

The Onaway Circle

Spring



2025



Oh, the Places You Go!

Being curious Onaway folks, we asked our alumnae to tell us about the places they live, work, travel, and study outside the US. It's interesting to see how global the Onaway footprint has become. Here are the stories we received from just a sampling of our international and traveling alumnae. Thank you for responding to the survey!



Mo Leary
Skytops 1994

In January, Miss Kath, Miss Liz, and Miss Mo embarked on the ultimate Trips Week, heading to the Galápagos Islands for sun, snorkeling, sea life, and of course, open-water swimming! We swam the equivalent of 200 triangles around several stunning islands, displaying classic Onaway strokes and surface dives that wowed our fellow travelers and even enticed several playful sea lions to join in the fun. Sadly, there is no trip song, but there WAS a very competitive sing-down and a whole lot of laughter and catching up throughout the journey.

Allie Keen Vassalli
Skytops 1992



I am living in Lugano, Switzerland and loving it! I originally moved here 17 years ago to work at The American School in Switzerland (TASIS). I ended up here thanks to Onaway connections. I was first introduced to Lugano when I stayed with Judy LoJacono's parents back in 2006. Judy was one of my

aides, and her family was so nice to host me in Lugano.

Once I discovered the American school there, I thought it would be an amazing place to work. Vinnie Broderick connected me to Charlotte Berking Zaneccchia who also works at TASIS. Charlotte was an Onaway camper for just a few summers in the '60s, but her father, brothers, and sons all attended Pasquaney. The Onaway connection is so special that Charlotte was happy to help me find a position at TASIS. I will forever be grateful.

What I thought would be a two-year adventure turned into much more, when I met my now husband here. He is Swiss, and we now have two wonderful children, Emily (10) and Oliver (8). They are lucky because we spend our summers on Lake Winnisquam, so they feel very Swiss and very American as well. Emily is also excited to be a first-year camper at Onaway this summer.

I am still enjoying working at TASIS, now teaching in the Learning Resource Center. Lugano is a wonderful place to raise a family. We love walking in the mountains or walking along the lake. The beauty around us continues to amaze me each day. I feel very lucky. I have seen Leslie Stimmel Guggiari, one of my counselors in the '80s who also lives in Lugano, many times over the years. We have also had many Onaway visitors, most recently Miss Elsa came for a visit when she was studying abroad in Germany. Although I had only met Elsa once about six years ago, her mother, Lizza Miller, was one of my favorite counselors, and we were so happy to have Elsa stay with us here. I just love the Onaway bond that lasts for years and years.

Ashley Codd
Skytops 2006

Five years ago, like many, I was sitting at home contemplating the meaning of life. This led me to the decision to pursue my long-buried dream of attending medical school. What a crazy journey 2020 Ashley sent me on.

Somewhere along the pre-medical path, I wondered what the process looked like abroad. I'm extremely lucky in that I have my Irish citizenship through ancestry, so I sent in an application with a "what harm?" kind of mindset. But then—with acceptance to an American school and an Irish school—I had a tough decision to make. Eventually, I thought it better for me as a person and the richness of my education to attend school abroad. So here I am, a year and a half into living in Dublin, Ireland, and just shy of halfway through medical school.

While living abroad is difficult in more ways than I can count, I'm so happy I made this decision. I feel very lucky to be experiencing a different healthcare system, so I can take the best from both into how I want to practice. I've learned so much about myself and my resiliency, with a 12-hour flight



and an 8-hour time difference from my closest friends.

Ireland is a country I have dreamt about since I was a child, hearing stories of Irish history and our connection to it, so to be able to make my own memories here feels a bit like my great-grandparents' wildest dream since they couldn't stay themselves.

