

# The Onaway Circle

Spring



2023





### Exuberant, Playful, Strong, and Smart

Ellen Langford, *Skytops 1982*  
*Artist, Painter*

I spent five years at Onaway: Tiptop '81 - counselor '85. I've missed that place and you Onaways ever since. Onaway is a huge part of who I have become and this might sound dramatic, but my dear cousin duVergne Gaines and I both feel strongly that Onaway saved our lives. At Onaway we discovered we were allowed to be exuberant, playful, strong, and smart. We were safe and valued; free to discover our true selves.

Now duVergne has spent her adult years so far fighting ferociously for women's access to reproductive care, and I've found myself making my living as an artist. It's been a winding path to get here, but I'm amazed and grateful that this is my life.

After Onaway, my twenties were pretty directionless. There was my first Appalachian Trail thru-hike attempt, and then I was mostly coming out and having a great time in San Francisco. I painted the entire time there and even started selling some. At 30, I moved home to Mississippi. I'd found I had a knack for emergency response work (thanks, Ms. Phyllis!), so I came home to train as a paramedic and spend time with my aging mother. I'd thought I'd use medic work to support myself through grad school. Grad school didn't happen, and eleven years later, when I could no longer commit to 48-hour shifts (Mama's descent into dementia and fighting for access to my son made it tricky), I found I could rely on my painting sales to get by.

Before Onaway, I'd always been driven to draw and paint but any art instruction had been limited. My Skytops year, I



*Ellen Painting at Civil Rights Museum Event in Mississippi.*

met Ms. Rhea, an art counselor who gave me an amazing introduction to painting. Anyone who knew Rhea won't be surprised she nudged me to be bold and loose in my work. She was the first to introduce me to the big rich messy world of oil paints. She disdained the trite and demanded authenticity. Ms. Rhea, if you're out there, thank you!

The biggest gifts that Onaway gave me for life as an artist though stem from the overall magic of Onaway:

- The quiet of the morning hours.
- Singing on the rock (of course).
- A camaraderie with friends I hadn't known was possible.
- Running (not allowed!) the paths to the boathouse and the rock, knowing every root and step (I still adore trail running)
- Meditation led by Mr. Jeep on the infirmary lawn.
- The ridiculously hard work

I put into my Red Cross ALS training as an aide.

-Ascending above treeline and being able to see forever into the distance over the mountaintops, our own two feet having gotten us there. Wow. That was life-changing to this sea-level girl.

-The delight I discovered teaching and leading as a counselor.

At 55, I've been selling my work since my 20s, and now for nearly 15 years as my only source of income. I'm certainly not flush, but I love this work with a passion and confidence that feels directly fed by that early Onaway message - that we were allowed to be exuberant, playful, strong, and smart. I feel





*Ellen's Painting of Onaway Memories.*

folks are drawn to exactly that in my work.

About that AT attempt I mentioned earlier, I am planning on trying again! Onaway introduced me to the idea that we could WALK (on our own two feet) from Georgia to Maine. I only made it about 100 of the ~2200 miles before getting hurt and having to get off the trail back in the late '80s. I'd always assumed I'd return to the trail, and about 10 years ago it occurred to me that I was going to get old... I made a decision then to hike the AT before I turned 60. Currently I can't swing the 5-6 months off out of the studio, but I'm more determined than ever to figure it out! I'm currently working on incorporating painting into my backpacking trips. I'll take anyone's ideas and suggestions!

[www.ellenlangford.com](http://www.ellenlangford.com)

fbook: Paintings by Ellen Langford

insta: @ellenlangfordpaints

## For the Joy of It

Kit Bolton Casey, *Skytops 1976*, Artist  
Interview by Liz Hawkins

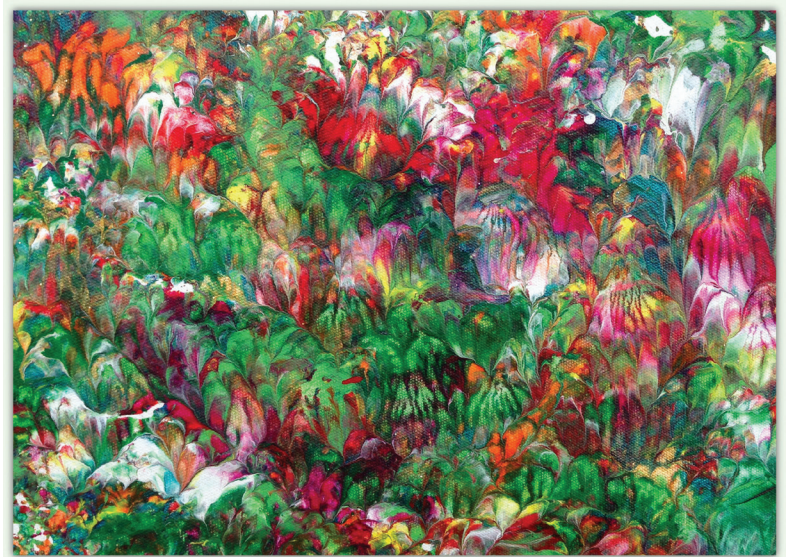
**T**he gift of abstract art is its energy and its ability to speak to each viewer differently; to give the viewer what he or she longs to feel: calm, hope, happiness, connection, excitement, love. Art in any form offers respite from the noise of life, yet invites us to open our minds, to imagine, to step back into our childhood shoes .. even for a moment.” ~Kit



As a camper, Kit was happiest at the waterfront. But after her Onaway summers, she dove into the arts and earned a degree in Illustration and Commercial Art.

