



PIGEON WING

Summer 2025



This Old Lodge
Sea & Sky Campaign Reflections
Treehouse Tree Farewell
Alumni Spotlight





Land Acknowledgment

Four Winds * Westward Ho acknowledges that the place where we have camp every summer is on the ancestral home-lands of the Coast Salish people, who have lived in the Salish Sea basin and in the San Juan Islands from time immemorial. We want to express gratitude for the peoples who have stewarded this land throughout the generations. The Central Coast Salish nations include the Sooke, Saanich, Songhee, Swinomish, Lummi, Samish, and Semiahmoo. These Indigenous people moved seasonally between the islands. We recognize that we are here because of the sacrifice forced upon them. In recognizing these tribal communities, we honor and seek to raise up and center their legacy, their lives, their descendants, and their living culture.

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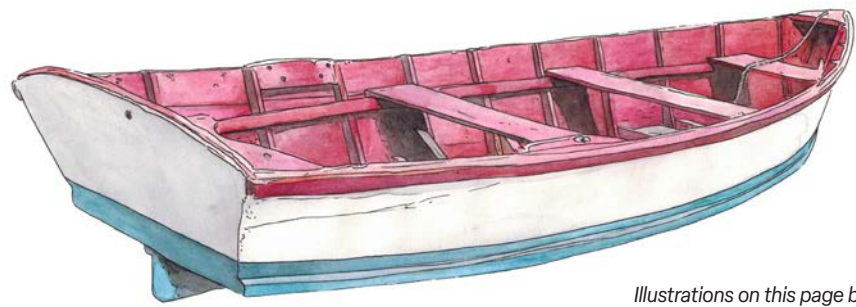
The camp photos in this issue were taken by Sibusiso Xaba, Olivia Kelley, Taj Howe, and Bridge Rafferty.



Illustration by Ernest Norling.



Greetings from Hilltop



Illustrations on this page by
Emily Lewis Brock.



Dear Friends,

Every year, when I write this letter, it's a slightly different stage of the run up to summer. This year, as it happens, I'm writing this the day before the First Session campers arrive. Those of you that have had the experience of being on our summer staff, I'm sure regardless of the era, will remember the energy of this moment. All of us have been working hard to get ready for the campers to arrive, and the moment is finally upon us. Those of you who have been campers will remember the anticipation, sometimes nervous, sometimes purely joyful, of knowing that you're going to be going to camp when you wake up in the morning. It's thrilling, it's always a privilege to be a part of it, and it's all as it should be.

This year, there's an extra wrinkle to camp's opening, which is our newly renovated Lodge, ready to serve campers tomorrow. You can read more about it in the pages of this newsletter, but I have say thank you, once again, to our many Sky & Sea Campaign donors who made it possible. It's not easy or cheap to do a big renovation project on a building that's nearly 100 years old that just happens to be on an island. But the Lodge is the heart of Camp, and our community stepped up to make sure that it's ready to serve campers and staff for decades to come. I'm so grateful, I can't wait for it to be full of campers tomorrow for dinner, and I hope that all of you, at some point, can visit Camp to see it. I think you'll be proud. Thank you.

I'm off to do final preparations for tomorrow. Whether you're sending your children or grandchildren to camp this summer, coming yourself, or just comforted to know that, as it is every summer, campers will be running up Greenie Hill tomorrow, thank you for being a part of this community, and stay in touch.

All the best,

Paul



Illustration by Ernest Norling.

From the Associate & Assistant Directors



Hello Four Winds Families!

I'm so excited to be writing to you as the new Associate Director at Four Winds * Westward Ho. After 15 summers working in camps in California, I feel incredibly lucky to now be part of a place I've admired from afar for years. I've long known that Four Winds is something special, and it's been such a joy to step into this community and feel that magic firsthand. This summer holds deep meaning for me—it's my first chance to see camp in full swing and to contribute to what is already shaping up to be a remarkable season.

Paul, Daisy, and I are incredibly proud of the staff we've assembled this year. Their arrival was full of energy and excitement, and the team dove into staff training with a shared purpose: Why does camp matter? That question grounded our time together, and I was truly inspired by the heartfelt answers—centered on connection, growth,

and the transformative power of our Four Winds community. Already, I've had so many "this is why" moments: wearing bloomers at the airport, silly costumes at folk dance, watching brave and talented campers perform at Evening Fire, and seeing the genuine joy on staff members' faces as they welcomed their campers. Our focus, as it should be, is entirely on the camper — crafting an exceptional summer filled with magic, silliness, growth, and belonging. For me, I feel very tied to the "If Once You Have Slept On An Island" poem from the Magic Ring. As the line goes, "once you have slept on an island, you'll never be quite the same." I already know that after this summer, I won't be the same—and I couldn't be more excited. Happy Summer 2025!

Thank you!!!

Diana



Hello from Camp!

Hi everyone! It's Daisy here, and I just wanted to share a little update from camp -it's been an amazing start to the summer!

The staff is doing an incredible job, and it's been especially wonderful having Diana with us this summer. She's been such a great addition to the team, bringing new perspective and fresh ideas. Spirits are high, and we are excited for everything this summer has in store.

One of the highlights so far has been our incredible Heads Team. They've stepped up and taken ownership over many aspects of camp and it's been inspiring to watch. The campers are loving everything from their skits to new evening activities.

We are also really looking forward to Polaris Pals, which is just around the corner! Senior campers will be paired with juniors and intermediates for two evenings of mentorship and fun. The Heads Team has worked hard on a new Polaris Pals evening activity and we are excited to see how it goes!

We are looking forward to the rest of the summer and can't wait for the next few weeks. I am so grateful for this group of staff and campers!

With Four Winds spirit,

Daisy



FROM DAPHNE'S DESK

Greetings from Gatehouse!

The summer is off to a great start! At the time of writing, we are nearing the end of the first session and preparing for another group of campers to arrive.

As a former camper, I know firsthand the magic of a Four Winds summer. Whether it's a trail ride on Hill of the Moon, an afternoon sail in the bay, or a cabin scavenger hunt in the woods, this ninety-eight-year-old Camp has something for everyone. I have had such a pleasure meeting all the new campers and reconnecting with returning ones. They never fail to entertain me and brighten my day.

As the Family Experience Director and a parent of campers myself, I recognize how important it is to keep up with the goings-on at Camp. That's why, this year, my amazing office team has been working hard to post daily updates on the @four-windswestwardho Instagram page. Families can also expect to receive weekly postcard updates from their child's counselor by mail or email.

I can't wait to spend the rest of the summer here at Four Winds*Westward Ho!

Zephyr love,

Daphne Opperman



Canadian Friends of Four Winds Passes the Torch

David Lowy, who founded the Canadian Friends of Four Winds to enable tax-deductible giving for Canadian families, recently met with three members of the Camp community to ensure this important work continues. Jeremy Keyton, Jack Ross, and Finn Toporowski — all recent or current Canadian summer staff — are stepping forward to help administer this sister non-profit. The Canadian Friends of Four Winds allows Canadian citizens to support Camp while receiving a Canadian tax receipt, with all donations transferred directly to Four Winds. David's thoughtful succession planning ensures Canadian families can continue their support of Camp's mission, including the financial aid program that makes Four Winds accessible to all campers regardless of their family's ability to pay.

