island and adored the time there, whether it was with friends gunkholing or watching a sunset. Sam served on The Orcas Community Foundation and served as President of the Orcas Island Chamber Music Festival, and even though was not a formal member of the FWWH Board – Cynthia was – Sam still played a crucial role in Camp's stewardship.

*"While Cynthia was the Board member, Sam was a vital part of the 'kitchen cabinet' of leaders who helped guide camp from the end of the Mike Douglas era to the Paul Sheridan era," says Alan Schulman, Board Member from 1998-2019. "Sam and Cynthia were responsible for recruiting me to the Four Winds board in the late 1990s. I will always be grateful for that."*



**Mary "Ellen" Shattuck (8/23/1938 – 12/8/2022)**  
Camper '44, '50, '51, '54 & '55.

Born in Seattle, Ellen lived in California, Arizona and Portland as an adult. She enjoyed tennis, the Junior League, the Sisterhood of the Holy Nativity and entertaining friends for dinner parties.

Ellen loved the family dogs and her family said it was "comical to watch her discipline them with her sweet, kind manner." She is survived by her children Jack, Ann and Hank, as well as grandchildren and step-grandchildren.

From Ellen's obituary: *"We are grateful to Ellen's endless devotion and love for her family. She was always present for her children and was dedicated to caring for Chuck during his final years. Ellen always looked for the positive in people and never said anything unkind about anyone. Ellen spent many of her summers during grade school at Four Winds. She loved swimming and boating, but her real passion was riding the horses."*



**Lyman "Bruce" Coffey (8/26/1941 – 10/11/2022)**  
Board of Trustees  
1993-2022

Bruce was born and raised in Southern Cal, and as a teenager he met Marty Morse who lived in Pasadena. Through letter writing and visiting each other, Marty and Bruce developed a romance that blossomed.



somed into a 59-year marriage that brought four children and ten grandchildren.

Bruce studied Engineering at Dartmouth, and after graduation joined the Navy before embarking on a long and successful business career. The Coffeys settled in Pasadena where they raised their family while being active members in their community. Bruce was on the Board of Trustees of Chandler School, the American Heart Association and the Huntington Library. In 1996, he sold Presto Food Products and he and Marty embarked on a new chapter in life, dividing their time between Pasadena and Orcas Island, where Bruce was a founder of the Orcas Island Community Foundation, served on the Board for 20 years, Board member of the Orcas Center and Four Winds Camp for 30 years.

It was on Orcas that Bruce enjoyed the other love of his life: sailing. He would delight in saying: *“On other boats, you’re going somewhere. When you’re on a sailboat you’re already there.”* He also enjoyed tennis, golf, skiing and hiking, spending time with his children and grandchildren, traveling with Marty, and reading together with their dogs nestled nearby. Bruce was blessed with genuine friendships, a family that adored him, and a lifelong marriage filled with love. His care and commitment touched and inspired all who worked with him and loved him. A long-time family friend remembers, *“His happy smile, kind eyes, and incredible curiosity and thoughtfulness; his patience, and generosity of time and attention - he was ever present and always excited for other people’s successes; a wonderful, loyal friend - a true, true gentleman.”*

**Bruce’s daughter, Gina Younger**, says her father saw the immense value of the FWWH experience, even though – or perhaps, because – he was not able to attend summer camp as a kid himself.

*“He truly believed in camp and the impact it could have on children’s lives,” she says. “The chance to grow and flourish, take risks, make new friends, experience nature, develop independence and a sense of self, and just have fun - all within the caring community fostered at camp. He cared deeply about giving kids from all backgrounds the opportunity to experience this special place. Over the years, watching him soak up the stories and join in the songs shared by two of his children and all ten of his grandchildren, relishing in these magical memories... it was as if he finally got to be a camper himself.”*

**Sue Clauson Camper ’58-’60; Staff ’74-’78; Board of Trustees 1999-2022** served on the Four Winds Board of Trustees with Bruce for 23 years and says, *“Bruce was absolutely instrumental in guiding us through so many challenges, including a stretch in the late 90’s and early 2000’s where we cycled through four different Executive Directors in a short span. He was a mentor, on so much more. He was always available, never had an unkind word for anyone and was all heart through-and-through.”*

**Kimberly Griff Flanagan  
(June 25, 1971-June 6,  
2023)**

**CT ’87, Staff ’92**



Kim passed away surrounded by her family after a 4 ½ year battle with cancer. To say she was courageous and determined to beat this terrible disease would not do justice to how fiercely she fought to regain her health. Beautiful both inside and out, Kim blessed all who knew and loved her.

Kim loved her experience as a CT and Counselor, and particularly her duties in the barn. Kimberly shared her experience and enthusiasm as a champion hunter-jumper rider with her campers. Son Mac is following in her footsteps this summer working in the barn and as a counselor. Daughter Quinn joins him as a Helping Hand in 1st session. Both of Kim’s children are “lifers” at camp, having attended for over 10 years.

Kim graduated cum laude in history from UC-Berkeley, then began a career in public relations (the wine industry was a favorite client.) Kim met her husband Dave in San Francisco, and they moved to Portland, OR. She continued in public relations and was involved in the community, volunteered at her children’s schools, and returned to riding and competing in equestrian events, even while fighting her disease. As a family, the Flanagans traveled in Europe, Asia and South America, but their favorite destination was Orcas Island. Kim found her spiritual center in this special place where the whole family has stayed together annually for the past two decades.

Kimberly leaves behind husband David; past campers and current FWWH staff, children Quinn and Mac; sister Beaven Griff Walters, past camper and staff, and her four children who are all current FWWH campers and staff; parents Laurie and Gary Griff and the many members of the Russell, Felton, Newman and Coleman families who were her family too. Her beautiful mare, Jackie O and pet pug, Maggie, will miss her greatly as well.



*Kim and her sister, Beaven, when they were at FWWH.*

In Kimberly’s memory, her family is setting up a FWWH fund in support of camp programs. Any donations in her honor will go towards that fund and can be mailed to Four Winds\*Westward Ho Camp, P.O Box 140, Deer Harbor, WA 98243.



**FOUR WINDS, INC.**  
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**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.

## The Ruth A. Brown Legacy Club

The “Ruth Brown Legacy Club” includes people who have identified Four Winds \* Westward Ho as a beneficiary in their Estate Planning, so when that person passes away, Camp receives a donation. It’s a wonderful way to give to Camp without impacting your current financial situation, and is a crucial piece of our fundraising efforts. The “RAB Club” currently has 50 different entries (some of which include two or more people), and we appreciate them all so much. For more information about adding Four Winds to your Estate Plan, please email [mike@fourwindscamp.org](mailto:mike@fourwindscamp.org).

Anonymous(4)  
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