

THE ALUMNAE CIRCLE

Camp Onaway



Spring 2020

Looking Back 100 Years: Celebrating Suffrage—and Onaway!

By Susan Jackson, *Skytops 1978, Trustee 2011 - 2014*
Editorial Director, *The Juillard School*



Mrs. Conklin, Miss Cumstow, Miss Frost, Mrs. Hollister

Over a decade ago, I was invited to work with the wonderful Helen Stokes Greven on editing her history of Onaway, *Let Her Strong and Ageless Be*. Now, in honor of the upcoming centennial of the passage of the 19th amendment, which expanded voting rights to most women in the United States, I've been asked to write something about suffrage and life at Onaway during that challenging and momentous time for women. Very sadly, Helen is no longer with us, and I haven't uncovered how Onaway founder, Mrs. Hollister—and the next two directors, Miss Frost and Miss Stiles—felt specifically about women's right to vote. But clearly they aimed to empower women to be independent and strong.

Mabel Woodbridge Hollister was born in May 1868, a year before Wyoming became the first U.S. territory to approve women's right to vote and the long-percolating national women's suffrage movement continued to gain traction. Twenty years later, Wyoming would argue successfully that its women maintain their right to vote if it were to become a state (which it did, in 1890)—and Mabel Woodbridge's cousin, Aaron Wellington, fell in love with Newfound Lake in New Hampshire. Within a year, he'd started buying land in the area—including the area that would become Onaway—and convinced friends and relatives to join him in creating a sort of summer colony.

By the mid-1890s, more western states were granting women's suffrage, and Aaron Wellington's family friend Ned Wilson, captivated by the burgeoning summer camp movement, opened a boys camp called Pasquaney. Mabel, who was spending summers on Newfound Lake with her cousins and the Wilson family, was considered a "heroine" by the Pasquaney campers for her gracious charm, chocolate caramels, and role distributing camp medals at the end of the summer.

In 1900, Susan B. Anthony retired as the head of the National American Woman Suffrage Association and Carrie Chapman Catt took over. Also that year, another friend of Aaron Wellington, Elizabeth Ford Holt, opened Camp Redcroft for girls using the old Farmhouse on the property as a dorm and constructing a new building that would eventually be called Woodland Hall; the girls often spent their evenings at what they called Campfire Rocks. While Redcroft seems to have been successful, Mrs. Holt closed it after the summer of 1908 to focus on the boys camp she'd opened up the road, Mowglis.



In 1911, California granted women's suffrage and Mabel Woodbridge, now married to Henry Hutchinson Hollister, arrived at the former Redcroft site and began the work necessary to set up her own camp for girls, having found the perfect name in Longfellow's poem *Song of Hiawatha*: "Onaway! Awake, beloved!" The following year, the

Looking Back 100 years (continued)

Progressive Party included women's suffrage in its platform—and the first six Onaway campers arrived on July 2.

Mabel Hollister designed a program that fostered independence and self-reliance for her girls. In camp, they wore bloomers, themselves a symbol of women's independence, though when the girls hiked off-campus, they had to cover the bloomers with long, heavy skirts, which they hid behind the bushes after exiting camp, retrieving them on their way back from hiking. They played tennis and baseball and studied dance to promote gracefulness. And they learned to swim, somewhat unusually for the time. It's not known whether Mrs. Hollister knew how to swim, but she was always out on the water during swim classes, in the camp's sole rowboat, wearing a brown silk tie over her middie blouse, a whistle on a brown ribbon, and her hair in a bun with a brown bow.



By 1916, the first woman had been elected to Congress and the following year, New York became the first eastern state to fully enfranchise women. And finally, four years later, came the passage of the 19th Amendment. By that time Onaway had expanded—the first year, the campers, counselors, and the Hollister family all lived in an old livestock barn, expanding over the first few years into an extension of Woodland Hall (where Arts & Crafts is now), and then the very first cabin group, Wendies. One of Mrs. Hollister's assistants that first summer was Frances Frost, a teacher from Boston who would eventually (in 1936) become Onaway's second director. And in 1918, a young woman named Margaret Stiles answered a New York Times ad for a swimming counselor—and ended up staying on at Onaway for almost half a century including serving as its third director.



The 19th Amendment was ratified in late August 1920, just around the time Camp Onaway's ninth season was ending. Mrs. Hollister, Miss Frost, and Miss Stiles were passionately committed to the education and edification of young women and to their training as model citizens with a sense of compassion and honor. So as we celebrate the centennial of this milestone for women, let's pause for a moment to celebrate our foremothers—and make sure we all vote!

All of this Onaway history and more can be found in *Let Her Strong and Ageless Be*. Want your own copy? [Contact the camp office!](#)



Susan Jackson with Kathy Broderick Baird, Meredith Funston, and brother Fred Jackson at the Onaway Centennial.

Paving Paths in the Field of Law

By Susan Dietz Ramquist, *Skytops 1983*,
Trustee 2015- Present

Alumna Heather M. Seasonwein, Esq., camper 1985-86, aide 1987, counselor 1991, '92, '97, '98, has been practicing law for more than 18 years in the areas of family law, criminal defense, and personal injury. She is the only female partner at her firm and is a board member of the Maine Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and of the Maine Trial Lawyers Association, and she serves on the Supreme Judicial Court Advisory Committee on the Rules of Evidence. I had the pleasure of interviewing Heather recently about her experiences as a woman making her mark in the field of law:



Why did you choose to become an attorney?

Four years after I graduated college, I quit my job working as a case manager in a clinic for children at a Boston hospital and went on a backpacking trip in the Sierra Nevada and also co-led an OWLEs trip with Miss Liz Scribner. We had the best summer together. I was planning on moving back to Boston and applying to law school but decided to follow Miss Liz back to Portland, Maine and have lived in Maine ever since. I graduated from the University of Maine School of Law in 2001.

Before going to law school I seriously considered a career in social work like my mom but decided to pursue a career as a lawyer because I thought there would be more job opportunities. It turns out that practicing law is a lot like being a social worker in the areas that I practice in, which are primarily family law, criminal defense, and personal injury. I also serve as a guardian ad litem (helping courts assess what is in a child's best interest), conservator and guardian (helping people manage their personal and financial matters when they are no longer competent to do so) and mediator. As you can imagine, helping people who are involved in custody disputes and/or the dissolution of their marriages can be emotional and involve a variety of dynamics - financial, domestic

violence, mental health, and substance abuse. Likewise, many criminal defendants caught up in our system are poor, disenfranchised, dependent on substances, either victims of and/or perpetrators of violence, and struggle with mental health. It can be frustrating and disheartening but also gratifying when you can help even in small ways - sometimes that means just being quiet and listening to someone's story.