Bloomers in the News

The Wall Street Journal featured an article on July 24, 2025 titled "Are We Seriously Wearing Bloomers Again? The Return of the Revolutionary, Risqué Pants" by Nancy MacDonell. The piece explores why women keep returning to this seemingly outdated garment. At Four Winds, bloomers have been part of our traditional uniform for generations. Ruth Brown chose the perpetually controversial garment for its association with the suffragette movement and their practicality in outdoor activities from sailing to hiking. Looks like bloomers are back on the cutting edge!



Campers wearing bloomers, illustrated by Ernest Norling.

Meet the 2025 Camp Leaders



From top left, line-by-line: Daisy Sessions, Paul Sheridan, Diana Huff, Jack Ross, Amelia Fogarty, Liam Baker, Sheelyn Pharr, Walter Gates, Tenne Johnson, Molly Seneker, Brandon Wong, Harriet Russell, Ben Arnt, and Evie Moore.

Amelia Fogarty

Head of Four Winds

Hello from Orcas Island! My name is Amelia Fogarty. I am currently overjoyed that the summer is soon to get underway, and the camp will be filled with music and laughter. When the summer comes to an end, I head back to San Diego, where I am attending college at the University of San Diego. I am entering my senior year and studying Political Science with a minor in Fine Arts. I was born and raised in Missoula, Montana, and I'm the oldest of three siblings. I started camp in Lorien as a first-year intermediate in 2015, and camp has been the highlight of my summers ever since. At first, camp was just a getaway from my siblings, but it soon became something special that we all shared as they slowly began to join me on Orcas. There is nothing better than playing capture the chicken with your siblings or simply sitting together on the GABLAP and catching up.

As the years have passed, camp has been there with me as I've grown into the person I am today. The memories I've made and the people I have met

have made me a stronger, more empathetic, and well-rounded person. Let's just say I could talk forever about camp if given the opportunity. Getting to be the Head of Four Winds last summer was one of the most transformative and rewarding summers of my life. I am so excited to return for another incredible summer. Most importantly, I am so beyond excited about being able to create an incredible summer filled with laughter, growth, and love. Having looked up to and worked with so many incredible past Heads of Four Winds, I have gained not only inspiration but also experience from the previous summer to build off of. I can't wait to hit the ground running. I am so looking forward to seeing everyone's smiling faces on Greeny in the next couple of weeks.

Liam Baker

Head of Westward Ho

I am super excited to work as the Head of Westward Ho again this summer. Camp has had a massive impact on my life as both a camper and a staff member, and I am excited about having another opportunity to

give back to a place that has given me so much. This will be my 13th summer at FWWH and fifth on staff. I've previously worked as a counselor, Head of Land Sports and most recently as the Head of Westward Ho. During the offseason, I worked as a children's ski instructor in Sun Valley, Idaho. I will be back in Sun Valley this winter and plan on pursuing future positions within the outdoor education industry.

I wanted to come back as the Head of Westward Ho this summer so I could have the opportunity to lead the next generation of counselors and help build a camp community where campers welcomed, loved and comfortable being themselves. The camp experience is more important than ever for children in today's world and I'm looking forward to unplugging and sharing in the magic of Four Winds with everybody this summer.

Activity Area Heads

Ben Arnt

Head of CTs

Walter Gates

Head of Craft Courts / Head of Helping Hands

Tenne Johnson

Head of Land Sports

Evie Moore

Head of CTs

Sheelyn Pharr

Head of Dock

Jack Ross

Head of Trips

Harriet Russell

Head of Dock

Molly Seneker

Assistant Head of Dock / Head of Helping Hands

Brandon Wong

Head of Garden



Board Corner

Arriving Board Members

Emily Taylor

I'm Emily Taylor, and Four Winds * Westward Ho has been part of my story since my first summer as a camper in 1993. I stayed on through 1997, then returned on staff as the counselor of Seven Seas in 2003 and as CT Mom in 2004. Those seasons overflowed with moments I still treasure — carving the wishing stool I keep to this day, sailing the Carlyn overnight to Victoria, singing Dorade in a three-part round at Evening Fire, learning to knit, picking warm raspberries in the garden, dancing on folk-dance nights, and sharing rainy-day laughter with friends who became family.

Today I live in Marin, north of San Francisco, with my husband Chad and our three children. Weekends find us poolside at water-polo matches, on the lacrosse field, or cheering at swim meets. Between travels, cooking adventures, community volunteering, and staying active outdoors, I cherish every chance to gather with friends.

Serving on the Board of Trustees feels like coming full circle. Family lore says my great-aunt once counseled for Miss Ruth, inspiring generations of my family — my mother, brother, niece, and nephews — to follow the camp road. Across all those years, the through-lines have remained constant: joy, beauty, song, skill-building, friendship, and personal growth. My hope is to help camp evolve to meet the needs of today's children while holding fast to the values and traditions that make Four Winds * Westward Ho timeless.

Thomas Russell

Four Winds * Westward Ho has been woven into the fabric of my life ever since my first summer on Orcas Island in 2003. Six seasons as a camper (2003 – 2008), a life-changing term as a CT in 2009, and three unforgettable summers as a dock counselor from 2012 to 2014 gave me lifelong friendships, unwavering confidence, and what I still call “the best job I've ever had.”

Today I live in the Bay Area and serve as Executive Director of the YMCA in San Jose. I've spent about a decade nurturing inclusive, enriching spaces for young people; My work is driven by the same belief that underpins Four Winds: every child deserves the chance to discover their potential. I'm especially proud of Camp's commitment to awarding scholarships to dozens of campers each summer.



Joining the Board of Trustees feels like coming full circle. I'm thrilled to give back to a place that has given me so much. It's a tremendous honor to serve as a Trustee and help ensure that the magic of Four Winds * Westward Ho continues to inspire generations of campers to come.

Jeff Winckler

I'm excited to be returning to the Camp Board for a second stint as a board member. My connection to Four Winds goes back to the early '90s, starting as a CT Leader in 1992 and 1993, followed by serving as a Head of Camp in 1994, 1995, and 1996. After that, I was a member of the Camp Board from 2002 to 2011.



I live in Manhattan Beach, California, and have been calling the South Bay region of Los Angeles home for over twenty-five years. My wife, Becki, and I have two wonderful kids, Lily (18): camper from 2014 to 2021, and Ben (16): camper from 2021 to 2024 and CT in 2025. As a family, we love traveling and spending time outdoors.

With nearly thirty years in education, I've had the privilege of working in various roles that support the learning and growth of young people. And though you can't completely take Camp with you, I've tried to carry the values and beliefs I learned at Camp into my professional life. After fourteen of years as a school principal in Redondo Beach, I've recently moved into my current role as a Professional Learning and Development Director.

I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to reconnect with Four Winds, a place that I love and that is such a big part of who I am. I'm looking forward to contributing my time, energy, and experience in organizational leadership to help Four Winds continue to grow and thrive, all while maintaining the traditions and unique culture that make it so special for generations to come.

Departing Board

Farewell to Elbell Crebs, Amy Fields, Judy Murphy, and Diana Weigel

As Elbell Crebs, Amy Fields, Judy Murphy and Diana Weigel complete their remarkable decades of board service, we celebrate four leaders whose vision and dedication have quite literally shaped the camp we know today. Amy's instrumental role in our 2019 master plan ensured that our beloved gathering spaces would continue welcoming campers and families for generations to come. Elbell contributed her creative eye to the gardens and

outdoor spaces, while keeping sight of the camper experience each summer. Judy's incredible efforts towards archiving our history has anchored camp in the past and ensures the original traditions are remembered and celebrated. After chairing the Board during Covid, Diana's leadership in the lodge renovation transformed our historic heart into a space that honors tradition while serving our community's evolving needs.