She began actively painting with tempera paints, experimenting with throwing and different techniques. Now she mostly uses acrylic paint, which is more contained, and palette knives as well as brushes. Kit and I discussed how working with our hands (I'm a knitter), whether with yarn or paint, brings calmness and peace in our daily patterns. Kit has a beautiful sense of color and her work vividly expresses her passion. She paints for the joy of it and you can see the excellent results by visiting her website:

[KitCaseyStudio.com](http://KitCaseyStudio.com)



*Kit's painting, Promise.*

### Dancing Through Life

Stephanie Heroux,  
*Aide and Counselor 1995 - 2001*  
*Dancer, Teacher, Physical Therapist*

When I was Dance Counselor at Onaway in the late '90s, I would've told you that I was going to dance professionally. Dancing was how I wanted to spend every moment of my day and was what I believed to be my true purpose. As I directed and nurtured the dance program, I found new talents and skills within myself as a teacher, choreographer, and producer that not only reinforced my conviction to pursue a career in the arts but opened my eyes to new paths that I did not necessarily foresee for myself before my time at Onaway.

Despite that conviction, my path was not as straight and narrow as I would've imagined and that is where Onaway's most important lessons became integral to my journey. Onaway teaches young women to be independent and strong, dedicated and passionate. After several detours, finding myself in the wrong time or the wrong place and remapping my journey, I was back in Boston where serendipitously (a word I first saw in a poem beautifully written on an aides' bathroom stall) a found-family of artists would believe in my talents and create a safe space where I could take chances and risks to push myself as far as I was willing to go.

And I danced! Performing internationally, teaching students of all ages and levels, and founding a dance company, I was actualizing my dreams while finding purpose in my true purpose. Onaway, through its values and by the examples set by the amazingly strong women who have stood in its circle,



taught me to lead, and I worked tirelessly to mold and evolve each program to better serve its community and maximize its expectations.

And yet, my true purpose evolved. The more dancers I worked with, the more I wanted to learn about the human body to help them improve their daily lives and lengthen their careers. That new conviction led me to graduate school for a clinical doctorate in physical therapy almost 15 years after completing undergrad. With my very specific experience of being an artist and a clinician, I've advocated to improve health and wellness for performing artists by creating better access to resources, more specific rehabilitation, and better education about injury prevention and wellness throughout the performing arts community. Weekdays you'll find me "choreographing" rehab exercises in an outpatient clinic, and weekends you'll find me backstage treating actors and dancers in local Boston theaters. And you'll still find me teaching a couple dance classes each week, because after all, it is my true purpose.





## Evolution of an Artist, from the White Mountains to the Black Mountains

Ruth Johnson Duckworth, *Skytops 1969*

*Interviewed by Liz Porter Hawkins*

Ruth was a camper in the 1960s and an aide and counselor in the 1970s. Her favorite places to be were in the Arts & Crafts and Sewing rooms.

Ruth has always been a creative person beginning with a hummingbird drawing for a 2nd grade project to her current passion of wool felted artwork. As a child she made a purple and gold LSU scarf for her mom with the EZ weaver. She has enjoyed all artistic mediums learning etching and printmaking in high school. Then she taught herself how to make macrame. Her grandmother taught her to knit, and her best friend's mother taught her to sew. Ruth learned how to spin yarn in Corsica on a rustic spindle made from an olive branch. Her talents increased by learning something new everywhere she traveled.

At Onaway, as a camper, she fondly remembers Arts & Crafts because Tennis was not her thing, and Swimming terrified her. She hasn't been on a diving board since she had to do it at camp. As an aide, she taught in Arts and Crafts. Then, as a counselor, she added Sewing to her responsibilities once

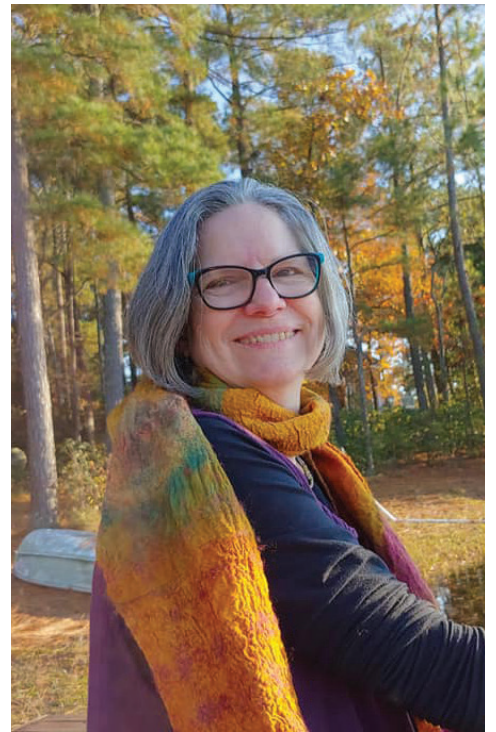
that became part of the Onaway program.

Continuing to explore various artistic outlets, Ruth is creating scarves using silk and rayon on her loom, creating wonderful hats, and now using wool to "paint" artistic scenes. She continues to enjoy weaving on her floor loom (a grown up version of the EZ weaver) using indigo dyed cotton, silks, and wool.

She met alumna and painter Ellen Langford, *Skytops 1982*, in an art gallery in North Carolina where they were both selling their creations. Somehow Ruth was speaking to someone and mentioned a camp in New Hampshire and Ellen started singing an Onaway song. What a small world!

Check out Ruth's beautiful creations at Swannanoa Valley Fine Arts League in Black Mountain, North Carolina. You can see her beautiful creations at [www.svfalarts.org](http://www.svfalarts.org) under the Artist Showcase where Ruth is Studio #12 under Sculptural Art.

She can't wait to visit camp and see all the new facilities for Arts & Crafts and Fiber Arts & Textiles!





### No Mud, No Lotus

Susan Cherin, *Skytops 1983*  
Co-Founder, *The Lotus Project*

As a director, performer, and theatre educator for over 35 years, I am often asked what my first play was, and it is no surprise that it was at Onaway, 1978, my Wendies summer, *The Great Cross Country Race*, the story of the Tortoise and the Hare. I was awe-struck by the older actors were, and felt lucky to be the youngest cast member. As an only child with a single mom, I had never felt so much a part of something before, and it was the best feeling in the world.

