

## A Note from Rev. Wendy von Zirpolo

President of the Board



“We’re On Our Way ...”

### Long Range Preservation and Development Plan

Following many months of gathering information and analyzing options, your Ferry Beach Board of Directors is ready to move forward on a plan to meet the long-term preservation, facility and program needs of our beloved spiritual home! The group gathered this past month in a marathon session to finalize plans for moving ahead. We look forward to sharing a vision for the future based on need, good stewardship and reality.

We have been working hard over the past two years to determine how to best meet our facility needs as part of our strategic planning process. This was no small task. Just some of the issues include seriously compromised kitchen space, limited meeting space, dune erosion, and ... how shall we put this ... an overabundance of head bruises for tall people sleeping in Rowland bunks! Now, after

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# Discovery

February 2007

Newsletter of the Ferry Beach Park Association

## The Long-Range Capital Plan at a glance –

A comprehensive capital and maintenance plan would take three to five years to complete and address the immediate needs to renovate our kitchen facility, protect our campus from dune erosion, upgrade Rowland’s sleeping quarters and bathrooms, increase meeting space, and create central storage and maintenance facilities.

### A Deeper Look

**Kitchen & Dining Facility:** Our kitchen and the loft above it are sinking! Following many, many years of repairs, the sagging roof and disintegrating floor require replacement. Many options have been explored, including the renovation of the current building, and your board agrees the best solution is a new building located where the yellow cabins are between Gardiner and Rowland. This one-floor facility would serve our dining and kitchen needs and also include a large deck overlooking the playground area. The yellow cabins would be moved to another location on campus.

**Campus and Dune Preservation:** Current estimates by Maine State environmental experts indicate that within 50 years, sitting on Quillen porch may include dangling your toes in the ocean during a severe storm! Rowland could be at risk in 100 years. Those estimates are based on no action on the part of the government or Ferry Beach and its neighbors.

The proposed plan is two-fold: 1. Lobby our congressional delegation to bring back the Water Resources Development Act, which included a major effort to fight dune erosion in Camp Ellis and Ferry Beach caused by the jetty. Unfortunately, the bill died in committee as time ran out on the congressional session ending in 2006. 2. Commit to an ongoing dune sand replenishment and sea grass planting program over the next several years.

**Rowland Renovation:** An immensely improved Rowland Hall (second floor) would include new insulated walls and ceilings, carpeting in all

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Discovery is published three times a year by Ferry Beach Park Association

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talking with our membership and others committed to Ferry Beach, and researching and analyzing a variety of options, the board has identified a plan we believe has the flexibility to meet our needs well into the 21st century. We're excited about sharing this plan over the next several months and look forward to feedback from all of our members, and others who are interested in preserving and enhancing Ferry Beach.

We look forward to hearing from you at the many informational forums that will be scheduled to present plans, gather feedback and answer questions. Feel free as well to contact Ferry Beach Executive Director Craig

Lentz or any of your board members. Contact information is available at [www.ferrybeach.org](http://www.ferrybeach.org).

We continue to be blessed with a dedicated board and staff and I thank them all for the tremendous work they've done over the past two years to get us to this point. Truly, this is one of the most exciting and important periods in the history of Ferry Beach – come, join us as we head into the future, changing lives every step along the way –

Yours in Faith & the Future,

*The Reverend Wendy von Zirpolo*

sleeping rooms, new furniture and lighting fixtures, and fresh painting. The current bathrooms would be replaced by eight new single units.

**Increased Meeting Space:** The current Quillen dining room would be converted into several meeting spaces. The conversion would be done in conjunction with the demolition of the current kitchen and loft structure.

**Storage and Maintenance Facility:** A much-needed central storage building would replace Gardiner garage. The building would be strategically located behind the new dining facility with drive-up access from Morris Avenue.

### What's next?

Your board has engaged the services of consultant Larry Wheeler, formerly of The Mountain Retreat and Learning Centers and now a UUA Fundraising Consultant. He met last week with Executive Director Craig Lentz and Ferry Beach Board President Rev. Wendy von Zirpolo to discuss the progression of events. Key to the process is a financial feasibility study to determine the expected level of fund-raising possible within the Ferry Beach community. Your board is committed to base any recommendations in sound engineering and realistic funding. The comprehensive plan is expected to cost in the range of \$850,000–\$950,000. One donor has already come forward with \$75,000 and another unsolicited donor has offered \$10,000 in a matching gift!

In the coming months, Larry will be contacting a variety of members to participate in conversations that will allow him to complete this feasibility study and provide the Board with a realistic fund-raising estimate.

Should you be contacted, we hope you will participate.