Their quiet, steady commitment, spanning multiple decades, reflects the very best of our camp spirit: thoughtful stewardship, generous service, and an unwavering focus on what matters most. While we'll miss their wisdom around the board table, their contributions will continue enriching every gathering and every moment shared in the spaces they helped preserve and reimagine. Thank you, Amy, Elbell, Judy, and Diana, for your extraordinary legacy of service.

Elbell Crebs

Four Winds*Westward Ho will always be in my safe-kept memory.

My Four Winds ♡ Westward Ho adventures started almost 45 years ago, arriving at the dock in a dinghy, and then parading along winding paths, through magical trees and cabins while hearing children singing melodically. These joyful campers were each busy as bees with each of their many creative activities. When I returned from my memorable adventure I realized what I had just experienced had changed my life forever!

As I reflect upon my many years on the Four Winds ♡ Westward Ho Board of Trustees, there are no words to express the WHY, the WHAT, or the WHO. It's always been the feelings which had CAPTURED me...it was the treasure, the emotions, which even as I write this is emotional. All of this continues to pull me back, ALWAYS, to that sparkling gem on Greenie Hill just above the Four Winds Bay.

Uniquely, it's not just the beauty of Camp itself, it's not just the people one meets and has the opportunity to share their lives with, or the adventurous activities one gets to experience, or even the thought perhaps “Magic Loot” might be found under a fern or flower. Also, it's not just the treasured Songs, Poems and Traditions created in some cases over almost 100 years ago, or the beloved and cared for Sign Posts which share the colorful heritage of camp... oh my heavens, I COULD GO ON AND ON...but I won't, if you're reading this you know what I mean, plus you have your own unique experiences which make the whole idea of Four Winds ♡ Westward Ho so valuable.

It is life changing to be lucky enough to have Four Winds ♡ Westward Ho be part of your life! I am so eternally grateful to say “THANK YOU” to all of the treasured indi-

viduals who have been part of my adventurous journey all these magical years!

Again, “THANK YOU” for this life changing opportunity which I have experienced, along with my three children as campers and staff, and now my grandchildren are able to treasure. To be able to work for and with Camp, and to have been allowed to be part of this greater most treasured community, Four Winds ♡ Westward Ho.

Judy Murphy

Four Winds*Westward Ho has been a major part of my life ever since I was a nine year old camper in the 1950s. Ruth Brown (Miss Ruth) was still in charge of the camp that she had started, and it is amazing to me to see how little has changed since that first year at camp. My first cabin was Shining Mountain and the last was Flying Cloud, with my favorite, Rocky Point, in between. We woke up to the morning bell and spent our day in activities at the dock, the stables and the craft court. The big boat, the Westward Ho, was in the harbor, cabin adventures were popular and fun, and that freezing cold swim test was encouraged. Evening fire was every evening where we performed cabin skits, sang old and new songs and recited lots of poetry. My claim to fame was that at ten, I memorized the 27 verses of The Laws of the Navy. That earned me the Boon Bird and let me take my entire cabin to Deer Harbor for a chicken dinner at Norton's. From that, poetry became very important to me. All in all, my years as a camper were magical.

When it was time, my children became campers, and then, twelve of my grandchildren spent, and are currently spending, summers as campers and staff. Three young ones still at home are hoping to follow in their cousins' footsteps.

Almost 30 years ago I became a member of the Board of Trustees of the camp. During that time we had several camp directors, built a new Health House, renovated Hilltop, and approved the plans for our new lodge construction. I am no longer on the board, and happily left with the good feeling about the way camp has been cared for and how it is moving forward. I can end with one of my favorite poems from The Magic Ring.



The Coin By Sara Teasdale

Into my heart's treasury
I slipped a coin
That time cannot take
Nor a thief purloin.
Oh, better than the minting
Of a gold-crowned king
Is a safe-kept memory
Of a lovely thing.

This Old Lodge

From its origins as a salmon cannery site, through fires and rebirths, and for nearly 100 years, this old lodge has seen every Four Winds camper walk through its doors. The 2025 Lodge renovation marks the latest milestone in this century-long story, honoring the past while securing the future.

When Jeff Stewart, the board member who oversaw construction, presented to community members in San Francisco, one response captured everything: “When I put an image of the completed design on the screen, there was a long pause in the room, and one of the supporters asked, ‘Isn’t that what it looks like today?’” That moment crystallized the project’s success: renovation as an act of stewardship, not transformation.

Designing for Camp Life

The renovated Lodge addresses decades of evolving Camp needs while maintaining its essential character. The expanded deck now allows more comfortable spacing during meals with three new gables that provide reliable shelter from the sun and the rain.

Re-worked trip rooms streamline prep, with dedicated zones for food, equipment, packing, and sorting right next to each other. The Camp store received a complete overhaul, transforming from a cramped corner into a more efficient space. Campers spend less time in line and more time back out at All-Camp-Hangout. And finally, creating more public bathroom space in the basement necessitat-

ed the removal of staff showers, so the project included the expansion of the senior Westward Ho and the Intermediate Four Winds shower houses.

Doing It Right While It’s Open

Beneath the surface, the renovation team discovered challenges that demanded immediate attention. “There was some deterioration under the northern side of the deck along the hillside,” Caleb Weichart recalls, “it was the section of the deck most pressed against Hill of the Moon” Dowbuilt, the general contracting team, replaced the whole area as they expanded that side of the deck, installing FSC-certified decking across the whole lodge deck, and Pye Barker Fire and Safety restructured the fire alarm system to accommodate the new deck and basement layouts.

Jeff Stewart’s commitment to excellence shaped every decision, says Weichart: “He was determined to get it done right. He really pushed and made it happen when it needed to, in the right way. Not just like, ‘well, let’s kind of skim on this.’ He’s got an eye for quality.”

This approach embodied the deeper meaning of the project — not just maintenance, but an act of stewardship for future generations. As Stewart reflects: “it was a wonderful privilege as a second generation board member, and having fourth generation Campers today, to be a steward of such a consequential project for the present and future generations of all Camp families. The project could not



Sky & Sea renovation photography by Taj Howe for Heliotrope Architects.

have been achieved without the incredible and generous support of the whole FWWH community, and I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute.”

Above and Beyond: Cranes and Modules

The project’s most dramatic chapter unfolded when the modular construction company building the shower houses suddenly closed mid-project. “They were literally in the middle of building these shower houses,” Weichart explains, “and then in one weekend just sent an email saying ‘hey, we’re no longer in business.’”

Dowbuilt’s response was decisive: “They sent in a team and got them out,” securing the partially completed structures before the factory officially closed. The rescue mission culminated in an installation day, with a crane maneuvering the shower houses into position despite challenging winds. The same crane that arborists used to remove the top crown of the Treehouse Tree.

The project’s success also relied on exceptional local contractors: Island Ex for excavation/site work, Northwest Electric and Solar for electrical work, Morris Plumbing managing all water systems, and the Cascade Joinery delivering finish carpentry that seamlessly matched Camp’s aesthetic.