In 1980, I played the Skin Horse in *The Velveteen Rabbit* and at the ripe old age of 10, I began to understand the emotion and the heart that could go into every performance. Mr. Jeep challenged and inspired us. We felt the privilege of telling someone's story, the responsibility of taking care of each other, and we understood how fortunate we were to be part of a family working together towards a common goal. From then on, I poured my whole self into every role, I did dozens of shows at camp and at school, and the stage became my home. Being a kid who gravitated towards big feelings and deep connections, participating in theatre became my safe outlet to experience these through the lens of a character and a story that was not my own, but allowed me to bring parts of myself into every role.

My second summer as an aide, Mr. Jeep allowed me not only to teach drama classes, but direct the Lower Camp play. I looked at countless scripts and after not liking any of them, I began hand writing my own version of *Charlotte's Web* into a notebook. Once I got to camp, Mr. Jeep let me type my script on this brand new thing called a computer - who had ever heard of such a thing?! I had no clue what I was doing. But I was encouraged to jump in and do the job myself, figuring it out as I went, which taught me everything I needed to know. I was given a powerful gift: to offer others the opportunity that had changed my life, and inspire and challenge them as I had been. It wasn't easy but that made it all the



more rewarding.

And that was the gift of Onaway: a safe, nurturing atmosphere in which I could try, make mistakes, even fail, and get back up and try again. Some of the toughest challenges of my younger years were at Onaway. It was not the skills that I learned that were most important, but how to handle disappointment, failure, and things not going the way I imagined. I learned collaboration, persistence, empathy, patience, how to respect differences, resolve

conflict, and build community. These values have been woven through every show I have performed or directed, classes I have taught, and arts programs I have created. It's been my privilege to see students grow as human beings through the arts, just as I did at Onaway.

I am so happy that the much needed renovations to the theatre space are happening, so that this powerful legacy can carry on with the next generation of performers. I am incredibly fortunate to have recently started my own company, with my partner Kayla, called The Lotus Project, which combines all my passions, first discovered at Onaway. The Lotus Project ([www.thelotusprojectnc.com](http://www.thelotusprojectnc.com)) seeks to empower humans of all ages to rise up and conquer obstacles, for themselves, for others, for their community. Using the arts as a vehicle, our work focuses on self-empowerment, relationship building, and community advocacy. Through creative expression, we look inward to discover ourselves; we look outward to learn about others; and we look forward to changing the world, one human at a time.

Sounds familiar, doesn't it? There isn't a day that goes by that I don't hear the words "Be Strong, Shun not the struggle, face it, 'tis God's gift" or as we say these days "no Mud, no Lotus." Gratitude abounds for the roots I laid down at Onaway, the experiences I have been so fortunate to have, and bringing it all full circle with this next step of my journey.





### Expressions of Reverence for the Land, Humans, and Animals

Nancy Winship Milliken, *Skytops 1976*  
*Environmental Artist, Sculptor*  
by Anne Peterson Conolly

Nancy (camper 1974-1976, Counselor 1983, 1984) did not consider herself an artist until she was 45 years old, after graduating with an MFA from Massachusetts College of Art and Design. She is clearly an artist now! Describing herself as a site-specific, nature-centric sculptor, Nancy takes on huge (literally) projects that celebrate nature, history, and culture. I had the privilege of attending her lecture over the summer at the site of her installation at the Shelburne Museum. There, four large post-and-beam structures featuring natural materials (horsehair, wool, beeswax and driftwood) explored themes related to sustainability. The exhibit was surrounded by a beautiful pollinating garden and changed throughout the summer as each piece was affected by the weather and environment.

Nancy describes her days at Onaway as essential to her growth as a person and an artist. While not necessarily remem-

bering days in the ceramics studio molding clay pots, she recalls the great outdoor adventures, the ability and encouragement to take risks, and the support of counselors and friends. In her art studio, a barn in Shelburne, she uses many of the skills that she taught her Onaway Aides, the year she was their counselor. She runs an open studio, and she brings in interns from all over the country who, like the aides, learn to plan, organize, collaborate, and take risks where it is safe to make mistakes and learn. “All of that is sculpture related,” she says.

Nancy’s next project will take her to Boston for an indoor installation at the Shaw Memorial. Modeled after Saint Gaudens’ bronze sculpture, she will again use natural materials to create her own memorial to the 54th infantry. For many more interesting photos and information, visit her website at [nancywinshipmillikenstudio.com](http://nancywinshipmillikenstudio.com).



### A Crystal Shining Moment in my Life

Susan Deming, *Skytops 1983*

*Actor, Audiobook Narrator, Casting Director*

*Interviewed by Isabel Langen*

**A**s a young actor myself, I was delighted to interview alumna Susan Deming and learn about her Onaway summers and her extensive and creative career path.

#### **Did you have favorite activities at camp?**

I loved everything about camp. Obviously I was drawn to all the theater stuff that we did with Mr. Jeep. He really took us all under his wing to create this wonderful theater program. But I was also heavily into canoeing and sailing, and I loved woodworking and ceramics and hiking. It would be hard to nail me down on my favorite... My least favorite was nails!

#### **Do you have any specific memories of participating in the performing arts at Onaway?**

The real seminal show for me was *Godspell*. I had done a couple of plays, but really that production made me realize “this is what I want to do for the rest of my life.” That is still one of my pinnacle memories in theater, all these many years later. I sang “O Bless the Lord my Soul.” And this was the late 70’s, so everything was sort of clown-y and patchwork: the whole idea of “we’re just a bunch of hippies, and we grab things off of the rack and become these clowns, this troupe, this community of people doing this show.” It was so of the time. That was a crystal shining moment in my life, I still get a contact high over how awesome that performance was.

#### **In what other ways did your experiences of arts at Onaway influence your life in the arts now?**

Because we were involved in all of the craft of putting on shows, (we sewed our costumes, we created our sets) it was a really integrated idea of what putting on a show was. I think it’s so important, for actors in particular, to really understand that creating art is an integrated process that involves artisans of all kinds. Mr. Jeep really instilled in us that it’s a team effort and that has followed me through my career.