*Ferry Beach Board of Directors in winter*

Those not included in this study are ENCOURAGED to participate in any number of ways. Information about the plan will be detailed at the annual Coordinator's Weekend on April 20–22. Members are invited to attend dinner, a presentation, and a question-and-answer period on Saturday night. More information will be mailed out to membership, and additional information sessions will be held throughout the summer. We hope you'll engage with staff and board with any questions, concerns and/or affirmation! You may do so in person, via email, phone or mail. WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU !!

### Annual Meeting Kick-Off –

With feasibility results in hand, engineering and construction plans complete, membership feedback considered and volunteers recruited and trained, we'll kick-off the official Capital Campaign on Labor Day Weekend 2007 and hope to see you there !!



## Craig's Column

Many Unitarian Universalists shudder at the thought of missionary work. The thought of taking the message to the street and preaching it from the rooftops makes many of us very uncomfortable. Yet, that is exactly what Ferry Beach is doing – well, sort of.

*“From the autumn of 1891 until 1895, Mr. Shinn was a self-appointed missionary. He did the work because he loved it. The support for it came from individuals who believed in the work and believed in him.”* This is an excerpt from *Universalists at Ferry Beach: A History* and I quote it here to illustrate that although 105 summers have passed since our creation, we are still walking proudly in the

footsteps of our esteemed founder, the Rev. Dr. Quillen Hamilton Shinn.

This year we are making a concerted attempt to take the words, music and spirit of Ferry Beach to UU congregations in New England and beyond. By reaching into these communities, we help folks to discover Ferry Beach, or to renew their connection. Not only do we want to bring more adults, youth and families to our summer conferences, but we hope to spread the word that Ferry Beach, and places like it, should be a vital part of life in the 21st century.

The act of retreating, of finding a safe place to spend a week to reflect, rejuvenate and re-energize, is critical as our world becomes more complex. Where else can you find a vacation that doesn't compromise your values and where you can be accepted for who you are?

So we have hit the road, taking the message of Ferry Beach to places that want to hear it. Like our forefather, we believe in missionary work, of spreading the good news, and of making a difference in the lives of those who spend time with us. The only thing that is missing is the horse (in a 32-month period, Dr. Shinn traveled almost 72,000 miles, much of it on horseback!)

Ferry Beach is a place that changes people's lives, and we want everyone to know it!

– Craig Lentz

## RE Week will Feature “Curriculum” Renaissance Module

This summer's Renaissance Module will be “Curriculum Planning in Local Congregations” NOT “Unitarian Universalist Identity” as previously advertised. In addition to, but separate from the “Curriculum” module, Judith Frediani, Director of the UUA's Lifespan Faith Development Staff Group will be on hand to share highlights for the new Tapestry of Faith curriculum. Together we will explore how these various age-based curricula will help us deepen our Unitarian Universalist connections in our RE Programs.

Also offered is “Articulating Your UU Faith” which is an adult program designed to help UUs speak more effectively about our liberal religion and their particular perspectives on it. In addition, we hope to dedicate some

of the morning programming time to spiritual practices like yoga and meditation.

The RE Week theme for 2007 is RE-vangelizing: Taking Religious Education into our communities and beyond! The Rev. Naomi King, of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Utica, New York, will inspire us with daily worship. Also, UUA Moderator, Gini Courter, will deliver a keynote address and spend part of the week processing threads from her address in follow-up conversations. During those discussions, we will be challenging ourselves to figure out ways to take the love and hope of our faith beyond our congregations! Join us for this week of renewal and relaxation.

– Jenn McAdoo, RE Week Coordinator

## Attention Singers!

### Ferry Beach to Host A New Northeast UU Choral Festival

Have you ever wanted to sing in a gospel choir? Would you like to explore the joys of singing in a chorus or a chanting circle? Or are you a chorister who wants to experience singing with different voices or different music than your group normally offers? Then the Ferry Beach Choir Festival may be the conference for you.

The Choral Festival is a new program this year. Jean and Walt Rostron, veterans of Ferry Beach's Circle of Music Conference, are the coordinators. The festival will focus on the joys of multipart singing.

"During the week we want to fill the Beach with the sound of choral music. We encourage you to be a part of the music! Love of singing is more important than previous experience or skill," said Jean and Walt.

The workshop tracks include *Gospel & Spirituals*, *Traditional Choral Singing* and *Chants*. Following an all-conference warmup, morning tracks will break off to their own singing areas until noon. Afternoons afford free time to enjoy the beach or options of private voice coaching, additional singing in small groups, or just gathering to get to know each other better. Many of the activities will depend on the interests of the participants and the mix of voices attending the conference.