What Comes Next — The Dock

With the Lodge complete, attention turns to the campaign's second phase: the dock renovation beginning Fall 2025. The project timeline carefully navigates environmental permitting requirements, with special attention to eel-grass habitats and minimizing impact during pile-driving operations, which are set to be approved in late summer.

The new dock will meet safety and environmental standards by replacing creosote piles with galvanized steel pilings. High-density polyethylene pip flotation will be fusion-welded to make up new floats. Dock surfaces will be fiberglass-reinforced plastic grating to allow at least 60% visible light penetration for the protection of native eel grass while maintaining the dock's essential character as the gateway to one of our campers' favorite activity areas.

"The dock represents our connection to the Salish Sea," notes Paul. "This renovation ensures that connection remains strong for another century of campers learning to sail, kayak, and adventure along our waterfront."

Closing Thanks and Forward Look

The Sky & Sea Campaign succeeded through the dedication of exceptional individuals and partners. Deep gratitude goes to Ann Felton for leading the Development Committee and this campaign, Jeff Stewart for his ex-



ceptional project leadership, Caleb Weichart for on-site expertise, and, finally, Joe Goldsmith and Alli Cobb for general project support and quick work to revive the surrounding landscaping. Our project partners — Heliotrope Architects, Dowbuilt, Island Ex, Morris Plumbing, Northwest Electric and Solar, Cascade Joinery, and the crane team — each delivered excellence at every turn.

Built to feel timeless, the renovated Lodge stands ready for another century of evening fires, chicken songs, and memories that last a lifetime. As we look toward the dock renovation and beyond, the Sky & Sea Campaign demonstrates what's possible when a community commits to preserving what matters most.

Sky & Sea Campaign Reflections

Ann Russell Felton, Development Committee Chair

When visiting the construction at Camp last off-season, we wondered how the improvements would resonate once the spaces were in use. Now, with my own three children as campers and a CT at 1st Session, I get to hear all about how the campers and staff are enjoying the upgraded spaces—and the reports are great! Happy campers enjoying all the parts of the Lodge is the incredible result of a successful fundraising campaign. But another result, and one that speaks to the deeper magic of Camp, has been the connections that we have made and rekindled in the last two years as we progressed through the Sky & Sea Campaign and building project.

During the past two off seasons, Paul and crew went beyond Deer Harbor to meet with alumni, current and past parents, and friends, where many stories of important moments (big and small) were shared. As community members reflected on their time, or their children and grandchildren's time, there was often a meaningful memory that took place in the Lodge. Impactful counselors and cabinmates were remembered as they stood to make an announcement or recited a poem. First adventures, and a few mishaps, were detailed through smiles and laughs. Feelings (joyful and sad) were felt again, occasionally with some tears. So many of the themes shared were evergreen: trying something new, being seen in a different light, making dear friends, appreciating nature, and celebrating art and music. The belief in the importance of Camp—and the Lodge and Dock, especially, was evident in each gift given and story told.

Here are just a few memories that were shared:

"I most remember the evenings of singing. I also remember many of the songs...now I am 92 years old and have never forgotten all the fun and beauty of camp."

—Caroline (Patsy) Chickering Fish

"Roller coaster dining trays on the porch."

—Ben Woolf

"Trying on bloomers with your cabin on rotation day, and making sure your pairs had just the right amount of stretchy elastic."

—Anonymous

"Evening fire in the lodge, the swim test, launching bark ships with candle light on the day of camp."

—Chris Jones

"My favorite Lodge memory is having the honor of being among the group to debut Neal's enduring song, This Old Lodge. He had finished writing it days before and we sang it as the staff song at the last Evening Fire. Tears were shed."

—Ann Fromholz

As campers now are making their own memories setting tables, waiting for the bell, clearing trays, packing for trips, purchasing stamps, writing poetry, and singing songs in Lodge, we are beyond t for this community that contributed so generously to make Sky & Sea a reality.

Thank you!



TREEHOUSE TREE FAREWELL

The big-leaf maple that hosted Four Winds' beloved treehouse for generations came down this February after years of faithful service providing shade and escape to campers every summer since camp's founding in 1927. The removal and next steps were the culmination of 18 months of careful assessment, community consultation, and thoughtful planning, a process that honored both the tree's legacy and our commitment to camper safety.

A Routine Check Becomes a Turning Point

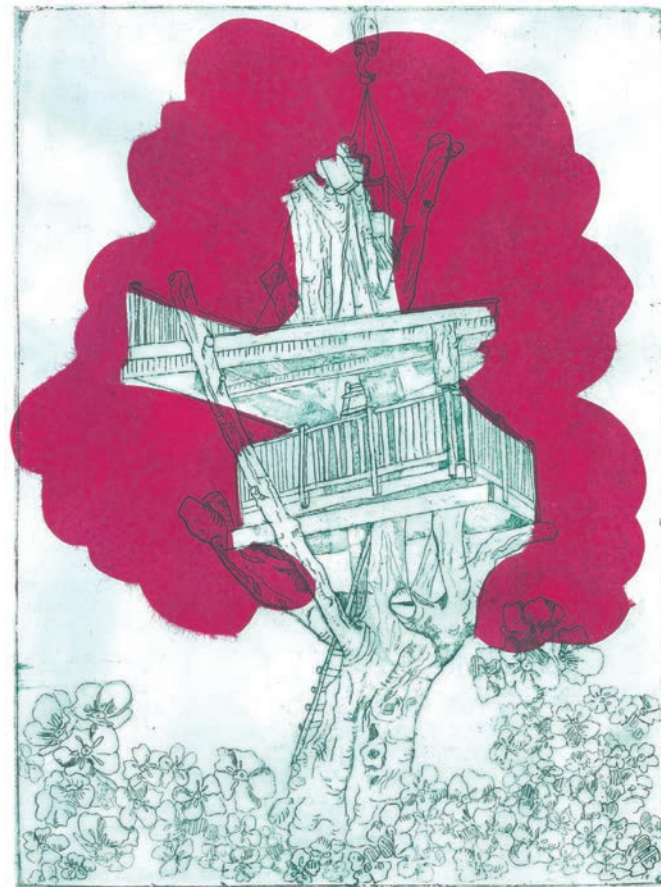
The story begins a year and a half ago when Scott Baker, one of the professional builders who renovated our treehouse five years earlier, returned to Camp for a visit. He wanted to see how his work had weathered the seasons. As he and Head of Maintenance Caleb Weichart walked the grounds, Scott suggested that it might be time to assess the complete tree itself beyond limbs and treehouse components.

It seemed like prudent maintenance. Weichart contacted Tree Solutions for what he expected would be a routine evaluation. But when the arborist delivered his report that November, the findings were sobering: the tree's interior rot had advanced to the point where removal was recommended.

Rather than act immediately, Camp leadership sought a second opinion. "This wasn't a decision we took lightly," Weichart explains. "People have so many attachments to this tree. We wanted to be absolutely certain. Mr. D even came out to assess the age of the tree, calculating an initial figure north of 160 years."

Finding the Right Expertise

The search for a second assessment led to an unexpected connection. Through the family behind the Treehouse Masters television show — whose wife is a Four Winds



Treehouse and Maple Tree print, by Amelia Fogarty, in memory of the treehouse.

alum — Camp was referred to Justin Blevins at Skyline Tree Care. Justin's January assessment confirmed the initial findings: after approximately 160 years of shading our campus, the maple had reached the end of its safe lifespan. Interior decay meant severe winds could bring down major limbs, endangering anyone below.