#### **What does your work in the arts look like now, and what was your path from that Onaway experience to where you are now?**

I have taken sort of a circuitous route to get where I am. A lot of it was the tension between what I really want to do and what society tells me I should do. I got into Northwestern,



knowing they had a strong theater program but planning to go into pre-med. Then I got there and just jumped head first into theater. I got my first equity show and my equity card when I was 19. I did a lot of professional musical theater in Chicago. When I was 23, I got offered *Cats* in Germany. I sold my car, and then I went to Germany and did *Cats* for two years. That was a wild adventure. And probably if I hadn’t had my Onaway experience I would have been too afraid to do that. Then when I came back, I moved to LA and ended up getting into Animation and Internet Production. I worked at Hanna-Barbera and I got them on the internet for the first time. I started producing CD Roms and websites, and



I opened up my own animation studio. Then I got pregnant and I had my baby and realized “I don’t want her to grow up with a mom who’s not doing what her passion is about” so I doubled down on being an actor again. When I wasn’t making enough as an actor, I started to be a casting director. Now I’m starting to do audiobook narration, so I have three careers: actor, audiobook narrator, and casting director. You have to cobble together a life in the arts. You do whatever you can to bring in enough money to sustain your life while you pursue your art. It takes a certain amount of bravery, and moxy, and risk. And I think Onaway helped program me to accept risk.

## Are there any projects you’re working on that you’re especially excited about?

I’m a member of Impro Theater: we do full length plays that are completely improvised in the style of Shakespeare, Chekov, Tennessee Williams, Stephen Sondheim, etc. In April we’re doing *Jane Austen Unscripted*. We’re coming out of the pandemic, and so many theater companies have failed or shuttered their doors, and we are lucky enough to still be hanging on by the skin of our teeth. Nobody would have made it through the pandemic without entertainment, without artists. Arts are the glue that keep humanity functioning together. Artists have a unique opportunity now to say that without being embarrassed by it or shrinking from it. We are essential, we know we’re essential. As a society we need to support live arts everywhere. We all need this.



## Joy of Performing

Isabel Langen, *Skytops 2011*  
Actor

I came to Onaway as a twelve-year-old middle schooler deep into my obsession with *Les Misérables*. Miss Laura was our drama counselor and was just as obsessed with *Les Mis* as I was which made me feel right at home. I sang “On My Own” to audition for *Beauty and the Beast*, and got the part of Gaston – I was so scrawny, but we stuffed my shirt to make fake muscles. It was so much fun – I miss the days when I could be cast as a big burly man, someone so polar opposite to me. That was a big part of why I loved acting as a kid, and you don’t get to do that so much in your adult career.

In 2013 I was an aide, and then I went straight from camp to NYU, where I got my BFA in acting. After graduating, I performed professionally for two years in regional theaters in the San Francisco Bay Area. Right up until March 2020, I had an unforgettable two years of shows, including a tour in France.

In 2021 I moved to Los Angeles to try out film and TV. I’ve made a couple of short films since moving here and have a couple more in the works this year. I’m still pursuing the more traditional route by going to auditions, but right now the thing that fulfills me most is making original work with friends – it gets me back in touch with the pure joy I felt performing when I was a kid and at camp.





## Getting Ready for Summer 2023!

Barrie Pendergast, Director, *Skytops 1986*

Springtime is always exciting as I see another wonderful Onaway summer coming together. We have 20 eager new campers who are excited, even if a little nervous, for their first summer at camp. Returning campers are counting down the days until camp while the Skytops brainstorm about their theme for the summer. In late March, I met with the council on Zoom, and I could feel the Onaway spirit and the promise of an incredible summer to come.

With the change of season, comes new life and new energy. At the same time, some of the changes we will see at camp this summer are bittersweet - our assistant director of the last five years, Miss Merry Richter, moved on to finish graduate school at Plymouth State University and begin a new career as a school counselor. We are deeply grateful for her commitment to camp including ten years on the council! Miss Merry brought so many positive attributes to the role - high standards, an infectious sense of humor, joy in play, and topnotch organization. She also helped transition the AD role to a part-time year-round position which supports the summer program like developing the Aides program, enhancing the staff hiring process, and focusing on welcoming new campers. We cannot thank you enough, Miss Merry!

Miss Katie Campbell joined the year-round Onaway staff in December and has almost exclusively focused on hiring which has been no small task. With her diligence, trademark positivity, and



tenacity, she helped build a diverse and talented group of counselors.

Another significant change will be with our resident jack of all trades - the incomparable Mr. Gene! In July, Mr. Gene will step back from his full-time duties, but he will continue to work for camp part-time through the fall and hopefully beyond. Stay tuned for our celebration of Mr. Gene's more than 20 years of service to camp in the fall newsletter. Filling those big shoes, is our new property manager, David Finnell. A resident of Bristol, NH, Mr. Dave currently runs his own business as a builder. He is also a master carpenter, former electrician, and former part-time property manager at the Circle Program! Mr. Gene and Mr. Dave have already worked together on a few Onaway projects. Mr. Gene is thrilled to have such a capable successor.

When our eager campers arrive on June 24th, they will be welcomed not







only by a terrific team of counselors, but by a beautifully improved Woodland Hall with a wrap-around porch that connects all the program spaces, provides backstage access, and will keep us dry on the rainiest of camp days. Campers will see greatly enhanced spaces for Arts & Crafts, Ceramics, and the Woodland stage, and a dedicated space for stagecraft! And, as is true of all our new buildings, the renovation retains the charm of the original space. We are beyond grateful to all the Wide Awake Campaign donors, Sarah Mudge (architect), Conestoga Construction, and the staff for bringing this vision to life! I cannot wait to see the campers playing, dancing, acting, singing, designing, and creating in these new spaces.

We can hardly wait to welcome our camp families, but first we will need a strong, enthusiastic Work Weekend team to help us recover from a winter of construction! It will be great fun getting all the new spaces set up and ready for the campers as well as sprucing up the landscape. We hope you can join us on June 3 - 4. Thank you for all the ways you support Onaway!