Would you share some of your experiences as a woman in your field?

When I first started practicing law in 2001, I worked in a medium size litigation firm in Lewiston, Maine. My boss was old school! He expected us to be at the office from 7:00 a.m. to at least 6:30 p.m. Shortly after I started the job, I remember leaving one Friday night, and as I walked out the door, my boss said that he would see me tomorrow. I said only if he was in Freeport. I thought I would get fired on the spot. As time went on and I had children, he realized that it wasn't about face time in the office. It was about getting the job done. Sometimes that meant missing work because a child was sick or leaving at 2:00 p.m. to go to a parent-child conference or not coming to work because I just needed a break. Eventually we came to an unspoken agreement, he stopped saying that he would see me on Saturdays and asked how my children were doing.

All the staff in the office were women, and only one other female attorney. I was the first lawyer who got pregnant. Negotiating maternity leave was interesting but, in the end, part of my maternity leave was paid for, and it paved the way for future female lawyers in the office. The same year that I was sworn in as an attorney, the first female Chief Justice of the Supreme Court was also sworn in. Around the same time that I had my babies and was nursing, coincidentally she sent a directive to the courts that the courts needed to be mindful and allow time for women to breastfeed. You would think this was a no brainer but...



Again, under the directive of the Chief Justice, the State of

Paving Paths in the Field of Law *(continued)*

Maine has embraced the “me too” movement by requiring a continuing legal education class on harassment in the workplace. When I first started as a young female lawyer, I experienced sexism predominantly from the older male practitioners. I remember one time walking into a room full of men for a deposition. They pointed me to the seat where the court reporter usually sits (most court reporters are women). Although I was offended, I made a joke. It broke the tension and we moved on. Dealing with sexism or any type of discrimination, I try to disarm the offender with humor and kindness. Unless it is egregious, like someone patting me on the butt (which still happens), this is how I tend to handle uncomfortable situations.

This is a tough profession so it’s helpful to have good relationships with your colleagues, the judges, and court clerks. Often before a trial or hearing the lawyers and judges meet in chambers mostly to gossip and catch-up. Back in the day when there were just a few women practicing law, the conversations generally were about sports. So one of my mentors said that she would read the sports pages before trial so that she could participate in the conversations even though she could care less about sports. Now there are more female judges and the conversations are not just about sports but also clothes and jewelry and what it is like to raise kids as working moms.

It sounds like there has been quite a bit of progress since you started in 2001. What is your workplace like now?

Now I’m a partner at a small litigation firm. I’m the only female partner and all our staff are women. It is ironic in some ways, but I’ve known my partners for almost 20 years, and we trust and support each other. We also

believe in treating our staff with gratitude and respect. We offer paid maternity leave and flexible personal and sick days. If someone needs to leave we don’t ask questions. Sometimes we have kids running around the office. I don’t always like being an employer - difficult decisions need to be made at times, and there is a lot of financial responsibility. We work to not only financially support our families but also our staff. If there isn’t enough money to go around then the staff is paid first. We can’t do our jobs effectively without our assistants. We work as a team.

How has your experience at Onaway helped you in your profession?

At Onaway, under the leadership of Mrs. Southall, I learned to deal with difficult situations by using kindness and humor. Onaway also instilled the values of community service, acceptance, being quiet, listening to others, being grateful, and working out conflict in a respectful way.

Do you have any advice for young Onaway alums starting off in their careers?



Heather with Carol Southall at Centennial

Do what makes you happy and is best for your family. Don’t be afraid to change careers or fields, even if you feel stuck.

Alumnae Events



Boston, MA: Miss Brookie Lanigan and Miss Angie Carini were Onaway counselors and know how to plan a fun activity! Thank you for organizing our Boston Alumnae Bowling Party!



Vail CO: Thank you Liz Porter Hawkins for hosting Onaway alumnae at your ski house! The small but mighty group shared Onaway memories and enjoyed the mountain before it was closed.

Be Not Afraid, Embrace the Challenge!

By Marisol Maddox, *Skytops 2002*
 Artic Analyst, Woodrow Wilson
 International Center for Scholars

Looking back at my experience of Onaway, I realize how profoundly influential those summers were during my formative years. Raising strong, kind, and wise girls is no easy task, and the seven weeks at Onaway truly build upon the concept of “it takes a village.” As I have gotten older, my sense of gratitude has only grown for the way that Onaway provided me with a prolonged retreat



from the pressures of modernity in a beautiful woodland setting and for the way that the traditions and women of Onaway helped to shape me and build confidence in the validity of my voice.

I moved to Washington, DC on election day in 2016 to explore homeland security graduate programs and to work on the recognition of climate change as a national security threat. Climate change is frequently referred to as a “threat multiplier” in the defense community because of the way that a changing climate (manifested in greater temperature extremes, prolonged droughts, greater storm surge, and inland flooding, food scarcity, sea-level rise, and the like) interacts with already existing risk factors to increase fragility and/or likelihood of conflict.

Examples of national security concerns run the gamut from increased conflicts over diminishing natural resources and weaponization of water by terrorist organizations to readiness and training issues for the military including evaluating if runways they are planning to use for aircraft will be underwater.

The Arctic is the region that I focus on. It is host to numerous evolving security concerns from thawing permafrost compromising the integrity of infrastructure, to ensuring our troops are well-equipped and trained to operate and survive in the extreme cold, to the increasing presence of harmful algal blooms which thrive in warmer waters, and rapidly accelerating activity in a previously inaccessible region where search and rescue capabilities are minimal.

This past August, after working on an Alaska critical infrastructure project, I was offered the remarkable opportunity to accompany the Coast Guard on an Arctic deployment aboard the 420-foot long icebreaker, Healy. We spent August in the Arctic Ocean on the heels of the July heatwave, which was so extreme that it resulted in Greenland’s land-based ice melt raising the global sea level by 0.5mm. Even up around 75 degrees North, we were not even close to seeing ice, much less having to break through it. I had been expecting frigidly cold temperatures but instead experienced temperatures in the 50s. It is one thing to read a news story about the polar regions, which are experiencing climate change at more than twice the global average, but it is quite another to experience it first hand.