Alison Von Clemm Curtis

Aide 1954



Put aside Cheese, Chocolate and Alpine Festivals, I came to Switzerland to teach in an International School with my husband and boys in 1964. This has been our “homeland” with trips to see family and for academics ever since, enjoying to this day a rhythm of lifestyle reminiscent of the 60s....where: weekends are respected as “time off”.....shops shut / families gather.....Public transport is on offer country-wide connecting villages, towns, cities daily and all day..... Public schooling is disciplined into “tracks” where good marks count for future schooling.....In Government: Citizens elect

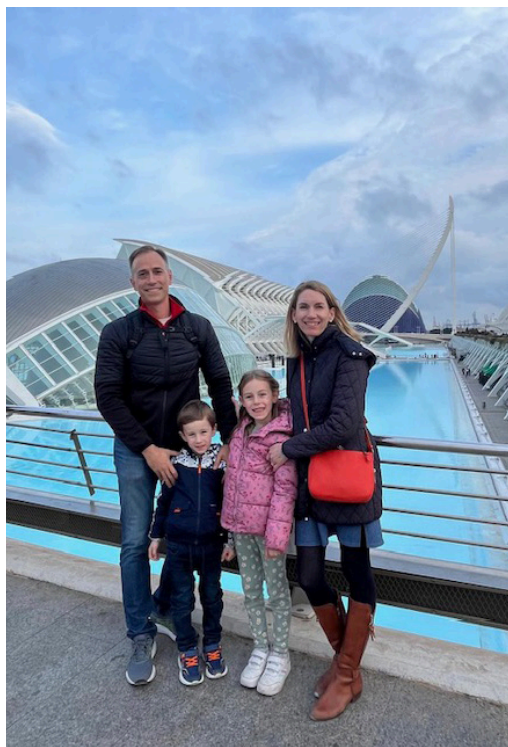
the legislature which chooses from its number to serve as the executive branch. The 8, in turn, choose one of their number to serve as President for ONE year! Since 1999 Switzerland has had 7 Women Presidents, 1 of whom is serving in 2025!

A further point of living in Switzerland is that it is centrally located and that it is halfway to Wamba, Kenya where Onaway campers and staff have supported three handicapped girls to be able to attend school to have a better life. Thank you from Helima, Lucy, and Mary and from myself. It has been a pleasure to deliver your donation to make their lives closer to that of an Onaway Girl.

What I remember to this day about Onaway is in 1954 when I was one of the early generations of AIDESMiss Stiles teaching at the waterfront the SIDESTROKE.....She made us lie down on our sides in the bit of sand and repeat after her, “Reach up, pick the apple from the tree, give the apple to the other hand, and then THROW it away”.....with of course the “scissor kick.” To this day when I swim the sidestroke, I repeat those directions, so I guess I think of Onaway every time I swim.

Megan Underwood

Skytops 2002



My move abroad takes me back to 2009. I had just graduated from college and was unsure about what came next. The one thing I was sure about was that I had the chance to return for another summer on the Onaway council while I figured things out. That fall, I finally received a letter from

the Spanish Ministry of Education offering me a job as an English Language and Culture Assistant in a bilingual school in the south of Spain. My plan was to stay for a year or two to improve my Spanish and then return to the US to teach.

Fast forward 15 years, and I am still in Spain with my husband and our children, Emma (7) and Nolan (4). We live in a small city called Linares where I work teaching English in the public school system to children ages 3-12. The Rainbow Song is a big hit with my younger students! Although there will always be things that I miss from home, there are so many things that I love here: the more laidback lifestyle and time with family, the opportunities to travel and discover new things, the language, and, of course, the tapas culture that defines Linares.

Over the years I have had the chance to visit other Onas in Europe like Kaitlin (Biondi) Griffin, and have had several visitors in Linares: Jennifer (Smith) Farb, Laura (Ware) Adlington, and Stacey (Funston) Sirois. I would absolutely love to (re)connect with any Onas passing through Spain!

Marta Escura
Skytops 2014



Hey Camp Onaway, this is Miss Marta Escura! I live in Barcelona, Spain and recently had an amazing visitor: Miss Charlotte Berl, my good friend and Tiptops and Skytops roomie! In January, I took my medical specialty exam and had a few months off, so Miss Charlotte came to visit me and I got to show her the city.

I start working in June and plan to specialize in Internal Medicine.