## Yes, Mabel, You CAN Go Back to Camp!

2023 ONAWAY SPRING SRUCE-UP WEEKEND

June 3 - 4, 2023

**Well, perhaps our founder Mabel Hollister can't come back, but YOU can! You might even be able to stay in Mabel's cabin! Or you can sleep in the Alumnae Log Cabin or your old camper cabin. You clean it, you can sleep in it!**

Bring the family! Help us get camp ready for her 112th season and get a sneak peek of the newly renovated Woodland Hall. There will be a variety of camp duties to choose from, such as:

**Flower Box and Garden Duty**  
(bring gardening tools and gloves, learn to build a cairn)

**Tennis Court Duty**  
(bring a rake, your racquet & tennis shoes!)

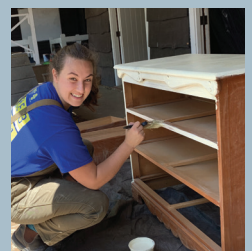
**Library Duty**  
(help put books back on shelves, make recommendations for retiring books and adding new books - are you an elementary/middle school librarian or teacher?!)

**And many other fun duties!**

**Watch for an email with an R.S.V.P. button to sign up.**

**Or call the office: (610)525-0676**

**Hope you can join us!**







## WIDE AWAKE

### The Campaign *for* Onaway

#### Over the Top!

Sally Jones Orr, *Tiptops 1965*  
*Capital Campaign Director*

**W**e are delighted to present an interim report on the WIDE AWAKE Campaign for Onaway.

The result of strategic planning undertaken by the Onaway Board of Trustees in 2018, the WIDE AWAKE Campaign was conceived to meet two critical needs: to shore up Onaway's aging infrastructure and to increase her endowment, especially for tuition assistance.

Over the ensuing four+ years, you succeeded on both aims -- and more!

Despite the huge effects of COVID-19, the campaign marched steadily along. You enthusiastically responded to our requests for support by generously giving almost \$4 million by Cup Weekend last August. We hope you were as thrilled as we were when, right before Christmas, your final gifts rushed in to take WIDE AWAKE flying over goal.

Enjoy the following photo tour through Onaway's campus to see the capital projects under construction and review the scholarship funds that were thoughtfully and generously created so girls who need assistance to come to Onaway will be supported. It's a success story all around and YOU made it possible!

#### The WIDE AWAKE Campaign Steering Committee

##### We offer deepest thanks

to the following individuals who gave so much of their valuable time, expertise, and vision to the campaign. WIDE AWAKE would not have been successful without their many contributions!

Liz Porter Hawkins, *Chair*

Susi Mudge and Gevvie Stone,  
*Honorary Co-Chairs*

Helen Gemmill

Bill Matthai

Lisa Sarno

Bill Tweedy

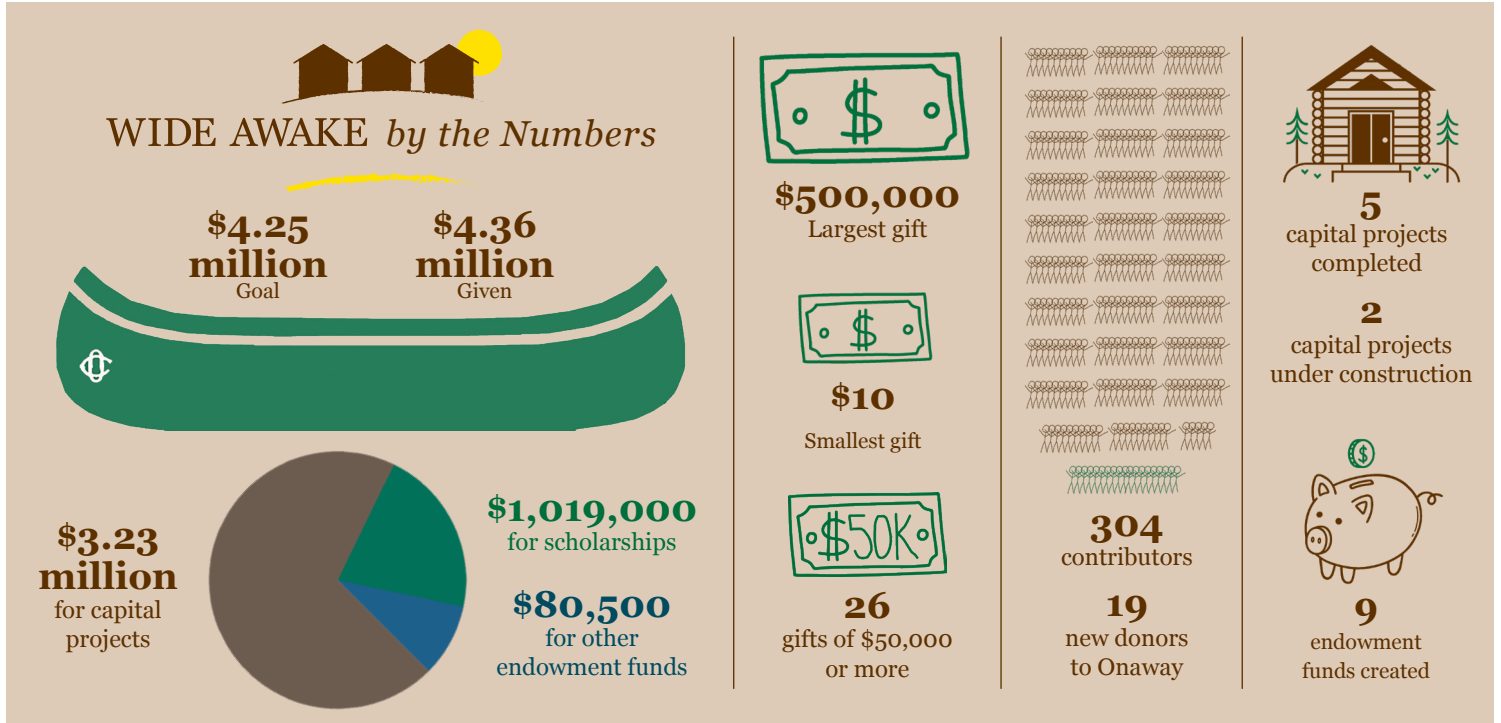
Gillian Van Schaick

Barrie Pendergast, *Director*

Meredith Funston, *Director of Advancement*

Sally Jones Orr, *Capital Campaign Director*





This is the new view when coming into camp! You are looking at the back of Woodland. You can see the floor and ceiling of the porch that will wrap all the way around and doors that will open onto the back of the stage. A scene shop will be created underneath the stage where campers will learn to design and build sets.