Between working on Arctic geopolitical issues full time, and being a part-time graduate student studying climate change and security, the magnitude of the challenges we face can sometimes be overwhelming. On more than one occasion, I have found one of my favorite Onaway hymns, *Be Not Afraid*, come to me. I keep it posted in my bedroom to remind me that I am not alone.

Be Not Afraid (continued)

Inner strength and connection to something much bigger than one mere person, which Onaway helps to cultivate, contributes to the ability to look directly at immense challenges, and - rather than cower in fear or become paralyzed with despair - to rise up, move forward, and embrace the challenge.

I am also reminded of the chapel poem, *Be Strong*:

Be Strong!

We are not here to play, to dream, to drift.

We have hard work to do and loads to lift.

Shun not the struggle; face it!

'Tis God's gift.

Be Strong!

Say not "the days are evil."

Who's to blame?

And fold the hands and acquiesce,

Oh Shame! Stand up, speak out, and

Bravely- in God's name.

Be Strong!

It matters not how deep entrenched the wrong,

How hard the battle goes, the day how long;

Faint not, fight on, tomorrow comes the song.

These are the values that are needed to cultivate ethical and wise leaders, who do not shirk their duty to confront challenges but rather who have the strength to take them on and even dare to ask if we can be the better for it.

A camp like Onaway - with core values of self-discovery, simplicity, honor, spirituality & love, and community - contributes to building a structurally sound foundation of strength, confidence, and inner wisdom in girls from a young age, and is truly priceless. Onaway represents a quietly powerful form of resistance to forces that would teach us to be cynical and afraid and to feel disempowered.

We will need this strength in these coming years as we grapple with challenges never before experienced by humans. And we will need leaders who have the fortitude, integrity, and wisdom to guide and inspire us to step up and face those challenges.

So, God bless Onaway - the staff, counselors, and aides who keep her going; the alumnae, parents, and volunteers who recognize her immense intrinsic value; and the campers who are her lifeblood and our future leaders.

*"To us your name means wide awake,
Means better girls of us to make,
We give to thee one cheer today,
Onaway, my Onaway."*



Bailey Rice, Marisol Maddox, Catherine Blessing



Alumnae and parents, join [Camp Onaway Alumnae & Families private Facebook](#) group to be kept informed of Onaway news and events.

Alumnae only, join [The Circle private Facebook group](#) to network with other Onaway alumnae. Simply search for these on FB and request to join.



Join the [Camp Onaway Alumnae group on LinkedIn](#) and connect for professional networking and career oriented news and events. Onaway parents are welcome too!

www.camponaway.org password: 40winks

Never Give Up!

By Cristina Anez de Gomez, *Tiptops 1986*
Primary Care Physician, Northwestern Medicine

When I was pregnant with my first child and found out it was a girl, one of the first thoughts in my mind was "Yes!! She will be able to go to Onaway!" Last summer when I went back to Onaway to visit my two daughters for Fair Weekend and shared this story with other alumnae, I was surprised I was not the only one who had this same feeling.



I am from Venezuela and as a girl, I wanted to live an experience of a summer camp during vacation time. My mom had friends that sent their daughters to Onaway and recommended her to send me and that is how I became a camper from 1983 through 1986. Unfortunately, I couldn't continue returning due to different school schedules, and it became harder to miss school days. Then I went to medical school and coming back as a counselor was impossible.



I got married to a wonderful man who I met while in med school; we graduated together and went to Brazil to do medical residencies, then came back to live and work in Venezuela. Due to the extreme social, political and economic deterioration of my country, we decided to look for a place to move with our two daughters to be safe.

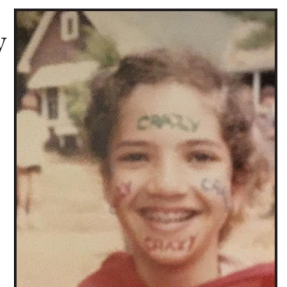
At that time, I was almost desperate, willing to give up all - belongings, home, friends - but the one thing that I was not giving up, was being a physician which has been my passion since I can remember. We decided to come to the US. In order to do that, I needed to study very hard and pass multiple tests. Until that time, I never thought in my mind that I was capable of studying again and passing all those tests at the age of 40, and 15 years after graduating from medical school. Everybody told me that it was near impossible to do it and that I should try something else. Almost a year later I not only passed all the boards but also matched into an internal medicine residency program.

Shortly after I started the intern year, when I thought my difficulties were over, the real big one just started when my husband passed away suddenly due to a heart attack, changing my life forever. At that time I knew only one thing and that was I was not dropping the residency, I didn't know how, but I just couldn't give up. I gave my best every single day, and not only did I finish, but I was also inducted into the AOA medical society, a huge honor for me as a foreign graduate.

Now, a year after finishing the residency and working as a primary care physician in my dream location, I look back and wonder how I was able to get where I am in such a short period of time. I realized that spending summer after summer at Onaway helped build my character with tools I still use on a daily basis. I learned so much when I was there without even knowing: the meaning of teamwork, being honorable, organized, independent, and strong, and, of course, it helped me to learn a new language. It definitely changed my way of viewing life and my future for better.

Also, my dream of giving my daughters the same experience as me at Onaway was almost impossible with all the struggles including the economic challenges I had to face. But since I just can't give up on things that are important to me, one day, I wrote a letter to Ms. Pendergast and with the help of scholarship funds and the Onaway Fund, my girls were able to go to Onaway. And I finally was able to come back after 30 years and live the Onaway experience again through my girls. This was the moment when I realized how important this experience was for me, and now the girls know why I love Onaway so much.

I couldn't be more grateful for that, and I already know that it will also change their lives for the better as it changed mine.



Cristina Anez de Gomez

Learning to Lead - Best Summer Yet!

By Erin Vetter, Skytops 2017

Reflecting back on my 2019 summer as an aide, I can already tell it changed my life. I had to deal with tough leadership challenges that forced me to grow. I had to learn how to manage emotional exhaustion and also understand myself better psychologically, including finding ways to relax that didn't involve scrolling through social media on my phone. Last summer was full of challenges, but there is nothing I would change!