*Workshop Leaders:* Steve Finner, Gospel & Spiritual leader, is the Director of Music at the Unitarian Universalist Church of St. Johnsbury, VT. Steve has traveled all over the world inspiring congregations with his workshop, "How Can We Make a Joyful Noise: Empowering the Congregational Voice." Steve invites us to overcome our UU objections to traditional Trinitarian and Theistic language by moving to the spirit beyond the words of powerful gospel and spiritual hymns. Elaine Bomford, Choral Singing leader, has led the singing workshop in the Ferry Beach Circle of Music the past two years. Elaine has sung in and conducted the group *On Wings of Song*, been a soloist with the Boston-based *Halalisa Chorus*, and participated in many a cappella groups. Linda Goodman and Joe Pollock, Chants leaders, have been Musicians of the Week at Ferry Beach in past years, have sung with *On Wings of Song* and together have performed many musical gigs as "JoeLinda."



### Family Service Week with Habitat is Now a Teen Camp Too!

By popular demand, Teen Service Week with Habitat for Humanity will be reinstated to join Family Service Week during the week of August 11 – August 17. When the early summer dates of our traditional Teen Service Week were unavailable at Greater Portland Habitat for Humanity, we decided to open the available August Habitat week to families. Little did we know that many teens had been looking forward to volunteering at Habitat with their peers as a camp experience.

When the calls started coming we contacted Trish Geraghty, Teen Service Camp coordinator since its inception. Trish graciously stepped up to coordinate the new Teen Service Week in August. Trish will recruit counselors and take care of planning for the camp. To cover staff costs and transportation to the Habitat site, the affordable price of the camp will be the same as last year, \$505.

## YOGA ... YOGA ... YOGA ... YOGA ... YOGA ... YOGA ... YOGA ...

If, at first glance, you cannot find the Yoga workshop in the Body, Mind, & Spirit write-up in the Ferry Beach conference booklet, keep looking and you'll find it at the very end. An astute Ferry Beacher has pointed out to us that *Yoga* should have been printed larger to indicate that it is a workshop unto itself, not part of the Psi Symposium evening programs. Somehow this slipped by all of our proofreading. However, this little mishap provides us with a very good opportunity to highlight *Yoga* and the other wonderful Body, Mind & Spirit workshops.

First and foremost we thank Sibylle Mayer Baughan who has taught yoga at Ferry Beach for 25 years and is stepping down this year. For many of those years Sibylle was assisted by Madeline Monaghan, a gifted yoga instructor and creative arts therapist in her own right. Each summer Sibylle and Madeline tried to limit their class to 20 conferees and always had people begging them to take one more student. How grateful we are to have had two professional Yoga teachers with many years of combined experience give their time and expertise to Ferry Beach.

To ensure the ongoing quality of the Yoga program

and to avoid leaving Ferry Beach in the lurch, Sibylle recruited two highly-qualified Yoga instructors to lead this summer's Yoga program. They are Certified Yoga Teacher Jacqui Sweeney from Waltham, MA, and Licensed Massage Therapist Gail DesRochers from Portland, Maine. We are very fortunate to have them!

Body, Mind & Spirit will also feature Mara Morris's popular World Dance and Paneurhythmy workshop AND morning and afternoon Psi Symposium workshops most ably organized by longtime Psi Symposium member Peg Smith. Psi Symposium's theme speaker will be Louise Olivi, M.S. Louise has been counseling and teaching metaphysical/healing topics for the past 18 years. She holds degrees in psychology and counseling from Southern Connecticut State University. An ordained Spiritualist minister, Louise is certified in Reiki energy healing and hypnotherapy.

This year Body, Mind & Spirit is in the capable hands of coordinator Joy McNaughton, a member of the Ferry Beach Board of Directors. Two years ago Joel Rosenberg and Ellen Calvert launched Body, Mind & Spirit as a new conference. Thank you, Joel and Ellen, for creating this thriving conference!

## Phase One of the Second Annual Stewardship Pledge Campaign Wraps Up

This year marks our second annual stewardship pledge campaign and now that the active calling part of the campaign is concluded, we are taking a moment to reflect on how far we have come, and how far we still have to go. To date, over \$51,000 has been received or pledged, and this doesn't include several new life members. Last year's campaign raised just over \$41,000. As we had hoped, Ferry Beachers are embracing the idea of supporting "The Beach" as one of their spiritual homes. We are only into the beginning of 2007, and our goal of \$85,000 is well in reach.