The front of Woodland Hall from the center of camp. Notice the two new dormers over the Ping Pong Piazza to give that space more light. The room on the far right has been expanded to increase backstage space. You may remember that the wing on the left that housed the Arts & Crafts and Ceramics rooms needed to be completely rebuilt. We took advantage of that necessity to make the wing slightly larger so those two rooms could be reconfigured.



Off-a-Way's slightly new position among the trees will provide Onaway's director with a view of the Waterfront as well as the lake.



The new Arts & Crafts room is 20% larger than the previous room, providing more space for better teaching and learning. The ceiling is high and large windows on three sides will flood the room with natural light.



The Ceramics room is 87% larger than the previous room. Like Arts & Crafts next door, its ceiling has been raised and there are more windows. A bonus is that Onaway will now have a dedicated kiln room!



## The Campfire Rock Society and a Bonus Opportunity!

There is one important WIDE AWAKE goal left to be met: to increase the membership in Onaway's planned giving group, the Campfire Rock Society. Our aim is to grow to 100 members. As of this printing, the CRS is up to 72.

Would you join and help us reach 100? Including camp in your will or estate plan is one of the most satisfying ways to support Onaway's future. And this spring, we have a special invitation for you!

Between now and the close of camp on August 13, 2023, whenever someone joins Campfire Rock Society, two anonymous donors will each give \$250 to WIDE AWAKE. That means \$500 in bonus gifts that can pay for additional expenses related to the capital projects, such as landscaping and stage curtains. If you haven't yet given to WIDE AWAKE, this will allow you to be part of the campaign without having to give cash now, which sounds a little magical, doesn't it? Onaway magical!

If you would like information or are ready to join the CRS, please be in touch with either Meredith Funston, Director of Advancement, [mfunston@camponaway.org](mailto:mfunston@camponaway.org) or Sally Orr, Campaign Director, [sorr@camponaway.org](mailto:sorr@camponaway.org) or call 610-525-0676.

THANK YOU!

## New Endowment Funds created through WIDE AWAKE

**Eight new scholarship funds were created** with gifts of \$50,000 or more during the WIDE AWAKE Campaign. These permanently restricted funds will remain in Onaway's endowment in perpetuity. Only the interest they generate will be used for camper awards. This ensures that the "corpus" (or the original gift) of each fund lives forever, which makes them especially meaningful as memorial and honorary gifts.

### Alice Merwin Tweedy Memorial Scholarship

Established by members of the Merwin and Tweedy families in memory of alumna and past trustee, Alice Merwin Tweedy.

### Bettina Lindsay Jenney Scholarship

Established by Lindsay Scott, in memory of her mother, alumna, Bettina Lindsay Jenney.

### Elizabeth Hayward Marshall Scholarship

Established by alumna, Anne Marshall Gieryn, and William and Robert Marshall, in memory of their mother, alumna, Betty Hayward Marshall.

### Liz Porter Hawkins Scholarship

Established by Liz Porter Hawkins and her husband Philip Hawkins.

### Seton Lindsay O'Reilly Circle Scholarship

Created by members of the O'Reilly family to honor Seton's devotion to both Circle Program and Camp Onaway, this scholarship will provide tuition to a girl from Circle to attend Onaway.

### Sulloway-Adams Family Scholarship

Created in memory of Onaway alumna, Faith Thayer Sulloway, by her great niece, alumna, Kathryn Sulloway Adams.

### The Bell Scholarship for Diversity and Inclusion

Established by Onaway parents, Tom and Christi Sperry, to provide tuition assistance to girls from a historically underrepresented racial or ethnic group in need of financial support.

### Winkie Chase Almy Scholarship

Created by alumna Leslie Stimmel Gugliari in memory of her mother, alumna and past trustee, Winkie Chase Almy, to provide full tuition to a girl whose diversity enriches Onaway's community.

### One new leadership development fund was created during WIDE AWAKE.

Phyllis Woestemeyer, Onaway counselor for 16 summers between 1969 and 1986, created **Miss Phyllis' O.L.D. (Fun)d for Counselor Training**.



Betty Hayward, Miss Jat, And Ellie Heeves 1946





## ONAWAY ALUMNAE... What's more fun than March Madness? The Onaway Brown & White Alumnae Challenge, of course!

Isn't it exciting to see women's basketball finally getting the television coverage it deserves?! Next year, maybe we will have an Onaway March Madness Bracket. But meanwhile, let's rally some serious Onaway spirit for the 2023 Onaway Brown & White Alumnae Challenge!

**The Challenge:** Which alumnae team will have the greatest number of donors to the Onaway Fund this season? It's all about participation, showing up, team work makes the dream work!

**The Dates:** May 1st through August 5th when the last B&W Games take place at camp. The alumnae winning team's flag will be raised alongside the camp winning team's flag.

**How to Play:** It's so easy! Donate ANY amount to the Onaway Fund to earn a point for your team. Be sure to tell us which team you are on! If you don't recall, we will assign you to a team, either adding you to the team of another family member alumna or alternating assignments, to be fair. Onaway All Year (monthly) donors automatically win a point.

### FAQ's:

• **What if I don't know which team I was on?**

No worries, we will research and add you to a team.

• **Does my Wide Awake Campaign donation count in the challenge?**

No, your thoughtful campaign gift helped with very specific big projects at camp - thank you! Onaway Fund helps fund the camp program, counselor salaries, food, etc. at camp each summer.