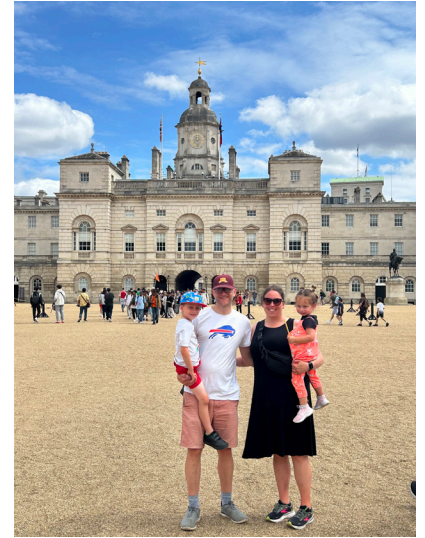
I will also be traveling through Boston, New York City, Los Angeles, and San Diego for the next month while visiting some friends all across the US! In April, I will be running my first Marathon in Paris, so I'll have to balance my time in the States with some pretty long runs... Thankfully Miss Charlotte is also training for her first Marathon, so it feels just like at camp when we cheered each other on with Tennis and Canoeing! I feel very thankful to camp for these amazing friendships of over 13 years. No matter how long it has been (my last year at camp as a counselor was 2018, crazy!) or how far away I live, Onaway will always have a very special place in my heart.

Sending everyone a huge hug from across the Atlantic. Feel free to reach out if you ever travel to Barcelona! Attached is a picture of Miss Charlotte and me hiking Montserrat, a very beautiful monastery on a mountain right outside of Barcelona.

Kate Biondi Griffin
Skytops 2003

I moved over to England after graduating college in 2010. I was lucky enough to land a job with English lacrosse and worked with club teams, did outreach, and worked in boarding schools both coaching and working pastorally. I have been fortunate to meet amazing people, travel the world, coach in World Cups, and work with multiple national teams, most recently working with the Belgium men's sixes national team.

I met my husband in England through lacrosse and now we have two kids and live right outside London. I have seen loads of Ona's here through the years - most recently Sarah Friedlander (Robart) and her family last summer. I feel very lucky to have landed here!



Leslie Stimmel Guggiari
Skytops 1970



I have spent over half of my life living in Switzerland. I moved to the southern region near Lugano in 1984 and just changed my primary residence back to MA in 2023. But even with 40+ years of 'Swissness' I had Onaway women nearby. In the immediate vicinity lived Robin Wheeler Bognuda, Allie Keen,

Charlotte Berking Zaneccchio and my daughter Frieda.

I used my camp trunk to house all things Barbie for my daughters when they were young and now it is getting packed again to bring pieces of my life back to Massachusetts. I am forever grateful to my home country of Switzerland, but the ocean has called me back.

ALUMNAE VOICES

Kata Nadas
Skytops 1998



I'm a tour guide where I live in Hungary and I work with many guests and donors from the US, and this is only possible because I learned English at Onaway... I'm grateful every day. Sara just turned 4, so only 5 more years and I'm sending her to Onaway! Sara goes to an English kindy (pre-school?) and I already taught her the rainbow song and Mr. Moon. She loves both!

Ibby Carothers
Skytops 1974



I traveled to Africa in 2023 on a safari with Natural Habitat Adventures and it was life-changing ~ I love wildlife photography! Next adventure travel experience was to Antarctica including South Georgia (see photo) and the Falkland Islands this January with Aurora Expeditions ~ FANTASTIC! Penguins, whales, seals ... loved it!

Jen Hopkins
Skytops 2021



For the past 6 months (and about 3 more months), I have been living in the Lofoten Islands of Norway, studying nature photography at a school called a “folkehøgskole.” These types of schools are unique to Scandinavia and are especially common in Norway. How I describe it to people who are unfamiliar with the concept is a boarding school, combined with a summer camp (many of the activities we’ve done are much like Onaway!), combined with a college. You could also call it a kind of “gap year school.” There are only around 150 students, and everything is in Norwegian, so I have become fairly fluent.