The summer was a true growth experience for me. Put into new situations, like covering the office during the first bear sighting, I had to trust myself to handle it and learn. I discovered how crucial aides are to the success of an Onaway summer. Aides are a bridge between the campers and counselors. From this vantage point, we see how the program operates, what makes it so special, and we better understand all that has kept Onaway thriving for more than 100 years. Even though the mystery is revealed to us of how the magic is created at camp, aides get to help create the magic for others, which is so much more rewarding than I expected.



In fact, I think one of the main lessons I learned was to be considerate and thoughtful of others. One of my favorite parts was helping lead and teach the activities; seeing the growth and excitement in the campers' eyes was thrilling.

I loved being so close to the campers and experiencing their joy first hand. Through my aide projects, planning and leading a Staff Appreciation Day and Backwards Day,

I was able to contribute to camp as a leader and have an impact on campers.

I grew every day last summer, learning how to recognize when people were not in their best moods and

how to help them through it. I learned to work with and help people of all different personality types, and I learned so much more about myself: my limits, my capabilities, my love for camp. This summer helped me to become more considerate of others and mindful of how they are feeling.

My summer was packed with both lessons and fun, and I was pushed to new limits I wasn't expecting. Dedicating a summer to being an Onaway aide was worth the time commitment, an invaluable experience. I fear that in our society, where there is increased stress to do things intended to help one get into college, there could be less desire and inclination to spend seven weeks being a junior counselor at a summer camp. I have friends who are doing internships and other things specific to colleges. In my opinion, being an aide is just as valuable, if not more, than these other programs. Learning to lead others, be a team player, and manage new responsibilities is essential to preparing for college life and careers. Being an aide was, quite frankly, unlike any summer I have had before and probably the best one yet!



Tessa and Erin Vetter

The Pandemic That Closed Onaway's Campus

By Barrie Pendergast, *Skytops 1986*
Director

Since 1911, Camp Onaway has been a profound source of strength for campers and a touchstone for countless alumnae who draw inspiration from their days at camp. Today, our mission “to develop the physical and spiritual strengths necessary to meet the challenges of today’s world with honesty, sensitivity, and courage” has never been more important.

On the cusp of Onaway’s 109th season, we found ourselves in one of the most challenging times in camp’s history, forced to come to a decision about whether we could convene camp this summer due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. For the health and safety of our campers and the wider community, the Onaway Board of Trustees and camp leadership reached the unanimous decision to suspend the Onaway program for campers until summer 2021. This decision, while made with our heads, truly broke our hearts.

Our conclusion came after weeks of research, careful listening, and engagement with experts in the fields of medicine, public health, and the summer camp industry. We extensively reviewed the American Camping Association (ACA) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and state of New Hampshire guidelines for summer camps to operate during COVID-19, and determined our program could not succeed under the current guidelines and still provide any semblance of the program our girls know and love.

Although we will not run our traditional program at camp this summer, the Onaway staff and board made several decisions to ensure the spirit of Onaway continues

through the summer, leadership at all levels remains strong, and we will be well-positioned to welcome the girls back to camp in 2021.

All campers enrolled in 2020 will have a space reserved for them in 2021, including Skytops. Tuition and deposits can be directed to the 2021 season, refunded, or donated to Onaway in part or full. All seasonal staff and counselors will be paid for the 2020 season.

Under the capable direction of Miss Merry Richter, our resourceful counselors are currently collaborating on ways to engage the girls virtually this summer. They are enthusiastically developing a program that will bring much needed Onaway spirit to the girls. We recognize that a virtual camp cannot adopt our traditional daily schedule or replace time spent outdoors. Instead, we are focusing on camp traditions that offer the girls a chance to reunite with old friends and get to know new campers. The council’s initiative and spirit are strong and their creativity is boundless! Together, Onaway women and girls will make history and memories this summer.

Thanks to wise board leadership and a generous giving community, Onaway will survive the pandemic. We are working to offset our losses and will be tightening our Onaway belts as best we can. We know that there are times when alumnae and families can step forward to support camp and times when they cannot. If you are in a position to do so, please consider making a philanthropic gift that will help camp bridge the financial gap for the year and further ensure our legacy of providing an extraordinary camp experience for 2021. Thank you!



Ms. Pendergast is with husband Mr. Stambaugh and faithful friend Georgie on the creatively repurposed bench made by Mr. Gene. The beautiful relocated tetherball field sits atop the new septic system and will have lush green grass when the girls arrive next summer to

Onaway Fund, More Important Than Ever!

Dear Onaway Alumnae, Parents, and Friends,

We are thinking of our Onaway community during this COVID-19 pandemic and pray that everyone is doing well. Most importantly, we hope you are healthy and holding on to your indomitable Onaway spirit. I'm glad Marisol shared Be Strong in her wonderful piece on pages 5-6 about climate change and national security. Written well before this pandemic began, it couldn't be more timely today.

We realize that some people are experiencing financial stress and may not be in a position at this time to support all the organizations for which they care deeply, at the level they normally do. But every single donation to Onaway is important, no matter the size. If you are able, please consider giving extra generously to the Onaway Fund today. With the combined strength of our caring community, I know we will meet the challenge of Onaway 2020.

Onaway is definitively committed to supporting the staff and counselors of 2020, who in turn will be supporting the campers this summer and for summers to come. Onaway will be "in session" remotely this summer practicing leadership, connecting the girls with nature and with one another, and reinforcing Onaway values. With everyone's support, we will be able to seize creative opportunities to keep Onaway strong!

Gratefully,

Meredith

Meredith Funston, Skytops 1970
Director of Advancement

Onaway Fund Update - Goal \$200,000

Last year at this time: \$130,400 from 274 donors

This year: \$113,700 from 276 donors

Donating [online](#) is quick! Make a one-time gift, or make it monthly and join Onaway All Year.

Donating by mail is easy too! Send a check to Camp Onaway, 26 Summit Grove Ave. Suite 130, Bryn Mawr PA 19010

Donating stock/securities is always appreciated! Find transfer details [on our website](#) and give us a heads-up when your transfer is on its way.

We're hanging on, but we sure could use a hand!

[DONATE](#)



O-N-A-W-A-Y!
"This shall be our standard cry,
Ringing clear for brown and white,
Loyalty and might, rah-rah-rah!
Shout it out in unity as we lead thee on to victory!"