A Carefully Orchestrated Removal

Fortune smiled on the timing. A crane already scheduled for February's shower house installation had one free day, which the crew used to safely remove the treehouse platform and major limbs. On a clear morning, Skyline's team dismantled the structure piece by piece, lowering each board by rope. The sturdy railing was carefully set aside for reuse on the outdoor drama stage, ensuring a piece of the treehouse would live on in another beloved Camp space.

With the platform clear, climbers rigged the trunk in sections, guiding every cut to protect nearby paths and utilities. Justin's crew worked with the precision and care the moment demanded, honoring the tree even as they took it down.



Decisions from the Spring Board Meeting

The board and year-round staff walked the site during the Spring Board Meeting, before the final bulk of the trunk and root ball were removed, to discuss how to fill that space for the summer of 2025. By the end of the meeting, the group set six priorities that balanced practical needs with commemorative possibilities:

1. Remove the stump and root ball for a level surface
2. Salvage sound wood for commemorative projects
3. Reuse the treehouse railing on the drama stage
4. Chip all rotten wood for mulch around campus
5. Investigate planting a new maple in the same spot
6. Relocate the historic Vardo wagon to keep the space active for the 2025 summer

Making the Most of What Remains

While the interior rot prevented traditional milling, the maintenance team saved what solid pieces they could. These are drying behind the boat barn, awaiting transformation into stools, medallions, or other commemorative projects that will give alumni tangible connections to the old tree. The salvaged railing is being sanded and sealed for its new life framing the drama stage ramp, where future generations will lean against a piece of Camp history.

Even the hollow portions and stump found purpose: ground down or chipped into mulch to enrich campus

soil and provide kindling for summer evening fires by Joe Goldsmith, our year-round Boatright, who commanded the backhoe. Nothing usable was wasted.

New Life from Old Roots

Perhaps most hopeful are the 100 seedlings Groundskeeper Alli Cobb is nurturing behind the greenhouse, each grown from a samara or collected as an already sprouted seedling from the base of the Old Maple. These young trees remain under consideration for centennial plantings, commemorative projects, and donor gifts, each one carrying the genetic legacy of our fallen giant forward.

Where the maple once stood, the historic Vardo wagon now blooms with bright flowers, keeping the space lively while permanent plans take shape. It's a placeholder with purpose, inviting visitors to pause where so many campers once climbed toward the sky.

Looking Up Once More

"We took our time and weighed our options," Weichart reflects. "This wasn't about just getting rid of something. It was about doing right by the tree, the community, and the future."

When the centennial arrives, a young maple will sink roots into that familiar spot. Future campers will once again look up at green leaves rustling in the maritime breeze, and a new chapter of shade, adventure, and delight will begin. The treehouse may be gone, but its story, like the tree that held it, continues to grow.



Growing the Next Century

Alli Cobb's Landscaping Vision

Behind the greenhouse, neat rows of pots hold around 100 maple seedlings each collected as a samara or an already-sprouted seedling from the base of the Treehouse Tree. Groundskeeper Alli Cobb checks their progress in the morning. Whether one will be used as the New Maple Tree or in another commemorative project is still to be decided, yet the seedlings already anchor the conversation about Camp's next hundred years.

A Practical Philosophy

Cobb frames her work around three goals: honor Coast Salish land with native plants, build ecological resilience, and spark camper curiosity. "I choose plants that survive and teach," she explains. Sword ferns stabilize hill-sides, lavender lines the Craft Court walkway, so children can smell it underfoot.

Her approach is lived daily in her work with campers in the garden and through the extensive behind the scenes work necessary to help Camp use its precious resources responsibly and the mountain of work necessary to maintain 160 sprawling acres of woodlands, gardens, and lawns. For example, through the kitchen staff's fastidious sorting of kitchen scraps, Cobb produced over 1000 lbs of compost last summer.



Dig It: Gardening with a Wait List

Each session Cobb leads Dig It, a hands-on gardening class so popular it fills quickly and keeps a wait list. Junior, intermediate, and senior campers rotate through the greenhouses and garden beds, learning how compost becomes soil, how worms aerate earth, and why sun and shade matter as much as water. "Gardening shows cause and effect to those paying attention," Cobb says. "The kids taste what they've grown and understand effort in a new way."

Berry Tunnel No More

One showcase project grew directly from Dig It lessons. Last year intermediate campers helped Cobb remove and reimagine the old berry tunnel. They transplanted water-starved raspberries closer to irrigation, propagated strawberry runners, and lashed bamboo poles into tepees for pole beans using salvaged twine. Opening up the old tunneled-in space allows for better space for activity and learning around vegetable beds on the north side of the garden.

Managing Invasives and Fire Load Management

Island beauty brings challenges. Himalayan blackberry crowd fence lines; horsetail pushes through the tennis court. Cobb tackles what she can during shoulder seasons but knows the work is never finished. "If there were three of me, one would work on load reduction full-time," she quips.

Orchard Renewal

Within the Garden stands an aging plum orchard. Many trunks are hollow yet vigorous shoots rise from their rootstock each spring. This summer, Cobb has been thinking of grafting heirloom varieties onto those shoots, turning the grove into an educational orchard where campers learn pruning and grafting skills and better understand the fruit they're holding.

The Vardo Wagon in Bloom

With the tree-house maple gone, and the historic Vardo wagon returned to the GABLAP (the grassy area between the lodge and pickleball courts), Cobb filled its weathered flower boxes with bright flowers that can handle the daily attention of curious hands. The cart is an invitation to

campers to remember the treehouse tree and enjoy the same space together.

Everyday Learning Moments

Cobb builds small, repeatable touchpoints into the Camp day: lavender harvests for craft sachets, compost sorting, quick lessons on the difference between a fir and a spruce during walking meetings. These moments, she believes, "turn scenery into learning" and connect campers to the land in ways that linger long after closing day.

Preparing for 2027

As the centennial nears, Cobb's checklist grows: retrofit drip irrigation in herb beds, repaint mile-marker trail signs, and map fire-risk zones in the back acreage. Yet she remains rooted in a simple truth. "This old maple grew and was cherished and protected long before we arrived," she says. "Now it's our turn to add the next layer."

Every transplanted raspberry cane, every shovel of compost, and every seedling nurtured behind glass is part of that layer. Years from now a new generation of campers will rest under mature branches, unaware of today's decisions yet benefiting from them all the same. In that future shade Cobb's quiet daily work, and the enthusiastic digging of many small hands, will speak for itself.

Easier Tuition Assistance Applications, Earlier Answers

Tuition Assistance Timeline Shifts to Fall for Summer 2026

Last summer, Four Winds piloted **Clarity**, a mobile-friendly platform already used by hundreds of independent schools nationwide. The Clarity platform keeps information more secure and automatically links applicants' tax information. We are hopeful that applicants find the process streamlined, especially as we head into our second year.

Our next goal is to give our families a head start on summer planning by moving the tuition assistance calendar to align with the Camp application calendar. Beginning on **October 1st, 2025**, the tuition assistance application link (Clarity) will go live on the Camp website.

"We've heard from families—and I've felt it myself as a parent—that having key information earlier can ease the pressure of planning summer logistics," says Allie Okner, chair of the Board's Financial Aid Committee. "With award decisions coming through in early winter, hopefully, summer planning will feel more manageable for families."