The “linje” (line, or program) that I’m doing involves not only nature photography but also education in outdoor living (“friluftsliv” in Norwegian). We’ve been on many trips, most of them backpacking out in the wilderness of the north here. It is an incredibly beautiful landscape, but one that is also often stormy and volatile (hence the importance of outdoor survival education). On one trip, we had winds so strong that many of us were knocked to the ground (including myself) whilst being pelted with small chunks of ice!

The other “linjer” (lines) at the school are all very outdoor-based, such as Arctic surfing and skiing, rock climbing, “Fjell and Ekspedisjon” (mountain and expedition), etc.

I can only include one picture here, but if you’d like to see more, you can follow my Instagram ([elisee.h_](#)), which also has a link to my photography Instagram.

Em Roth Miller
Skytops 1998



My world expanded hugely at 11 years old when we moved from New Jersey to London for my Dad's job. The world was no longer our small town, but a large bustling city, new accents, new foods, and the greater awareness that there was so much more. I can't remember who had family that had attended Onaway, but I first came to camp as a Topnot with Whitney Morton and Ashleigh Finn, along with a couple of others from school.

My experiences in London as well as my time at camp really awakened a love of travel and experiencing all that there is to offer of the world! With this in mind, I somehow convinced my after-college research job to allow me to work on their project based in Milan, Italy. I was able to travel to see Miss Judy LoJacono who was home for Christmas in Switzerland, Miss Allie Keen who was teaching in Switzerland, and Miss Laura Ware who was studying in Florence, but sadly missed Kata Nadas when we visited Budapest. The time in Italy was short, but what a great experience to do my job in a totally different setting, travel Italy and parts of Switzerland, and see friends around the world!

As a physician I have great interest in how medicine is done around the world and have since explored health care in Argentina and India, and in the future hope to intermittently teach medical students about Pediatrics in Rwanda.

Alex Tomb
Skytops 2014

Recently, I returned to Italy for the annual olive harvest! One of my dear friends is from Florence, Italy, and his family has a grove filled with hundreds of olive trees. I'm lucky enough to be able to travel out there each fall and help with harvesting the olives to turn them into delicious, fresh-pressed olive oil.



The beautiful rolling hills of rural Tuscany paired with fresh charcuterie, aged cheese, and fine wine make me feel like I'm living in a fairy-tale! A few days of hard work is well worth it. Afterward, we traveled to the coast to soak up the sun, swim in the Mediterranean, eat gelato, and taste the region's famous sauce — pesto!



Anna Dunlap
Skytops 2009

I have lived and worked in Lampang, in Northern Thailand, since 2016. After a few years as Director of International Recruitment and Development for a small education nonprofit, I am now the Curriculum Coordinator for an international elementary school where I also teach 5th and 6th grade. A few years ago, I worked alongside another American for nearly a year before we discovered that our dads had been campers at Pasquaney together!

Julia Harris-Polk

Skytops 2000



I run a non-profit organization called Julayo that is building a healthcare center in Akure, Nigeria.

I am proud to say we are doing well and moving towards being able to open our first healthcare center in less than a year!

After working in 10 countries over the last 20 years while obtain-

ing my MD and 13 years of clinic experience, I am building a healthcare center from the ground up, in Akure, Nigeria, which tackles the unique socio-cultural barriers to healthcare that we have observed in this region. There is a lack of trust and usership of healthcare until the end of one's life when often family members spend their life savings on a very ill relative who presents with an advanced illness and poor prognosis. This leads to worsening poverty and little faith in the medical system.

To counteract this cycle, we are creating a system of healthcare workers and primary healthcare in one region of the city with hopes to expand throughout the city and region. We are

a small non-profit funded only by family and friends thus far. We have made progress in the two years since we incorporated, but there is still so much to do.

I remember being a young Hilltop listening to stories of Onaway alums helping a girl in Africa named Lucy. We would vote every year to donate money from the Girls of Onaway Fund dollars we made at Fair and Chapel and by eating rice meals to fund Lucy and other children in need. This work inspired me. It was so important to shed light on the stories of those less fortunate and share our privilege to create meaningful change in a person's life. Every year I looked forward to hearing about the progress Lucy had made in her health journey, and I felt proud of what we could do as young campers for a fellow child born with physical and socioeconomic limitations.