The Onaway Fund is crucial to supplementing tuition and funding a successful summer. Camp needs you! Please jump in with your Onaway spirit and help make this a magical, memorable summer for the campers! Hop on the Onaway website to donate online or mail a check to: Camp Onaway, PO Box 339, Glenside PA 19038.

## THANK YOU!

### B&W CHALLENGE STATS

**209**  
# Team Brown  
Alumnae  
currently on  
record

**TEAM  
WHITE**  
Reigning  
Champions

**176**  
# Team White  
Alumnae  
currently on  
record

**55-50**  
Score of  
Summer 2022  
Challenge

### ONAWAY FUND STATS

**2405**  
# of Onaway  
Alumnae  
receiving this  
newsletter

**300**  
# Alumnae  
donated  
2 fiscal years ago

**258**  
# Alumnae  
donated to the  
Onaway Fund  
all of last year

**107**  
# Alumnae  
donated this  
year so far

**300**  
# Alumnae we  
HOPE donate  
this year by  
Aug. 5th

## BOARD UPDATE



### From the Onaway Board Presidents *Cathy Sanford, Skytops 1985, and Brent Powell, Onaway Parent*

There are signs of spring everywhere as we write, and it is exciting to know that camp is just around the corner! Our tenure as Co-Presidents of the Onaway Board launched in November, and it has been a privilege to support the varied and exciting initiatives underway at Onaway this offseason.

There is much to celebrate: the historic conclusion of our Wide Awake Capital Campaign -- quadrupling the amount raised in any previous campaign; the incredible accomplishments of Mr. Gene over his more than 20 year Onaway career; the decade-long contributions of Miss Merry on the council, including the creation of a part-time year-round Assistant Director role. Camp is nearly full, and the hope of diminishing COVID threats offers the promise of more access to camp this summer. We continue to be amazed by the extraordinary talent and competence of Ms P. and the full-time staff, and the power of our Onaway community.

There is also much work to be done. Our Advancement, Governance, Land & Lake, Finance, and DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging) committees continue to forward strategic goals, and we continue to discuss how to balance long-term fiscal health with ongoing camp needs. We are also engaging in some important strategic conversations around gender at Onaway.

As a board, we are taking time to learn about and contextualize the gender identity evolution currently happening around us. There have always been campers and counselors in the Onaway community with varied gender identities and expressions, but without the language to describe how they were feeling or identifying. Our society now has more expansive terminology and more fluid classifications for how gender is defined, described, internalized, and portrayed. Some of our campers are showing up ready to talk about pronouns and gender identity; it is time for us to determine how we appropriately re-frame ourselves in light of this current climate.

Our Board discussions have been both thoughtful and challenging as we consider the inclusion of non-binary, transgender, and gender fluid community members at Onaway. Like many other historically all-girls institutions, schools, and camps around the country, we endeavor to clarify who Onaway serves in a world that is fundamentally challenging



*Co-President Cathy Sanford, Alumna Sarah Scott, and Director Barrie Pendergast at the April Alumnae and Trustee Gathering in Colorado.*

traditional gender constructs.

The work requires us to “be strong” -- and stay true to our camp mission and values -- while honoring our commitment to increasing feelings of belonging for all campers, aides, counselors and staff who are part of our circle each summer. There is no better team to be engaged in these discussions than our current board and staff, who bring multiple perspectives, considerations, and ideas together with a collaborative, community-oriented approach.

We look forward to keeping the Onaway community updated on our progress. Please be on the lookout for a related post on the Onaway blog page launching this spring, which will include some suggested resources for your own learning. And please be sure to contact us should you wish to talk about this work.

We very much hope to see many of you at camp this summer.

—Cathy Sanford & Brent Powell

cathysanford11@gmail.com, brentnallpowell@gmail.com



## Onaway Board of Trustees Spring Meeting and Dinner with Alumnae and Families

*April 1, 2023*

A huge thank you to Liz Porter Hawkins and her husband Phil for hosting the Onaway Trustees in their beautiful home in the mountains of Evergreen, Colorado. Many thoughtful discussions took place in the day and a half meeting, while Saturday night was devoted to catching up with Onaway alumnae and family members who joined the trustees and staff for dinner. Everyone enjoyed seeing pictures of camp in all it's construction glory as Onaway completes a historic campaign and shoring up of her century-old campus.







## 1940s

### Seton Lindsay O'Reilly

So exciting to see the pictures of the new and vastly improved Woodland. I have vivid memories of lying on the floor there listening to classical musical while Miss Mala instructed us to identify recurring motifs and raise a finger when we heard one. Ah, what fun on a rainy day! Also, wonderful to have a new Off-Away for our director. Again memories of being sent to the old infirmary there for "extra rest." Ugh

## 1960s

### Laura Bemis Rollison

No matter where I have lived around the world I seek out places to swim. And each time I lap the pool I think of camp and how it all began there. Thank you Phyllis, Ramsey, Ousie and all of my counselors for leading me to this point in my life where I swim to glide, to meditate, to exercise and to breathe. It's a glorious way to ease into aging knowing your body appreciates the effort in more ways than one. Presently I am in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, teaching at the American School. So all of you who began in advanced beginners (1965) and moved up the



## 1970s

**Liz Porter Hawkins** Liz and her daughter Jenny Hawkins (2000s) met up with Liz Angney (1990s) and Mo Leary (1990s) for dinner in Costa Rica. Liz A. is moving to Brazil! <sup>1</sup>

**Susan Riley** After 45 years as a pediatric physical therapist in Boston I will be retiring in December to spend more time with my 3 children and 2 grandchildren who are scattered around the country. I hope to also do more hiking - something I learned to love at Onaway with a goal of getting to the summit of Mt. Washington, the one presidential I have not climbed. Also some more sculling- an activity that was not available at Onaway when I was there but that I picked up as an older adult. Traveling is also on my list. I recently made Mt. Washington Hot Bread which brought so many memories of the dining hall and the rest of Onaway.



