

# Discovery

## 2023 Successes

By Cathy Stackpole

"I love to listen to waves roll by,  
And love –watching the seagulls fly,  
And, friends, are gathering on the sand.  
It takes me back to Ferry Beach again."

More than 4000 people came to Ferry Beach last year! We had a great year in our September through May conferences, bringing in revenue of \$367,800 as compared to 2022 of \$140,344. We also had a great summer, with more than 2000 people coming to an event or conference and revenue of \$813,000 as compared to 2022 of \$780,134.

We were so very grateful for our donors, who contributed \$297,737 last year. These gifts included funds for the Underwood roof, the generator in DeWolfe Dining Room, the Metz cabins maintenance funds, and the renovation of bathrooms in the Grove (the latter is still way short of our goal, so we will begin fundraising again when the weather warms and people are using the Grove.)

Our biggest challenge of the year started at the very tail end of 2022 when a big storm knocked out power and the Dining Room was flooded by frozen pipes. We spent the better part of the winter of 2023 drying out and renovating!

With the challenge of the dining room the Winter of 2023 was quieter than we would like around here, but several small groups enjoyed convening their events here at Ferry Beach. This activity kicked into high gear at the end of March with a music retreat and a wonderful quilting retreat. Many of our weekend retreats also found their way back to Ferry Beach.

Overall, the year shows we are rebounding from the pandemic, but like many not for profits, and businesses, we are struggling with higher costs for utilities, food and labor. One wonderful change that has been growing for several years now is our Labor Day Weekend, which continues to be popular with our summer conference goers and locals.

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## AND MORE!

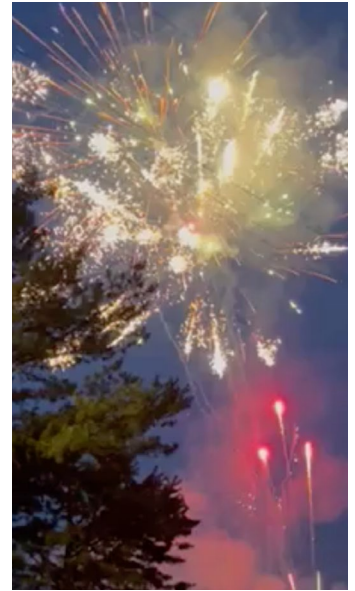


## A Time for Fun- Sands and Stars Week at Ferry Beach!

Coming to the beach for the week of July 4th with family and friends just got more fun!

Ferry Beach is known for its multigenerational family conferences which have been offered for more than 50 years, bringing workshops, intergenerational games, and activities for the whole family. Mornings are often spent in workshops which offer great content, joy, and in the case of the new Sand and Stars conference, multigenerational activities. You and your family can stay at Ferry Beach if you like, or if you already reside in the area or are visiting you can join the conference as a commuter during the day! During this conference we host our first cookout of the summer season with lots of amazing, barbecued food (all-you-can-eat), games & activities, live music and dancing. Registration for the cookout is now open on our website, so be sure to sign up for this evening of fun! On the 4th of July, from Ferry Beach you have a ring side seat to fireworks from across the Bay! A fun getaway for everyone of all ages!

Here's a look at some of the great leaders and workshops you can choose from.



### Theatre Arts at Ferry Beach with Jesica Garrou

Calling both experienced performers and novices who want to perform! Actors, singers, dancers, gymnasts, acrobats, musicians, mimes, clowns.... however, you like to perform, bring your talents. Also calling visual artists and crafters- want to help make props, costumes, and set pieces? Bring your talents to this project too! Once we know what talents are in the room- both obvious and hidden- our director, Jesica Garrou, will help us craft a theatrical performance unique to Ferry Beach. Jesica Garrou produces and directs in NYC, Maine and beyond.

She belongs to the League of Professional Theatre Women whose mission is to create parity for women theatre-makers. She produces and directs the On Her Shoulders series at New Perspectives Theatre Company in NYC, bringing plays by female playwrights historically overlooked to the light of the stage. Back in her home state of Maine, she is the founder and former president of Royal River Players where she also directs a plethora of shows for audiences of all ages by actors of all ages.