How it works this year

Early October – Camp registration and tuition assistance applications open on our website.

During camper registration, parents can opt in for more information about financial aid and are directed to the aid page, where the Clarity link lives.

December/January – Tuition Assistance Awards granted

Faster for returning families

If you used Clarity last year, most data will preload. Clarity reports that updating the form in year two takes very little time, especially if your financial picture hasn't changed much.

Ready to apply? Visit **fourwindscamp.org** on October 1 to start registration and, if needed, submit your tuition assistance application. Earlier answers and a quicker renewal process should make planning for summer 2026 easier than ever.

Alumni Spotlight

How Two Alumni Are Helping Kids Connect the Camp Way

Before dinner each evening, the GABLAP (grassy area between the pickleball courts and the lodge) buzzes with the kind of genuine conversation that only happens when screens are nowhere to be found. Kids call across the courts to make plans or reserve a court, their voices carrying the excitement of real connection. No texts or notifications — just the simple act of talking, listening, and being present.

This scene of authentic childhood interaction stayed with former counselors Chet Kittleson and Graeme Wallace-Davies long after they hung up their polos. Now, nearly a decade later, they're bringing that same spirit of voice-to-voice connection into modern family life through their innovative startup: Tin Can, a screenless landline designed specifically for kids.

Camp Roots Run Deep

Both Chet and Graeme spent formative years on staff at Four Winds, where they witnessed firsthand how children flourish when given the freedom to form relationships without digital interference. Their time at camp wasn't just about teaching skills or leading activities; it was about observing the magic that happens when kids navigate social situations on their own terms.

"Camp is still very much a part of my life," Graeme reflects, noting how their children have grown up together despite geographic distance, maintaining the kind of intergenerational friendships that camp families often cultivate.

The lessons learned watching campers build authentic relationships would later prove invaluable. As Graeme explains, "There's something relational there that's different than a gif or an emoji that you normally get." At camp, they saw kids practice taking turns in conversation, managing awkward silences, and developing the social skills that come from face-to-face, or in this case, voice-to-voice, interaction.

A Journey of Purpose

"The path to Tin Can wasn't straightforward. The duo first collaborated on Far Homes, a real estate startup, that never found its way.



Former camp counselors Chet Kittleson and Graeme Wallace-Davies trying out the Tin Can Phone.

But the experience taught them a crucial lesson about entrepreneurship. "If we're going to do this again, I have to be on fire, ready to run into a burning building," Chet told his co-founders when they wound down Far Homes in September. "We loved Far Homes, but in hindsight weren't personally connected to it the way I now believe you need to be."

That fire came when Chet recalled a conversation outside his kids' school, where parents commiserated about the exhausting logistics of arranging playdates. "It's so much, I'm like an assistant to my kid," the group agreed. The memory of his own childhood — simply picking up the landline to call a friend — sparked an idea that would soon catch fire.

The Tin Can Vision: Analog Connection for Digital Times

The Tin Can Phone is refreshingly simple: "a super-magical WiFi landline for kids" that plugs into your home internet but works like the wall phones of the 1980s. Pick up the handset, hear the dial tone, punch in a number, and connect. No screens, no texting, no apps: "just real conversation with friends, neighbors, Grandma, or whoever you add to your approved contact list."

Parents control the contact list through a companion app, ensuring kids can only call and receive calls from ap-

proved numbers. The device even includes quiet hours for homework and bedtime, though emergency calls remain accessible.

From Kitchen Table to Phenomenon

What started as prototypes built at Chet's kitchen table has exploded into a movement. The numbers tell the story: A couple of months ago they were selling a few Tin Cans per day. Now they're selling hundreds per day across all 50 states and in Canada. This growth happened almost entirely through word-of-mouth, with parents sharing the product with "soccer teams" and "first grade classes."

Camp Values Come Home

Tin Can embodies many of values that Four Winds has held for nearly a century. When Graeme's seven-year-old daughter Lillianna was told the family wouldn't get her a smartphone until she was 16, her response delighted him: "I already have a phone, dad."

This simple exchange captures what makes Tin Can special. It gives kids independence and social agency without the risks of smartphones. Children practice real conversation skills — "taking turns... practicing entering this conversation, leaving this conversation, asking questions... being awkward in silence."

For Graeme, watching his daughter use the Tin Can provides "an opportunity for her to continue that social development" beyond school and activities. It's the same kind of growth that happens naturally at camp, translated for home use.

Looking Forward

As Four Winds Westward Ho approaches its centennial, stories like Chet and Graeme's remind us how camp values ripple outward into the world. Their journey from counselors watching kids connect authentically to entrepreneurs helping families reclaim childhood demonstrates the lasting impact of the camp experience.

For alumni families interested in bringing this "new-school landline" into their homes, Tin Can is offering a special Four Winds referral code. Visit tincan.com/pigeonwing to join a growing community of families choosing connection over convenience, conversation over scrolling.

In a world increasingly mediated by screens, two camp alumni are proving that sometimes the best innovation looks backward: to dial tones, twirly cords, and the simple act of calling a friend. Just like at camp, the magic happens when we give kids the tools to connect on their own terms, one conversation at a time.

For more information about Tin Can Phone and the special Four Winds offer, visit tincan.com, or send them a note at chet@tincan.com or graeme@tincan.com.



Trip Leader Eddie Bailey holds the Southern Cross in its first moment back in the water.

War Canoe Restoration Complete

Last year, we introduced you to Pat Chapman and Joe Goldsmith's meticulous restoration work on our historic War Canoe fleet — six vessels dating back to 1929, with the oldest now 95 years old. We're pleased to report that the first phase of this project has been completed with the full restoration of Southern Cross, our 1929 green canoe, which required replacing thousands of corroded fasteners, five ribs, planking repairs, new canvas, and fresh paint. Thanks to Joe's dedicated work, four of our war canoes — Southern Cross (green), North Wind (dark blue), South Wind (light blue), and East Wind (yellow) — are currently serving campers on the waters of the San Juan Islands. The remaining two canoes await full restoration, and we continue to explore options for completing this important preservation work. We're grateful to Joe for his ongoing commitment to maintaining these treasured pieces of camp history and to the donors whose support makes this careful stewardship possible.



COMMUNITY UPDATES

Hello! **Max Deckman** here giving an update on my life. Hope everyone at FWWH is doing well and I am always excited to hear from you.

This past year I worked on exploratory geology projects in Arizona and Nevada, looking for critical minerals such as copper, zinc, and gold. I also published my first academic paper on rocks in west-central Wyoming (The Chugwater Group), and that paper was awarded publication of the year from The Mountain Geologist. On the home front, this past year I moved from Bozeman, Montana to Boise, Idaho. I am excited to settle in and start a new life in a new city!

I'm excited to hear from other people about their lives!
—Max



Cary (Harder) Hueser, Daphne (Edwards) Opperman, Rebecca (Homer-Smith) Dearie, Ann (Russell) Felton, Alice (Tumilty) Crebs, and Sarah (Rutledge) Crump had a great

weekend in Palm Desert this March. (And missed **Perrin (Rowe) Redford!**). They spent a lot of time reminiscing about days as campers, CTs, ACs and staff, and delighted in the new adventures their children are having as campers, CTs, ACs, and staff. Neal Woodall really got it right: "And those children all have children now, and they sing the same old songs. And high above the fireplace, Miss Brown sings along."