## 1980s

**Meg Tweedy Drazek** I've moved to South Africa for a couple of years, let me know if you're coming through!

## 1990s

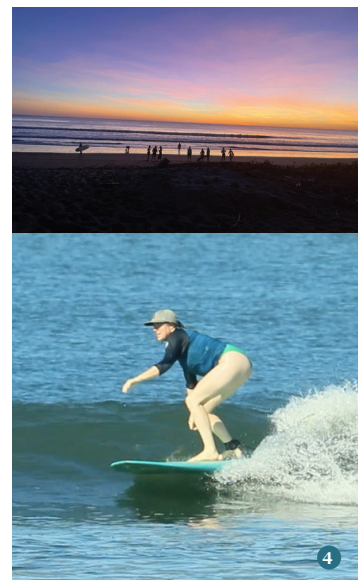
**Luz Erhardt** Living in Madrid, happy and healthy life, work in branding, loving that my daughter is now a second generation camper. <3<3

### Marguerite Wiesenmaier

My son and I traveled last summer in Italy. We went on a month-long adventure through Europe, finally able to visit family for the first time (in his life) after covid lockdowns were let up. <sup>2</sup>

## 2000s

**Gabrielle Carini** My fiancé Jeff and I will be getting married this July in Plymouth, NH. Having both been NH camp kids with frequent trips to the Whites for vacation, we couldn't imagine a better spot to start our next chapter in life! We absolutely cannot wait to celebrate with our family and friends. <sup>3</sup>



**Mara Carini** I recently went on an all girls surf trip to Nicaragua for a week at the end of January. It was my first surf experience and I couldn't be more smitten. Pacific sunset surf sessions, endless fresh fruit, and watching baby turtles wiggle their way into the ocean for the first time... my heart! The week spent out of my comfort zone and in a new corner of the world was a lovely reminder that being a beginner at something is the best! Sky's the limit and no expectations to stress over. The program was hosted by Surf with Amigas (highly recommend) and it was nothing short of incredible. Even more incredible, one of the instructors recognized some tales I shared about camp and turns out her mom went to Camp Onaway! Small world after all. Oh how I love how life just circles me back to camp. <sup>4</sup>





**Lucy Rice Culp** In February I visited Dana Staley Arthofer and Hope Shiverick Adair in LA and our babies got to meet! Pictured at brunch: Lucy Rice Culp and daughter Campbell, Dana Staley Arthofer and son Wyatt, Hope Shiverick Adair and son Lincoln. Not pictured: Dana's 3 month old daughter Annabel who was napping in her stroller! <sup>5</sup>

**Jessica Feldman** My partner Mike & I bought a house in Eliot, ME, and we are so happy to be living in the Seacoast again! Since moving back, I've gotten into native plant gardening, wildlife tracking, birding, and horseback riding. Being in New England means I've gotten to spend more time being an in-person Auntie to Miss T's delightful babies, Rosie & Vin. I'm preparing to launch a local poetry reading series, and hoping to add a Silken Windhound to my daily chaos by the fall (fingers crossed!). Sending my love to all the Ona community and hoping 2023 is treating everyone well! Pictured: Miss Nancy McGrath, Miss T Feldman, Miss Jess Feldman, & Sweet Vin. <sup>6</sup>

**Samantha Walsh Gibson** Samantha Walsh Gibson and Bailey Rice Pulde got together

with their baby boys Ollie (in the Onababy onesie) and Briggs, respectively. And Samantha and Claire Nick with Ollie and Olivia in the selfie. <sup>7</sup>

**Julia Harris-Polk** My husband and I have been living in the bay for 5 years now and our kids are now 2.5 and 4.5. We're loving the great outdoors here where we mountain and road bike, hike and ski. I still sing my kids to sleep with Onaway songs every night. I just started a non-profit called Julayo, we're raising funds to build health-care centers in underserved areas and starting with a town in Nigeria called Akure. Check out our website [www.Julayo.org](http://www.Julayo.org) thanks! Pictured: Camila Polk, Dave Polk, Julia Polk, Rafa Polk <sup>8</sup>

**Hope Shiverick Adair** Our son James Lincoln Adair entered our world on 9/13/22 in Los Angeles, CA <sup>9</sup>

**Genevra Stone** I am headed to Salt Lake City at the end of July to start a 1 year sports medicine fellowship at the University of Utah. Look forward to connecting with OWOW!

**Catherine Ostholthoff** I moved to Seattle in the fall! I'm enjoying the city so far, but am really looking forward to the summer weather so I can explore all the hiking and adventures the mountain ranges have to offer!

## 2010s

**Virginia Bolton** Since January 2023 I have been living in Switzerland as a counselor for the Winter Term. I am grateful to be in such a beautiful country and in the company of people who share the same values as camp. I'm glad I get to share a little bit of camp with the kids here in Lenk! I will return home in April and excitedly begin planning my wedding for next year! <sup>10</sup>

## 2020s

**Natalie Weis** Natalie, aka "Mustache" is in her junior year of high school where she is enrolled in an arts program. She will be performing in a production of *The School of Rock* in a few months and is excited. Our family just returned from Universal Orlando for Spring Break. <sup>11</sup>

## ANNOUNCING THE ONAWAY BLOG CABIN!

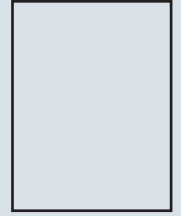


Was there a bugle call for announcements at camp?! We have an announcement! A survey of our Onaway community told us that email is the best form of keeping in touch. Some use social media but nearly everyone uses email. And an email can link you to our website for more information.

Two of our Onaway values are simplicity and community. In the spirit of keeping it simple and expanding access to Onaway news and information, we are reducing our social media presence and launching a blog. Visit our website to find the Onaway Blog Cabin or use your smart phone and follow this QR code—modern, yet simple! We will also email everyone and send up a bugle call!







**2023 Onaway  
Camp Season**  
June 24 - August 13