"I thought I was a climber but I quickly got my fill
While "playing hide and seek" with cows while scaling Tenney's Hill.
If every mountain climber must contend with things like that,
I'll pray for fallen arches and go climbing where it's flat!"
Manana, Manana!

The 2020 Annual Brown & White Alumnae Challenge Is On!

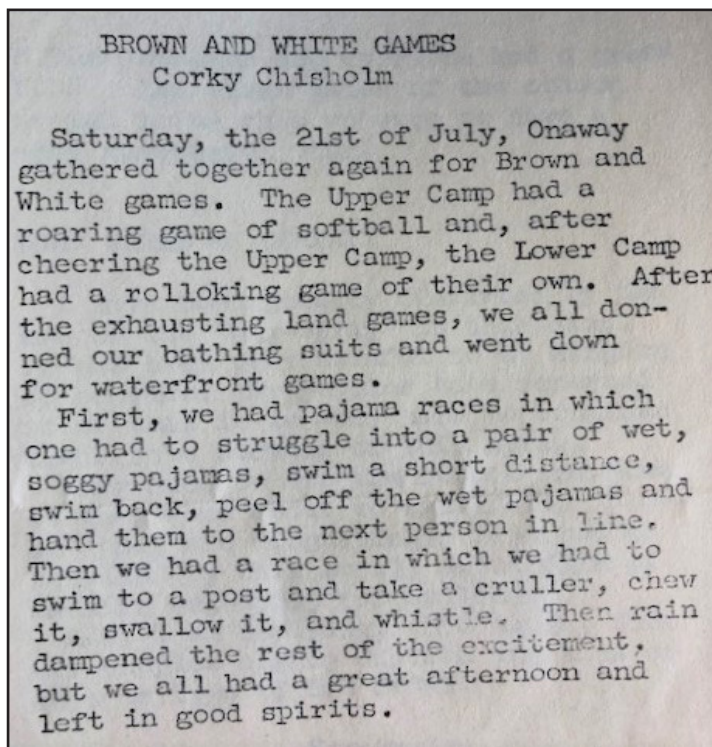
Help us make our Onaway Fund goal by making a contribution by August 1st, and win a point for your alumnae team. Don't recall which team you were on at camp? Call or text the referee at (603) 491-9908.

Already donated this year? Thanks! You can still play by giving again in any amount - even a \$5 gift earns a point.

Are you an Onaway All Year member? Fantastic! Your point is as automatic as your monthly giving. Consider it done! And thank you! Watch for Facebook and email updates to hear if your team is in the lead.



It's easy to donate online at www.camponaway.org where you can make a one-time gift, or join Onaway All Year (automatic recurring gifts).



From the first Onaway Rite-a-Way in 1967

Onaway and I Sustain Each Other

By Jennifer Ringe, Skytops 1980

When I first heard of the Onaway All Year monthly donation option, I was very excited since it means that there is no chance I will ever miss another opportunity to give back to the place that means so much to me and my family. This option makes giving so easy and stress-free! More importantly, not only am I giving to support ideals that have inspired me throughout my life, but I also see how much it means to my daughter Miranda Eisenman (Skytops 2018) and nieces Samantha (Skytops 2019) and Gabrielle Ringe (current camper) to have Onaway as a source of strength and grounding in the fast-paced world we live in.



I love the monthly opportunity to reflect on the connection that three generations of our Onaway women have with hundreds of other women and girls through Camp. When life presents challenges I often call upon Onaway memories and values to sustain me, and I also want Onaway to be able to count on me for sustenance. I hope more alumnae will join us in giving dependable monthly support to Onaway by signing up for Onaway All Year!



Circle Program News

Founded in 1993 by Onaway Trustees and staff, Circle provides girls from low-income NH families opportunities to learn the skills, courage, and confidence they need to handle life's challenges. Over 700 girls have benefited from the Circle Program's unique combination of year-round mentoring and summer camp.

Circle Program is an independent nonprofit organization, separate from Onaway, but always connected in spirit. Onaway trustees, staff, council, and campers support the Circle girls by donating their time, talent, and treasure. Onaway also has a full scholarship for a Circle girl to attend Camp Onaway, and we are happy that our third Circle girl is enrolled this season.

The Circle Program welcomes new Executive Director, Chelsea Francek. Prior to nonprofit management, Chelsea worked throughout South and Central Asia in international development and security. Her priority was to promote stability efforts and diplomacy throughout the region, particularly with women and children's education programs and partnerships, as well as life skills training. Circle Program has additional employment opportunities. Details can be found on their new website, circleprogram.org.

Onaway alumna Elisa Vocca, Skytops '88, has recently become a Circle Mentor in Concord, New Hampshire! As a volunteer mentor, Elisa spends time with her Circle girl throughout the school year, sharing fun activities and attending Circle events together. When asked about her experience as a Circle mentor, Elisa replied:

Some of the things we enjoy doing together include going to lunch and coming over to my house to play with my big dog and puppy! We also

went ice skating once but then they closed for the season. This was her first time on skates and she did really well! She was disappointed when they closed so we will plan to go back first thing next winter.

I was approached to be a mentor last fall and it was great timing. I had been wanting to find a way to get involved in something meaningful and this popped up! I love the fact that it was the Circle Program since I remember doing things for Circle when I was an Onaway camper. I don't have any kids so this was a good way to connect with a young girl and give her some stability and companionship. She is a great girl with a big heart!

Thank you for volunteering, Elisa. Your Circle girl is doubly lucky to have an Onaway girl as her mentor! Elisa is a Physician Assistant (PA) in Gastroenterology at Catholic Medical Center in Manchester, NH.



Juliana Vocca Chakrabarti,
Christina Wilding, Elisa Vocca



Camp Pasquaney Announces New Director!

We are thrilled to welcome Michael Hanrahan in his new role as [Camp Pasquaney's sixth director](#). Current Onaway families will know Mike as father to Addie Hanrahan and will likely have seen him snapping fantastic photos during Fair and Cup Weekends. We will share more about Mike and his family in our fall newsletter, but we didn't want to miss this chance to welcome the Hanrahan family as they start this new chapter.



Onaway Open Houses



Brooklyn, NY: Supple-Teegarden Family started the Open House trail with a strong showing.



Manalapan, NJ: Thank you, Kuo Family for having us back for our second reunion at Peking Pavilion with our Pasquaney brothers. We were having so much fun, we forgot to take a picture this year.