### Join the Band with Rudy, Chuck, and John

Channel your inner rock star. All levels. Learn how to jam & play with others. Song arranging & playing from charts, with over 40 charts provided. There's plenty of opportunities to practice and perform later in the week (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday nights). "Join the band" is a three-day workshop with Rudy, drummer Chuck, bass John - from Onward and the Ferry Beach monthly Jam. This workshop is geared for ages 14+ (younger for youth with musical experience). Rudy Gabrielson has been a leader in music for over three decades and a Ferry Beacher for over twenty years, facilitating workshops, monthly jam sessions and more. He plays a variety of genres on piano, harmonica, mountain dulcimer, penny, whistle, melodica and djembe.



### Ecojustice with Dan Harper

In this relaxing workshop, we'll explore the natural world around Ferry Beach, from the beach to the woods. We'll play some fun games based on ecological principles and practice some outdoors skills. We'll talk about a few Ecojustice Elders, people who furthered the principles of both economic justice and ecological justice. We might even dissect some flowers. Dan Harper holds the Field Naturalist Certificate from Mass Audubon and has been teaching ecojustice for over a decade.

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### Spiritual Arts with Robi Altamari

Join Robi as we play with some of the most popular artistic mediums that Ferry Beach has to offer. From Fashion Art and Recycled Treasures to Nature Photography and Beach Sculptures, artists of all talents and levels are invited to come discover that the joy of art is in the process and that art at Ferry Beach is always judgement free. Robi Altamari has been a leader for our youth camps and religious education week since 2005. She is a registered yoga teacher and works professionally supporting adults with disabilities. One of her joys is escaping to the art cabin at Ferry Beach and getting into that wonder-filled imagination zone.



Ferry Beach has created special pricing for this conference so that more families and individuals of all ages can take advantage of all it has to offer. Come join us!

### Transformations at Ferry Beach!

Over the last few months, we've been busy making many improvements throughout our campus buildings. Morris Cottage was the first to be renovated with new flooring in the kitchen.

Rowland has received many transformations all throughout! Ziegler Room now has a whole new refreshing look and feel to correlate with the rest of the Rowland meeting rooms. Can you spot all the changes in this room below? We'll tell you in case you can't; Dave painted the original brown wooden panels blue and the brown window trim a bright white.



It's amazing how a little bit of paint can drastically change and add character to a room. We love Ziegler's new look and are so excited for groups to utilize and make new memories in this space! Moving to the next room, Gayla Theater is now much brighter with the installation of new lighting. Spring Quilting by the Bay was the first group to use this brightened space and expressed their love for how much easier it was to work in and see what they were sewing! Bathroom stalls throughout Rowland and Quillen also are newly painted. Also, Underwood now has a new roof, it was installed this week! Thank you to everyone who donated during our roof fundraiser, your donations make it possible for us to upgrade our facilities. If you'd like to support the continued improvements on our campus, you can submit a donation at [ferrybeach.org/giving](http://ferrybeach.org/giving). The Dolphin room is next on the list to be upgraded with some new cabinetry.

### Support the Longevity of Ferry Beach!

Give the gift of Ferry Beach to future generations. It is easy to include us in your Will. If you believe strongly in our mission and work. To talk more, contact us at 207-282-4489.

### We are Hiring for Summer!

We are looking to add to our team! We're hiring a full-time individual in our dining hall and part-time personnel in maintenance. You can apply or learn more at:

[ferrybeach.org/jobs](http://ferrybeach.org/jobs)

### Do you Have a Drone?

We'd love to have drone footage of our campus this summer! If you own a drone and are interested in taking footage of Ferry Beach, send us an email: [ferrybeach@ferrybeach.org](mailto:ferrybeach@ferrybeach.org).

### A Challenge: Who do you know?

This month we challenge you to think about groups that you know who would be interested in having a gathering at Ferry Beach. Talk to them about Ferry Beach and your experience with us. Referrals are so important to our organization! We'd be happy to give them a tour and speak further about their gathering needs.

## The Nominating Committee Recommendations for the 2024 Slate of Board Members

To: Ferry Beach Membership

From: Paul Provencher, Nominating Committee Chair, on behalf of the Nominating Committee as a whole.