Our family, **Shannon, Rob, and camper Beatrice Gould** moved from Seattle to Victoria BC in March. We have already met a Four Winds alum and have heard that there are some fellow Four

Winds campers at Beatrice's new school! We are enjoying and adjusting to our new island life - including the lovely afternoon tea service at the Fairmont Empress. Now if we could only get a ferry from Vancouver Island to Orcas Island! — **Shannon Gould**

Madeline Larson (Hansen)'98-'13 - My husband Brent and I live in Snohomish, WA where we are raising our two children Annabelle (2) and Maxwell (6). We are having so much fun showing them all of the magic that the PNW has to offer! We love spending time on Orcas with my sister Helen, her husband Loomis and their son Willy (2) at the Heston's family home in West Sound. I feel so lucky that my best friends in life are people I have met through camp. This past June we traveled to Paris with a group of camp friends for Suzee Ihrke's wedding - it was magic and mayhem in the best way!

I am having so much fun on the Four Winds board! It's great to connect with everyone who is also passionate about camp. I get up to Orcas Island each summer with my brother, Brad, also a camper in the 1970s. — **Bindy Hanson**

Sydney Heath, having received her Master's of Social Work from Columbia University in May, is headed back to California (to San Francisco) in September. Photo is from May after Sydney's MSW commencement in New York.

Charles Heath will complete his degree in psychology at CU Boulder in May 2026, and will be applying to law school.

Nicole Blom Heath is about to undertake the 192 mile Coast2Coast walk across England with friends. 16 days, about 30,000 total elevation!

*What I can do - I will -
Though it be little as a Daffodil -
That I cannot - must be
Unknown to possibility -*

Emily Dickinson, 1830-1886

— **Nicole Heath**



Amy LaTrielle camper 1981-1989: counselor 1993 (I think - or 94?) changed jobs to Chief, Grants Management at Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance based in Geneva, Switzerland. The focus is transforming global grants management design, review and implementation of immunisation programmes in lower income countries.

My son, **Mons Lohof, camper 2017? CT 2019** (check the years) was accepted into menswear fashion design at Central Saint Martins in London.

My daughter, **Saphira Lohof, camper 2016,17,18,19** (again check years but she was there 4!) graduated with an IB diploma from Ecolint in Geneva and is going to St Andrews university to study history and philosophy this fall. — **Amy LaTrielle camper 1981-1989; counselor 1993**



William Phillips and Gemma Fox, who met at FWWH when they were twelve(!) will attend Syracuse University together this Fall. — **Carrie Phillips**

I'm entering the fifth year of my Clinical Child Psychology Ph.D. program at the University of Kansas and recently proposed my doctoral dissertation. I'm also so happy to share that I got engaged at Four Winds on Moonraker Point last winter and have since married my husband, Bruno. Though Bruno never attended camp, he knows how important it is to me, and it was so special to start this next chapter of my life in such a magical place. — **Annie Ryder**



Jeff Jagels and Lottie Johnston are engaged!

In Memoriam

In Memory of Harlan Pedersen



A good friend of Four Winds, Harlan Pedersen, passed away last month at age 100 at his retirement home in Santa Barbara where he had lived since 2017. Harlan was a beloved island architect who volunteered his services to Camp for more than fifteen 15 years, guiding us through a program of updating, renovating and replacing key buildings, while retaining the historic character of Camp. He devoted thousands of hours to loving restoration of some of Camp's most cherished buildings, including remodel of Hilltop, redesign and expansion of Health House, replacement and expansion of the Craft Courts buildings, among others.

Harlan was born on August 28, 1924, in Askov MN a small Danish farm community near Duluth. He moved to Santa Barbara when he was 14. At age 17, shortly after Pearl Harbor, Harlan joined the Merchant Marines and served as a radio operator on Liberty Ships during WWII. In 1953 he graduated from the USC School of Architecture and for the next 40 years practiced architecture in Pasadena CA at a firm he founded. A passionate sailor and avid pilot, at age 65 Harlan retired from his firm and moved to Orcas Island where he established a solo architecture practice.

Throughout his 60-year career as a practicing architect, Harlan devoted himself through volunteerism to the betterment of the communities in which he lived. As Harlan's talents became evident on Orcas, his volunteer services were increasingly sought out for important projects on the island including, supervising the construction of the island's Medical Center; planning and supervising the construction of an addition to the Orcas Community Center; design of the Orcas Senior Center; re-designing the Parish Hall of the historic 1875 Episcopal Church; and the preliminary design plan for the addition to the Orcas Island Library.

Amy Fields, a former board member who worked closely with Harlan on his work at Camp commented, "I had a degree in architecture but was just starting



the lengthy process of getting my license. Harlan took me under his wing as my supervising architect. He was an excellent teacher and a great designer who totally “got” Camp. He appreciated the art, craft and designs around Camp from all over the world. He understood the human scale, integrity, and connections to nature that informed Ruth Brown’s vision. He was a very special man and I will miss him.”

Harlan’s guiding star was to bring out the beauty in all things. That legacy will live on forever at Four Winds.

In Memory of JoAnn Fray

Born in Seattle, Washington July 16, 1928 to Martha Lindberg and Henry C. Isaacson, Sr. at Swedish Hospital, of which her grandfather John Isaacson Sr was one of the founders, JoAnn attended St. Nicholas-Lakeside School, where she was president of the student body. After two years at the University of Washington, she transferred to the Toby Coburn School in New York City where she majored in fashion merchandising.



Throughout her life Joann studied fine arts and architectural interiors; She was instrumental in the design and construction of her own home that were directly inspired by the beauty she saw. A winner of awards in flower arrangements, Joann was a member of The Seattle Garden Club where she became a Flower Show Judge. Later, she became an honorary, lifetime member of the Garden Club of America. She served on the Committee to Help Redecorate the Governor’s Mansion in Olympia Washington.

JoAnn spent her summers at the family’s house on Orcas Island and at Four Winds and Westward Ho Camp, where she learned sailing, canoing, and horse-back riding, attending as a camper and working as a counselor.

Her love of four Winds extended to her five children—Martha, Leslie, Heidi, John and Erin — all who attended camp for multiple summers. In addition, JoAnn’s 3 grandchildren, Avalee, Hadden, and Wells also attended camp for many years. JoAnn remained active in Four Winds long after she was a counselor there, sitting on the board from 1978 to 1984. She spent her last twenty-five years in San Francisco.

JoAnn passed away on July 22, 2024.

For questions regarding remembrances, please address them to Leslie Fray at lfray551@aol.com.



Preserving the Magic, Building the Future

Your Generosity at Work

Ciarán Willis, Development Director



In a letter to a parent in the late 1930s, Four Winds founder Ruth Brown captured something essential about this place we love:

“Four Winds has always been more than a place where we learn to ride, swim, trace the march of summer stars, or hoist a shining sail. Many a guest who sits for but one evening around our fire senses, underneath the singing

and the poetry, the candlelight and firelight shining on brass and copper, those things which call us all back summer after summer. They call back across the years to all old campers who have once known their spell. We call it Four Winds Spirit. It is that and something more. It is a way of life... simple... happy... fundamental. You do not lay it away with your Camp bloomers. It goes with you wherever you go, giving new zest to whatever you do. It makes for accurate arithmetic papers, neater closets and bureau drawers, a deeper appreciation for music, beauty in all forms. It is ready laughter, greater joy in work, kindness, which is actually another and simpler word for tolerance. It is freedom from pettiness. It is a little green trail leading to all of the simple things the whole world is seeking.”