This is the spirit of Julayo as well; we are improving the world one community at a time. I still live and work in the East Bay of California at Kaiser Permanente as an ob/gyn. I get to Akure, Nigeria once a year for a couple of weeks and run the organization with my team from California the rest of the time. You can learn more about our work at www.julayo.org or contact me juliaph@gmail.com.

Also, funny story, I once ran into Xana Wolf, Skytops '95, in an airport. She had been my big sister when I was a Hilltop in 1995. It was around 2006 when we ran into each other, over five years from the last time we'd seen each other. We sat and chatted for a while; it was lovely.

Luz Erhardt

Birches 1988



Hello from Madrid, Spain! My parents discovered Onaway, looking for a true US experience. They were bold! They sent my siblings and me to Mowglis and Onaway for the full seven weeks, starting from Wendies. I only made it for two summers as I found a love for horses and went to a specialized camp, but my sister Maria made it all the way to Skytops and my cousins María Urrutia and Bernardina Churruca joined for several summers.

When we get together we often remember camp... such great memories. I'm always grateful for having been a part of

it. Now we get to live it again through my 14-year-old, who this year is returning for the 4th summer as a Tiptop. I moved a bit when I was younger but I'm well-established in Madrid—if anyone ever comes, ping me! I work in a brand agency and travel quite a bit to the US for work. It would be great to meet other alumnae across Europe! Sending a pic of all of us former campers (and another cousin of ours) in an all-cousins trip we did to Seville!

Charlotte Berl
Skytops 2014



Our first adventure was celebrating Marta finishing med school by hiking Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. Using our Trips Week skills, we took on the challenge of climbing over 19,000 feet! To prepare, we did a lot of physical

training and spent a week in Kenya with my cousins who are from Nairobi, acclimating to the altitude while also enjoying an incredible safari. The hike itself felt just like a camp trip: challenging, rewarding, and full of lots of laughs.

More recently, I visited Marta in Barcelona, for a more relaxed trip. We did a little hiking along the France-Spain border, but mostly I got to experience her daily life—biking class, run club, and lots of amazing local food like the Catalan dish *Calcots* which is like a giant grilled green onion you eat with your hands. I love how camp friendships continue no matter how much time passes!

Beyond that, I've traveled to visit my younger sister, Allaire (also a camp alum!), at the University of Hawaii, where she plays D1 tennis. My other sister, Miss Wilder (ST '17) and my mom (Miss Lou) were there too, along with my dad. Being able to explore new places while reconnecting with friends and family has been such a privilege, and I'm endlessly grateful for the amazing connections that camp has given me! If anyone is in Boston please don't hesitate to reach out!

Meg Tweedy Drazek
Skytops 1982

In 1980 I stood in front of a view that changed my life. I was eleven (Intermediate Hiking Club) on my way to Zealand Falls Hut. That moment, which I remember preternaturally clearly, held such a personal sense of accomplishment for my young self; it kicked my confidence to be an adventurer into high gear.

Now, after 26 years in the Foreign Service, life has been full. Greg and I met while studying language for our assignments to Russia, and from there, we built a life that took us across Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, and Europe. We raised two kids in eight countries, navigated challenges normal and totally abnormal, and embraced the unpredictability that comes with this career.

There were moments of wonder—diplomatic negotiations, absurd vacations, bombs in Baghdad, driving armored cars, meeting a Pasquaney alum on a rainy beach on the Dutch North Sea, the pandemic in West Africa, ice skating in Gorky Park—but also the everyday experiences that made each place feel like home. An important one of those was camp (Mowgli) for my boys, a flag in the ground in the U.S. for them.

I've had the opportunity to meet presidents and secretaries



of state, work on issues that mattered, and see history unfold up close. Now I'm based in South Africa, and my husband is in Croatia as we negotiate our latest, and possibly last, chapter while still hoping for the best in what comes next. We will retire, sooner or later, to Stowe, VT. Come see us.