Subject: Nominating Committee Slate, 2024

Date: May 10, 2024

The Ferry Beach By-Laws state:

*Section 9 – Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee will be comprised of five (5) members, including a Director as Board Liaison, each serving a three (3) year term. This committee will nominate candidates for the Board of Directors, members of the Nominating Committee, committee chairpersons for non-Board operating 4 committees (e.g., Leadership Development, Capital Campaigns, etc.), and for open positions that will be filled formally at the next Ferry Beach meeting. It will be the duty of the Nominating Committee to nominate candidates for the offices to be filled at the next Annual Meeting. The Committee will solicit candidates for said positions from the membership and interested others, and report its slate of nominees to the Board of Directors at least six (6) weeks in advance of the Annual Meeting. A biographical background for each nominee will be included. The Nominating Committee report will also include the names of candidates submitted to the Committee for its consideration by petition of five (5) percent or more members. (underline by the Committee)*

The Nominating Committee has been meeting formally since the last Annual Meeting in 2023. As a result, we have published a list of attributes to guide our search. This document has been widely circulated via email, the Discovery newsletter and the web. The attributes of our recommended nominees are based on both “Best Practices” published for the Boards of Non-Profits, current needs and from past experiences of the Ferry Beach Board.

- 1) We vetted 8 new candidates for the board and 2 existing board members for officer positions, which consisted of: interviews, and an extensive review of materials given to us by persons who knew these candidates. We met several times and rank ordered the candidates based upon the qualities and needs of the organization now. We feel that this slate is very strong as it touches on most of the needs outlined in the list of qualities the board/organization needs and is looking for.
- 2) We are putting forth 6 new candidates of the 8 new candidates identified.
- 3) We heard from many members during this year, giving us new names to consider for nomination and we did reach out to several more people who may consider a board position in up-and-coming years. We are so grateful for all the wonderful people you connected us with, and we hope they will consider connecting with the governance of our organization in more formal ways in the years to come.

*The Nominating Committee received a petition for two nominees who were vetted by the traditional Nominating process which is outlined by the By-Laws. They additionally submitted a petition of members, which did not meet the requirement as outlined in the by-laws, therefore they are not included in our notice to you.*

The Nominating Committee followed guidance based on sustainability for the organization and a need for a diversity of representation on our board.

The work of the Nomination Committee is a “confidential” process. That is, we ask many general and personal questions of our members. We hold that information in confidence and don’t talk about these matters to the general membership. Members whose name is placed in nomination may be selected, may be asked to accept another position, may not be selected, or may choose to remove their name from consideration. This process is a protection to all those members so that they may maintain their confidentiality and dignity.

If you have questions regarding the above or the nomination process you may approach a member of the committee for clarification. Thank you.

Nominating Committee: Paul Provencher, Robi Altamari, Pam Emery, Janet Hinton

### We put forth:

#### Executive Committee Positions



Ron Willett, Board President

Ron grew up in central Texas and moved to Washington, DC as a young man after law school. He says the general practice of law and life as a Gay man in a homophobic culture were two things that did not suit him. Ron held various positions in the US Dept. of Labor during his 30-year career in the Federal government in DC. He retired in 2010 and moved to Lowell, MA where he now lives with his spouse, Bill. Ron and Bill are both Ferry Beach Life Members and active participants in GAYLA.

Ron has been an active UU since 2002, is a facilitator/teacher of Sacred Circle Dance (which he learned about at FB) and has been active in 12-step recovery for 25 years. He was among the founders of the Triangle Club in Washington, a

non-profit meeting space for Gay/Lesbian groups of 12-step fellowships. He served on the Club's initial Board of Directors for a few years, acting as Secretary during part of that time. Ron has also served on the Board of the Dept. of Labor Fitness Assn., including time as Secretary, and on the Session (governing body) of a Presbyterian church in Washington.

For the last 3 years, Ron has been the Vice President of the Board of Ferry Beach and looks forward to his role as President. Ron believes this is an exciting time to be part of the Ferry Beach family and is looking forward to facilitating efforts to make Ferry Beach work even better for even more visitors.



Robi Altamari, Vice President

Robi (Roberta) looks forward to bringing her leadership and experience with a change management process as she deepens her volunteer work with Ferry Beach. She looks forward to working in the Vice President's role as we begin our next strategic planning process. After attending the Universalist Convocation (with Ron Willett in 2019) and the witnessing the changes locally and globally since then, she remains deeply inspired to lead and collaborate as we carry forward the courageous spirit of universal love from our ancestors and keep working towards building a safe, sustainable, and compassionate future for our beloved community.