Fairfield, CT: Once again, the Tweedy family made everyone feel at home at their third open house.



Newton, MA: Thank you Boulds for having us back for our second gathering at your beautiful home!



Camp Onaway: Another great turnout at Northpoint for the NH Onaway Open House.



Wayne, PA: Conner family, thank you for hosting your first Onaway Open House! We hope you'll have us back!



Richmond, VA: Hanson-Camp Family, thank you for your warm welcome and gracious hospitality.



Chevy Chase, MD: We wrapped up our open house tour with a great showing at the Talieh's home.

Alumnae News

The 1930s

Elizabeth Swartz Birdsall: I am very excited that my great-granddaughter, Chloe Leonard, wants to go to Onaway next summer. She would be the fourth generation in the Birdsall family. I just had my 94th birthday so that it is hard for me to get to Onaway events but Onaway is always in my heart.

Katherine Westerfield Pond passed away Nov. 17, 2019. Kakkie, as she was known, was a camper from 1936 - 1938. She was interviewed by the Museum of the White Mountains for the 2017 exhibit on the history of summer camps in the region.

The 1940s

Bettina Lindsay Jenney, Onaway camper 1945-1946, died peacefully at home on December 22, 2019. She was 86 years old. Our thoughts are with Bettina's family, especially her sister, alumna Seton Lindsay O'Reilly.

The 1950s

Elizabeth (Tessa) Stanwood Davis passed away at her home in Colorado on April 27, 2020 surrounded by loved ones. Tessa spent most of her summers playing in the woods behind Eastborne at Pasquaney, where her father, Charles Stanwood was the director. She had fond memories of getting milk from the cow in the barn, and pretending there were faeries in the rock wall. When she finally turned 11 she started at Onaway in 1954 and returned as a camper 1955, 1956. She especially loved singing and all the traditions. She returned as aide in 1958. She remembered teaching a lot of swimming. She told her daughters about morning "calisthenics" and they got up early to practice before they were old enough to go. Allison spent 4 summers as a camper and one as and Aide. Laura spent a total of 13 summers at Onaway as a camper, aide, and counselor. The family still sings Onaway songs whenever they are together, and "Peace I ask of thee oh River" was particularly comforting at the end of Tessa's life. (Tessa, Allison, and Laura at camp)



Peggy Cortright Dixon: Meghan Breinig MacConnell is loving being a full time Mom while school is closed. Grannie Peggy Cortright Dixon loves this picture of Ben, Grace and Charlie!



The 1960s

Louise Stengel Barton: I welcomed twin granddaughters Page Helen and Claire Jane Larson on 8/15/19. Their parents are alumna Laura Barton Larson and Drew Larson. They join big sister Samantha Louise Larson, age 2 and 3/4 years old. Future Onaway campers.



Ruth Johnson Duckworth: Enjoyed the 1969 Skytops' 50-year reunion last summer at camp! I am in a one year Artist in Residence program at the Swannanoa Valley Fine Arts League in Black Mountain NC where I specialize in fiber arts. This is a photo of a piece I just sold. Went hiking in the North Cascades of Washington state in late August. Stunning eight days of hiking.



Shelley Ames Hartz and Rob Hartz hosted camp friends, Lisa Sarno, Valerie Farias Newton, Annie Wemple Marks, Rosemary Moukad, and Meredith Funston at her home where Onaway fun ensued, including hiking, cooking, costumes, singing, and a campfire.



Virginia Doherty Challinor died on Dec. 15, 2019. Ginny was a camper in 1966 and 1967. Our sympathy to her family including alumnae cousins Ruth Johnson Duckworth, Sally Owen, and Kathryn Johnson Cross.

Elizabeth (Beth) Wellington James, Lisa Sarno, and Meredith Funston have had fun reconnecting over dinner in Boston.



Elizabeth Funk Porth passed away on Jan. 1, 2020. Libby was a camper from 1959-1961. Our sympathy goes out to Libby's family, including her sister Sally Funk Ringe, nieces Alexandra and Jennifer Ringe, and great-niece Miranda Eisenman - all Onaway alumnae.

Sue Merwin Vocca: My niece, Lexi Merwin Bakri gave birth to a beautiful daughter, Leila, July 21. Onaway, 2029! My daughter, Elisa Vocca, married her love, Brian Verville, August 24, in Rye NH (see photo in Elisa's news). My daughter, Annemarie Vocca, has moved back East. Right now she has put NOLS on the back burner and is spending time with Mom and Dad. Happiness! I am a happy mama.

Anne West: We just sold our home in Chicago and are now dividing our time between Beaufort SC and Italy. Daughter and alumna Emma Katzman is in her freshman year at UVM, where she will be playing ice hockey for the Catamounts.

The 1970s

Ouisie Freeman Bulkeley: Well, one of the three best granddaughters finish her Skytops summer --and-- The very best grandson finished his first year at Pasquaney --and-- Bob, alias Bubbles finished his 66th (?) summer at Pasquaney!! As for me, believe it or not, under my Onaway honor, I have just had a book published!! Each day, after I read the Bible, the Lord would have me write down words that always came out as a poem about what He was teaching me and all people. If you're curious, it's called FOR YOU MY CHILD by Ouisie Bulkeley, on Amazon. So much for my advertisement, sorry : (May your Onaway seeds that were planted x no. of years ago, be blossoming more into a beautiful flower.

Lee Darling Kauper: My son got married in May, 2019!

Suzy Shae Myette: Such a small world... Kelsey and I are coaching the Sacred Heart cross country team, Greenwich CT, including Anne (Miss Finny) Finn's niece, Annie Finn, 2nd row, 2nd from right. Onaway alumnae coach Suzy Shea Myette top right and asst. coach, Kelsey Myette top left.



Alumnae News

Elizabeth Scott Parvex: My first grandchild was born 4/17/19, Wesley Daniel Wotkyns.

Lela Schaus Philip: As a pre school art teacher I am keeping very busy! In my spare time I paint my own paintings of houses and landscapes.

Mary (Emmy) Olmsted Wyatt passed away on Sept. 23, 2019. Emmy was a camper from 1975 - 1978. Our sympathy goes out to Emmy's family, especially daughter Miss Caroline Wyatt, alumna and recent counselor.