Nearly a century later, your generosity ensures this spirit endures.

Every summer, 68 campers arrive at Four Winds on tuition assistance, about 20% of our community. They join their peers on the dock, rig lasers for sailing lessons, and set off on Carlyn for Desolation Sound. This inclusion exists because of you.

Your support reaches beyond tuition assistance. You maintain our 60-foot yawl, Carlyn, designed and built by Four Winds in the 1990s. You fund small-group expeditions through the San Juan Islands that trace little green trails to self-discovery. You sustain our maritime program — unusual, yet central to how we inhabit and explore the



islands. You preserve our aging buildings in their original character, understanding that how Camp looks matters to how Camp feels. Campus upkeep, artist residencies, the thousand quiet details that secure each summer all flow from this wellspring of community generosity.

May Match: A Community Love Story

Each spring, we run a time-limited, matching campaign for our tuition assistance program called the May Match. This year, between May 21-28, 2025, 107 members of our community contributed \$102,705.52 to our tuition assistance program, making it the second best May Match in Camp history.

These contributions were votes of confidence in Four Winds’ drive for accessibility and inclusion.

What makes this achievement particularly meaningful is the breadth of participation. From young alumni making their first gifts to grandparents ensuring future generations can experience Four Winds, this campaign demonstrated the multi-generational commitment to keeping Camp accessible. Every gift, whether \$10.77 or \$10,000, contributed to a powerful message: financial circumstances shouldn’t determine who gets to experience the transformative power of a Four Winds summer.

This May Match success reflects broader momentum in our development efforts, led by our flagship Sky & Sea Campaign.

Sky & Sea Campaign: A Dock for the Next Century

As we close the door on our successful phase one of the Sky & Sea Campaign, we look to the dock where this fall we will undertake a significant upgrade.

The dock is the stage for o many stories. Four Winds stories. It’s where nervous first-timers step off the water taxi into a new world. It’s the launching point for Carlyn adventures and the finish line for triumphant returns from inter-island trips. As alumnus and board member John Descamp reflects: “For me, there were two centers of Camp, the dock and the pickleball courts. But the dock was my first love. I spent hours down there even when I didn’t have a class. I loved sailing, canoing, and all the other adventures that sprung from that dock. Countless campers have fallen in love with boats and trips because of our dock. As a major focal point of Camp, the dock should be world-class, safe and well-suited for today. I can’t think of a more worthy investment at Camp.”

This project goes further than a renovation. We’re building for the next century with environmental stewardship at the forefront. Creosote-treated pilings will be replaced by galvanized steel. High-density polyethylene pipe flotation, fusion welded for durability, will support fiberglass reinforced plastic grating designed with 60% light penetration to protect eel grass beds below, enabling Camp to be responsible stewards of the Salish Sea, protecting forage fish breeding grounds in the off season.

Join Our Growing Community of Support

Whether inspired by the May Match success or the Sky and Sea Campaign’s proximity to completion, here are meaningful ways to sustain Four Winds’ spirit:

The Moonraker Monthly Giving Club represents the steady wind in our sails. Miranda Middleton Hedlund shares: “We love being a part of the monthly giving to Four Winds through the Moonraker Club. It makes it very easy for us to set a target amount to give for the year by breaking it down into monthly amounts. And it’s set up to happen automatically, so we don’t need to actively do anything each month! We also feel good knowing that we are helping provide continuous support throughout the year for expenses as they arise.” Monthly giving provides predictable support while making generosity manageable through smaller, regular contributions.

Multiple Giving Options ensure everyone can participate in the way that works best for them. Visit our website for convenient online giving options, or mail contributions to PO Box 140, Deer Harbor, WA 98243.

Our September Annual Appeal coincides with our fiscal year end (September 30) and represents another opportunity to join this momentum.



For those considering gifts of stock or securities, these often provide significant tax advantages while supporting Camp. Contact Development Director Ciarán Willis at ciar-an@fourwindscamp.org to explore these options.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit (Tax ID: 91-0828602), all gifts to Four Winds are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Looking Ahead with Gratitude

As we prepare for Four Winds’ centennial year in 2027, we are so thankful for your community for supporting camp through these renovations and for your continued support of our Tuition Assistance program through May Match. Beyond these numbers, we see something more profound: a community that understands what makes Four Winds irreplaceable and who is committed to preserving it for future generations.

Your generosity ensures deserving young people won’t face financial barriers to this experience. It maintains programs like Carlyn, a tradition which has been a part of Camp since its beginning. It builds infrastructure to serve future generations. It preserves a place where magic still happens — where young people discover hidden capabilities, forge lifelong friendships, and connect with the natural world in ways that change them forever.

Ruth Brown saw it clearly all those years ago: Four Winds is “a way of life... simple... happy... fundamental.” It’s something you don’t lay away with summer clothes but carry forward, that “little green trail leading to all of the simple things the whole world is seeking.” Your support ensures this trail remains open, well-tended, ready for all who need to find it.

Thank you for being part of this continuing story. Together, we’re ensuring that 100 years from now, water taxis will still arrive at a sturdy dock, Carlyn will still sail across the Salish Sea, and young people will still discover — beneath the singing and poetry, the candlelight on brass and copper — that Four Winds Spirit that calls us back, summer after summer.

Here’s to fair winds and the century ahead.



The Ruth Brown Legacy Club

Planning Ahead to Support Four Winds Camp

The “Ruth Brown Legacy Club” includes community members who have included Four Winds as a beneficiary in their Estate Planning. So when that person passes away, Camp receives a donation in their memory. It’s a wonderful way to give without impacting your current financial situation, a crucial piece of our fundraising efforts, and a thoughtful way to continue supporting Camp in future years. There are 55 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 ciaran@fourwindscamp.org

Anonymous (4)	David Lowy	John DesCamp	Pieter Van Zandt
Alexandra Torrance Okner	Diana Wiegel	John Wineman	Rebecca & Bill Wellington
Ann & John Felton	Donald Priday	Karin McKinnell Leidel	Ryan Glant, Alison Bettles & family
Ann Haley Fromholz	Dr. Kris Saldine	Katie & Jess Weinstein	Sam & Cynthia Coleman
Arden & Brad Hofler	Eleanor “Elbell” & Richard Crebs	Margaret E. Enderlein	Sarah Baker Morgan & Tom Thornton
Barbara W. Demere	Eleanor Dootson	Marilyn J. Anderson	Scott & Valerie Corvin
Belinda Hanson	Elizabeth Crispin	Matthew & Nicole Murray	Sue Metcalf Robertson
Bruce & Marty Coffey	Ella Brittingham	Megan McCaslin	Susan Clauson & Jim Koskinen
Carlyn Kaiser Stark	Emily Glass & Gerry Santillan	Melissa Palmer and	Thomas & Laney Techentin
Catherine Adams	George & Marion Mohler	Michael Marshall	Thomas Russell
Charles & Alberta Lamson	Henri Broekmate	Mike & Sharon Douglas	W. P. Stewart
Ciaran Willis	Jackson Payne Ballard	Nate Benjamin	Wendy Gilbaugh Kelley & Steve Kelley
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