Robi first came to Ferry Beach in 2005 with her two daughters to volunteer with Different Drummers Youth Camp for middle schoolers. She joined the staff team in 2016 as the Youth and Family Coordinator, serving 3 years. She loved meeting the many wonderful folks who come to the summer conferences. Robi's resume includes 30+ years of supporting adults with disabilities, 20 years of Unitarian Universalist lifespan religious education and youth ministry leadership, and many interesting side jobs like being a columnist for her city newspaper, working as a paralegal, illustrating children's songbooks, leading her Tempotime music and movement program for little kids, and being a wellness guide to people coping with challenging times.

Her education includes a bachelor's degree from Suffolk University, a fellowship studying youth ministry with Meadville Lombard Theology School, the interim training for religious professionals, and her certification as a 200 hour yoga teacher through Breathe For Change. She recently got certified as a Kripalu Restorative Yoga Teacher. She worked last summer for a new family conference, Sand and Stars. You are enthusiastically invited to join her any time she is here at the beach. Robi has served on the Ferry Beach board for 18 months.

#### **For Director Positions, we nominate:**



Jeanette Ruyle

Jeanette is a retired Unitarian Universalist religious educator who first came to Ferry Beach Religious Education (RE) Week in 1999 as she began this second beloved career, spanning 18 years and serving two congregations. She continued to attend RE Week at Ferry Beach most summers, and for several years was part of the volunteer RE Week staff, including being a Coordinator. Prior to becoming immersed in all things RE and UU, she was a psychiatric clinical nurse specialist working with geriatric populations, and persons with substance use disorders. When she became a mother of two amazing children, her interests shifted significantly. Fortunately, this coincided with her discovery of Unitarian Universalism which led to all the above.

She is active in her hometown congregation, First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield, MA where she is a member of the Executive Board, Green Sanctuary Committee, Social Justice Incubator, and choir.



Eileen Cummings

Eileen grew up in Vermont and was raised Roman Catholic though she now attends the Unitarian Universalist church of Greater Lynn, MA. In 1980 she moved to Boston to pursue her master's degree in salt marsh ecology and later completed a second master's in computer science. Between getting her master's degrees, Eileen taught in Catholic school and at Northeastern. She was also the Financial Manager of the Boston Food Coop for several years. She has lived in Swampscott MA for over 30 years. She worked as the information technology manager for a small trust firm in Boston and retired after 22 years in April of 2023. Eileen has served on boards of two congregations and was the president one church during COVID. She loves getting away to Ferry Beach and was a co-coordinator of Women's Week at Ferry Beach for two years. In her retirement she teaches Our Whole Lives curriculum for older adults and youth, leads the High School youth group and volunteers at several organizations. In her free time, she knits, does needlepoint, takes long walks with her dog Wickford and knits and knits.



Michael Valletta

Michael was born and raised in western Connecticut, Michael moved to Maine in the spring of 2018 for his now fiancé, Mark. Michael is an experienced leader, spending more than a decade in retail management. As a manager, he fosters individuals new to the workforce and has grown the stores in which he works. He is often found facilitating conversations and plans with stakeholders and partners. Michael was also a part time blogger that led to a formal partnership with a local newspaper. This hobby led to a side hustle of marketing and content creation with the rise of social media where Michael consistently promoted small businesses and points of interest. Michael has a passion for all things New England and is well traversed throughout the region.

Particularly important to him is being a good steward of the environment and believes strongly that places like Ferry Beach play a key role in teaching future generations about environmental impacts. Michael is also a very active member of the LGBTQ+ community where he has built several strong partnerships and friendships with key stakeholders for events and is a constant voice for the community through his platforms. He is looking forward to serving on the board and has a great deal of energy and connections to resources in the region.

A resident of Biddeford, Michael loves the southern Maine region and has adored calling it home for the past several years and is excited to see what the future of the region holds.



Julie Parker Amery

Julie has been a part of the Ferry Beach Community since 2003 connecting in a variety of ways including church retreats, winter workshops, and Religious Education Week (for which she has held multiple leadership positions). She has served in leadership capacities on several boards (including the Unitarian Universalist Massachusetts Bay Religious Education Team, PTA, UU Society for Ministerial Relief; and her town's Educational Foundation).