The 1980s

Nicole Ash Colby: Enjoying watching girls' sports, MacKenzie's field hockey team is undefeated and Malina made varsity volleyball and is starting. Had a send-off celebration for Furen Bemis, who is off to live in Spain. I am headed to DC to run the Army 10-miler and hang out with Isabel Rollison. My sister, Jessie Daigneault Milton is doing well in San Diego with her two little nuggets, Claire (3) and Peter (8 months)

Marion Greene was re-elected as Chair of the Hennepin County Government Board of Commissioners for a second term in her home state of Minnesota.



Kate Menken: I'm a professor at Queens College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, where I am the Director of our Linguistics and Teaching English to Speakers of Others Languages (TESOL) program. My work is in preparing public school teachers to work as English as a Second Language and Bilingual Education teachers, and conduct research about language education and immigrant communities. There's a lot of work to do and a great need for teachers, so if any of you are interested in talking with me about it I'd be happy to! I live in Jackson Heights, Queens (NYC) with my husband Stephen Hanmer D'Elia and our son Mateo, and where we mix our respective latinx and Jewish identities. We do a lot of work in our community in different ways. Service was an important lesson from Onaway - I think it's no coincidence that so many girls who went to Onaway go on to work towards social justice in different ways. I'm lucky because I have a few Onaway people I get to see regularly, and all of whom are amazing: Catherine DeLaura, Tamar Renaud, and Alexandra Ringe. Love them and that we've been Onaway friends for 35 years and counting! Onaway love is real.

Carolyn Beckford Morlin passed away Nov. 11, 2019. Carolyn was a camper in 1983. Our sympathy goes out to her family including alumnae sister Sarah Beckford and niece Emma Hoefer.

Jody Forester Pierce: After working for Cali ISR for 3 years as scheduler, I am now a Certified ISR Instructor. I teach infants and young children 6 months - 6 years old how to swim, float and survive if they end up in the water alone. It is very rewarding and allows me to work every day towards the ISR mission of Not One More Child Drowns. My boys are now 7 and 9 years old, and they love to swim, snorkel, play baseball and study karate. They are creative artists and are now learning to play piano. I couldn't be more proud of them.

Rebecca Smedley: I am the chaplain at Middlesex School in Concord, MA, and I truly think of Onaway every day at my job. I am so grateful for my three wonderful summers as a camper; my time at Onaway has helped to make me who I am today.

Elisa Vocca: Married August 2019, Bride is pictured with Onaway alumnae Mother of the Bride, Sue Merwin Vocca and Great Aunt of the Bride, Alice Merwin Tweedy.



Amy West: Two years ago, I moved West to accept a faculty position at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and USC School of Medicine, where I work as a clinical child psychologist and researcher. On July 4th, 2019 I gave birth to Finnian (Finn) McCrea West, who joins big brother Oliver, age 3.5. Life is busy and full!



The 1990s

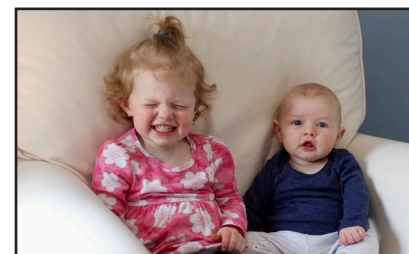
Laura Chisholm: After 25 years on the bustling Phillips Exeter campus, we moved in 2016 to our first true family home in a quiet (but not boring!) old farmhouse on conservation land in Lee. We live with our three strong, capable adult children plus a robust collection of pets. I work in advancement communications at UNH and am also in the MFA writing program, and was delighted to discover that my fiction professor Anne Joslin Williams is an Onaway girl! I loved catching up with Helen Levy

after she gave a talk at UNH a couple of years ago.

Cecily Brewer: My husband Alton and I now have two sons - Owen (3.5) is excited to be a big brother to Gideon (9 mo). Can't wait to visit from across the street on parent's weekend in about 9 years. We still live in Washington DC - let us know if you are passing through!



Lindsay Barada Bayley: We were thrilled to welcome the arrival of our son, Whitaker Weston Bayley, in January 2019. Scottie has embraced her new role as big sister and enthusiastically makes Play-Doh ice cream cones for her little brother on a weekly basis. While it's been an adjustment, we have thoroughly enjoyed becoming a family of four.



Jen Graves: My daughter and I graduated at the same time this past June, she with her high school IB diploma and me with my Master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy. She's at the University of British Columbia now, where I'm proud to say that like me she is headed to becoming an English major! And I am now working full-time as a staff therapist at Navos Child Youth & Family Services community mental health agency, having an incredible experience serving and learning from my super-diverse set of clients. I feel very lucky! (I also have my fingers crossed for my 16-year-old son's driver's test! Go Nate!)

Maria Erhardt: Hello from Spain! Former campers luz Erhardt, María Erhardt, Maria Urrutia and Bernardina Churruca (all cousins on their mothers' side) are trying to make the best of the lockdown with frequent family video-chats. We miss our recurring gatherings - as pictured. This year Luz's daughter will be going to Onaway, we are beyond excited!!



Alumnae News (continued)

Laura Barton Larson delivered twin girls on August 15th in San Francisco - Paige Helen Larson on the left and Claire Jane Larson on the right.



Sara Martin McFarlane: I am still in Santa Fe, working as a therapist at a trauma and addiction treatment center, Jendaya (7) is getting excited about attending Onaway in a few years, our bicycle shop is still thriving, and we have 2 new kittens named Blackberry and Obsidian. My stepfather died at the beginning of this year and I am dedicating a gift to Onaway in memory of him. He married my Mother in the chapel when I was a Laketop and our connection to Onaway grew even deeper. To Will Malone- thank you for loving me.

Annie Stover Reece: We had so much fun visiting camp this summer. Marley loved it and can't wait to be a camper. And we had an amazing gathering of alumnae and families at Sarah Crane's lakehouse.

Sarah Rienhoff: Twins, Gracie and Fife, were born September 1, 2018. Allie Sweeney, Laura Barton (twin girls), and Emily Grogan have all had girls recently, too. Wendies 2030 is half full!



Meredith Grenier Weis: Natalie is now in the 8th grade and just secured the role of the wolf captain of the White Witch's army in her school's production of The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. She is excited because this role was her first choice. She is also active in an all-girls troop in Boy Scouts of America.