One of the challenges of a pledge campaign, and one of its opportunities, is to create a tradition of pledging, of showing support to a place we all love. The active part of the campaign may be over, but we will continue to encourage folks to pledge to Ferry Beach, to become a member of the Association, and to get involved. The more people we have involved and excited about what we are doing, the better we are all going to be. There is a positive energy, a buzz if you will, that is surrounding Ferry Beach. Let's all do our part to expand our reach and be the best community we can be.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the first phase of the campaign a huge success. The following people gave their time and talents to be captains and callers: Aisha Hauser, Anne Mann, Barbara Stroup, Betty Cosgrove, Bob Kelley, Brad Cohen, Bruce Plummer, Carol Hayden, Carol McIntyre-Peale, Carol Recchino, Charles Boothby, Craig Lentz, Dale Rhodes, Dick Hall, Dick Scobie, Donald Whisenhunt, D'Vorah Kelley, Essjay Foulkrod, Fayre Stephenson, Gary Adams, Iain McLellan, Jill Scobie, Jim Peale, Joe Thompson, Joel Ross, Joy McNaughton, Joyce Adams, Karen Goldsmith, Laura Wagner, Laurie Loosigian, Lynette Gardner, Margaret (Mugs) Johnston, Marlaine Mahady-Potter, Mindy Whisenhunt, Nancy Knights, Natalie Gregory, Paul Provencher, Paul Riechmann, Ruby McKay-Nadeau, Ruth Gitchell Shepard, Sandy Hopkins, Steve Onacki, Sue Hamlett, Susi Koch, Tom Malone, Troy Liston, Wendy Badger, Wendy von Zirpolo, Wes Kasprow, and Wilda Wyse.

## A Big Band-Aid on the Kitchen and Other Winter Projects



### The Kitchen

With plans for a new Ferry Beach kitchen underway, spending money on the old kitchen seems a shame. But, it had to be done. The old kitchen built on wooden posts was sinking slowly into the dune.

According to Ferry Beach Maintenance Director Claude Nadeau, "With these repairs we'll gain at least a year or two. Without them, we might not have been able to open in 2007. Someone could have fallen through the floor." Claude, Operations Director Ed Mann, and Saco carpenter Rod Bellerose patched the bad spots on the walls and jacked up the sinking corner of the floor nearly

four inches, and painted the ceiling and walls. They replaced floor joists and footings, installed a new sub-floor, and a new floor drain for the tilt skillet. With the installation of a new vinyl floor, new doors and improved lighting, the band aid project was complete.

Claude and Ed also made several small design changes in the kitchen. As Ed put it, "We made various modifications and improvements to the ergonomics of the kitchen." Nice vocabulary, Ed!



Most winters Claude does nearly all of the work on the winter projects. This year Ferry Beach hired some contractors because Claude had rotator cuff surgery in November. After a couple of setbacks, Claude's shoulder is healing well.

### The Beacon Waltham Cabin

Thanks to the tremendous generosity of the 2006 *Family & Friends* conferees, Ferry Beach had ample funding (\$9,000) to renovate the Beacon Waltham cabin. This is the cabin that in recent years has been the summer abode of Crew Chaplains.



Like the kitchen, the Beacon cabin was also sinking into the dune. One side of the cabin had sunk a good inch or two. The result was that the floor was splitting apart in the middle of the cabin with a gap of one-and-a-half to two inches in some areas. Rod Bellerose jacked up the sinking wall, closed the gap in the floor, and shored up the joists. The walls of the cabin were stripped and reconfigured to create a bigger bathroom with a new shower and hot water heater. With new sheetrock on the walls, a new vinyl floor in the bathroom and carpeting in the rooms, the cabin looks terrific.

Perhaps most noticeable of all from the outside, the cabin has new windows. The original 1955 windows were rotting out and literally had to be opened with a crowbar and closed with a hammer. The new insulated, double-hung windows open and close with ease and look perfect on the cabin.

“A similar renovation will be done on the Fisher Cabin next door using remaining funds from the *Family & Friends* gift and money from the Ferry Beach Park Association/ Ferry Beach Ecology School Joint Winterization Fund,” said Executive Director Craig Lentz. Ferry Beach and the Ecology School each contribute \$2,000 per year to the joint fund. The accumulated funds are to be used for projects that deal with freezing temperatures.



*Gardiner and Rowland Hall lie quiet in the snow.*

## Special Meeting of the Board

Saturday, April 21, 2007 from 5 to 9 p.m.

Board Notes: All current annual and life members of Ferry Beach are invited to a special meeting of the Board on Saturday, April 21, 2007, from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. This event is planned in conjunction with Coordinator's Weekend and begins with hors d'oeuvres and fellowship at 5 p.m. Dinner begins at 6 p.m., followed by a presentation on the Long Range Preservation & Development Plan highlighted elsewhere in this edition. The presentation will be followed by a question-and-answer period. To register, please call 207-282-4489, or email our registrar at [fbregs@maine.rr.com](mailto:fbregs@maine.rr.com). Limited overnight housing may be available.

The Ferry Beach Board of Directors has been busy reviewing the current by-laws and will be proposing updates to be voted upon at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, September 2, 2007. We will detail the proposed changes in the next edition of *Discovery*, due in the spring.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Ferry Beach Board of Directors, or learning more about this opportunity, please contact the current chair of the nominating committee, Luiza Brown, at [ITCW.LBrown@hotmail.com](mailto:ITCW.LBrown@hotmail.com).

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