Having grown up in the Congregational Church, Julie became a Unitarian Universalist soon after graduating from college. After holding a series of positions at the Unitarian Universalist Association, she got her M.Ed degree in secondary school counseling. In 2000, she answered a call she had since high school to become a religious professional at the First Religious Society in Newburyport, MA. She very recently retired after many fulfilling years in her role as the Director of Faith Formation and Spiritual Exploration. In 2017, Julie completed the Spiritual Direction Certification Program at the Rowe Center and her practicum work was to create a program, "Soul Stories", which engaged participants in deeply listening to one another's personal stories.

In 2022, she completed a certification program to become a Conscious Dying Coach and she is currently studying to become an interfaith chaplain through the Chaplaincy Institute of Maine. As a church professional for over 20 years, she understands systems. Her skill sets include communications (particularly written), mediation, and the ability to see things from different perspectives. Julie is particularly interested in programming that appeals to and welcomes a wide spectrum of people to Ferry Beach.



briana R. Sevigny

briana (first name intentionally lowercase, she/they pronouns) was born and raised in Saco with strong roots still in the area. She is currently residing in Medford, Massachusetts just outside of Boston. After attending the University of New Hampshire for her Bachelor of Arts in English, briana has spent over 20 years working in Higher Education around the New England region, working in Residential Life and Housing at Eastern Connecticut State University and Assumption College, then in Student Conduct at Johnson & Wales University - Providence, Northeastern University, and currently at Tufts University.

She is passionate about animals, community development, and the environment, and loves training and public speaking. She has a Master of Science in Counselor Education from Central Connecticut State University and a Master of Legal Studies from Northeastern University School of Law. She spent over 20 years volunteering with the Dirigo Girls' State program, educating high school girls about civic responsibility, levels of government in the state, and how to be an engaged and responsible citizen in Maine and beyond. She has experience with conflict resolution, Restorative Justice, diversity and inclusion work, lgbtqa and gender equity, policy development, and more. In her spare time, she also works with Beautycounter as a Brand Advocate to help people learn about safer skincare and beauty, with an eye toward protecting people and planet. briana is thrilled to help create opportunities for community engagement for all those who love Ferry Beach, in addition to enhancing environmental stewardship, learning and networking, and connecting with an area and place she has so dearly loved.



Helen Blatz

Helen is a financial planner, now retired. For many years, she worked in a not for profit as a financial planner, and then became a certified financial planner with Edward Jones.

She, her wife Lauren, and their daughter have been coming to FB since her daughter was a baby --about 25 years. She was the coordinator for UUFAF for a couple of years. Her daughter attended youth camp. They have attended Circle of Life Conference and in the last few years, other Ferry Beach summer conferences.

Helen has served on many finance committees of both church groups and a not-for-profit organization. She served on the financial side of the council on aging in her area. She is well versed in estate planning and would very much like to contribute ideas to how Ferry Beach members can put Ferry Beach in their legacy planning. Helen's big goals for Ferry Beach are profitability and sustainability.

Helen is nominated for an unfinished term due to a resignation, of one year. She would be open if it was a good fit for something more.

# Discovery

MAY 2024



Ferry Beach Park Association  
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(207) 282-4489 • ferrybeach.org

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## **Something New... An Open House!**

*Join us on Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10am-12pm*

Tell everyone you know; Ferry Beach is having an Open House this June, right before the Annual Meeting! There's no better way to experience and learn all about Ferry Beach, what we do, our programming, retreats and events, than at this event! Come join us for some hours of fun! This Open House event is open to the public, so anyone can attend.

### **What to expect? All these fun activities will be at our Open House!**

- *Campus Tours*
- *Browse Local Craft Vendors*
- *Live Music*
- *A Taste of our Food with Samplings*
- *Cookout*
- *New Products & More*

After this event, we'll have our Annual Meeting (note-the annual meeting is only for Ferry Beach members during 2023). Town Hall begins at 11am, followed with lunch and the meeting at 1:15pm.



Learn more at: [ferrybeach.org/open-house](https://ferrybeach.org/open-house)