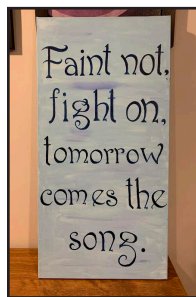
The 2000s

Brooke Boyle: Brooke earned her Masters in Accounting from the University of Denver last year, passed her CPA exams, and started as an audit associate at KPMG Denver.

Nancy Conolly: I've been in Denver for the past three years and have had so much fun being close to the mountains for camping & skiing. It's been so fun running into various Onas out here. I got together with Maddie Bright and Merrick Stein to celebrate Merrick's engagement!

Nancy Denious Brewer: I am excited to share that my husband and I welcomed a future Pasquaney camper on March 12, 2020. Bo Brewer is growing

quickly and has been hearing many Onaway songs during late night feedings! My artistic sister in law painted a line from Be Strong for his nursery which has become even more relevant these days than I thought it might



Elizabeth Codd: After moving to Austin last year, I am now working for Scotland based Insights Learning and Development to help people grow in self-awareness and their companies increase team building. On a personal note, as a 4th generation Irish citizen, I recently applied for and received my Irish passport. I am looking forward to be able to use it once the current pandemic situation is over!

Paige DeSisto, submitted by her mother: Paige DeSisto is in her second year of graduate school at Boston College School of Social Work.

Claire Eberhardt: I'm getting married in July!

Jane Shiverick McDonald: In a special ceremony led by Mr. Vinnie Broderick, we gathered at the Onaway Chapel and Campfire Rock in late August 2019 to introduce John Shiverick McDonald to the waterside traditions of Newfound, surrounded by the love of his family and godparents - Meredith Carden is his godmother. Baby John bravely withstood a skinny dip plunge, which probably won't be his last!



Eleanor Shepley Montgomerie: I moved to Venice, California last year and am newly married!

Julia Harris-Polk: Working as an obgyn during this time has been trying but also amazing. The strength and humility I see from my colleagues and husband (who works and watches our daughter) keeps me going. I am expecting my 2nd child in August. I'm hoping all the Onaways are safe!

Hope Shiverick: Last year, our little Vizsla pup, Bertie, (who attended the 2019 Ona spring reunion in LA) joined our family. And in August, my husband Patrick and I summited Mount Kilimanjaro!

Jennifer Blessing Popp: We welcomed our son, Henry James Popp, on May 8th. He joins proud big sister Riley. Riley visited camp for the first time in August and is excited for Wendies 2027.



Genevra Stone: After two years of preparation for the 2020 Olympics, I'm currently in an unknown phase... whether I will return to residency mid-August 2020 as planned or whether I will train for another year in the hopes of competing in Tokyo in the summer of 2021. I'm letting my instinct mull it over in the background while I play with my new puppy, Echo, and focus on the day-to-day. Cherishing small moments - daffodils, a good book, a fresh batch of cookies, etc. - is something Onaway helped me to learn.

Jeanne Valk, submitted by her mother: Our daughter, Jeanne Valk, is an alumna of Onaway and graduated from Boise State University, Boise, Idaho, cum laude in May of this 2019. She is planning on getting a Master's degree overseas next year.

Caroline L. Westberg: I moved from Washington, DC to Seattle last year with my company, Ritual, and in pursuit of a long-time dream to explore the Pacific Northwest! I work day-in and day-out with restaurants and coffee shops, handling growth and marketing for Seattle / Portland / Salt Lake City. On a more fun note, I adopted a pup from the Seattle Humane Society named Baloo for my love of Camp Mowglis + the Jungle Book! I've taken multiple trips to explore all of the natural beauty that Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia have to offer. My favorite (and highly recommend for backpacking lovers) was up to Garibaldi Lake in BC! If anyone is visiting Seattle, feel free to reach out - you have a place to stay!

Caroline Wyatt: I will be leaving New York City and attending Stanford Law School this fall. While I will miss the east coast, I'm excited for a new adventure!

The 2010s

Kaylee Berryhill, submitted by her mother: My camper/daughter is currently attending the University of North Florida in Jacksonville - still lives to surf.

Katherine Beavis: I miss Newfound and the White Mountains but have stayed in touch with and continue to draw strength from my Skytops group, as well as the others with whom I was on the council. While doing research in Florence and London on Roman antiquities, Miss Annie [Rotch]

Alumnae News (continued)

and I enjoyed museums and meals; Miss Carter [Ramquist] and I had planned to see each other in Chicago during spring break. I am cheered to hear that Onaway hopes to proceed as planned this summer, it will be a needed antidote to the screen time and social distance.



FuRen Bemis: I graduated last May from the

University of Connecticut earning 2 degrees; in Environmental Studies and Spanish. I'll be living in Ecija (an hour east of Sevilla) Spain for the school year teaching English! And I hope to take cooking classes while abroad!

Anna Bolton: I was so happy to spend winter 2019 in Switzerland alongside Miss Katie Campbell! I just completed my first year of graduate school at Samford University, and I am striving to get my Masters in Athletic Training.

Alexandra Davidge: I am a senior this year at the University of Richmond. I worked in the Caribbean again last summer at ActionQuest, working on sailing yachts with teens, teaching them sailing and scuba diving.

Alexandra D. Hurdman: Had a busy and fun summer as a Topnots counselor last summer! Jane McKelvy: I am currently finishing up my

virtual classes and will be graduating from Washington University in St. Louis this spring. I am excited to be working at a local dermatology office post-grad as a doctor's scribe and assistant while I work on my applications to medical school. I will definitely be visiting camp this summer!

Barrett Reese, submitted by her mother: Being inspired at a young age by Gevvie Stone and rowing at Onaway, Barrett is in her third year of varsity Crew with City Island Rowing.

Miss Alexandra Rice: Moved to Denver, CO in December, joining Onaway's growing OWOW! alumnae.

Emma Tomb: When I returned from the High Mountain Institute last year, I worked on a sailboat and visited Maine before I headed off on my gap year adventures in the big world!

Happy 50th Anniversary, Skytops 1970!

The 1970 Skytops kicked off their 50th with a Zoom reunion this spring. The alumnae hauled from CA, CO, NH, TN, GA, MA and Lugano Switzerland, so a virtual reunion was a convenient way to connect and a good excuse to wash our hair! We look forward to a live reunion next summer and the chance to meet the Skytops of 2020 and 2021. It been an absolute blast catching up on Zoom and recalling camp memories!





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