Getting Ready for Onaway's 114th Summer

Barrie Pendergast, Director, *Skytops 1986*

Do you remember getting ready for your first summer at Onaway? I think of that awkward, initially shy, yet eager young camper I was, every spring as I support new campers and families in preparation for their very first Onaway experience. Many of us can recall the overwhelming feelings of excitement and nerves! As parents and staff help the campers work through all the emotions that come with the anticipation of Opening Day on June 21st, what we all know for sure is that they have made an excellent decision and that this will be a summer to remember!

I am thrilled to have a robust group of counselors lined up for our 114th summer, from an eager group of new counselors to our strong, experienced returning staff. Miss Alisha Saini, an adept middle school counselor, is now our year-round assistant director and mental health counselor. Returning for her 12th summer on the council, she is in charge of community-building and cabin group life, working with the counselors to support campers' adjustment to this new lifestyle and ensuring everyone feels welcome. Miss Stu McGuire, a current 4th-grade teacher, returns for her 10th council summer as our program director, overseeing all camp activities and events. She will work with our scheduler, Miss Julia Bosco, in her second summer, to keep the daily operations of camp running smoothly. In her 6th summer on the council, Miss Robbie Southall returns to head up the Waterfront while Miss Kim Moschella, in her 7th council summer, will lead our new Wendies program and co-lead the Woodworking program. Miss Abby Stambaugh and Miss Libby Rutledge,



Wendies Rest Hour

each in their 3rd council summer, will be working with our mighty aides.

The exceptional depth of experience of this council ensures we will have a successful summer, and the campers will be well cared for. In addition, I am excited to have Miss Phoebe Spare, *Skytops 2012*, return to Onaway as our head nurse. After giving up her vacation for the past two years to work at Onaway for three weeks, she will be back to fill that role full-time, and I cannot think of anyone better suited to run *Forty Winks*, our beautiful new health center. Her years as a camper, aide, and counselor have made her invaluable in the care of our campers, and we are fortunate to have her back this summer.

While we were confident about our decision to offer the Wendies a shorter session for girls finishing third grade,

we were thrilled to see how enthusiastically this new opportunity was received by prospective families. We have fourteen campers joining the program, eight in our first session and six in our second session. I think every camp is thanking Jonathan Haidt, author of *The Anxious Generation*, for suggesting summer camp starting in 3rd grade as the antidote to the phone-based childhood (see Alisha's article for more on this). However, talking with parents over the past ten years, it was clear to me that an introductory session for this age camper would make their first summer at camp a more comfortable transition and prepare them well for our full seven-week transformational Onaway experience. We cannot wait to share more in the fall about how the Wendies program impacts not only these fourteen camp-

ers but the whole Onaway community. We are nearly fully enrolled with 78 full-session campers to welcome our young Wendies!

Another program that continues to excite our campers is OWLEs. Ten participants are eager to experience this watershed summer, ably led by the intrepid Josephine Finney and Lilia Klingler. In addition to the fun and challenge of being an OWLE, the functional leadership training prepares them to become stronger aides and counselors. In fact, all but one of the aforementioned counselors in leadership roles were once Onaway OWLEs and Miss Alisha was an OWLE counselor or as well.

Finally, we are thrilled to have author and alumna Ann Williams (Skytops 1972), Associate Professor and Director of the MFA in Writing Program at the University of New Hampshire, join us this summer as our 3rd annual artist-in-residence. She will join us following Trips Week and plans to have the campers write about their trips. She

shared recently that it is “amazing to realize that some of my short stories were inspired by Onaway trips! Especially a canoe trip we did down the Penobscot River, which made its way into a short story some 25 years later!”

We never know for sure exactly how a camper’s Onaway education will impact a life or career. Perhaps hiking experiences will inspire her alife of writing, foreign diplomacy, traveling the world, or counselor summers will lead to teaching or middle school counseling, or exposure to the Girls of Onaway experience will inspire pursuits in medicine or leadership in global healthcare. No matter the alum story, I am always moved by their stories and life journeys, such as those shared on the preceding pages.

But if we send our campers and counselors home empowered with the strength of mind, body, and spirit to meet the challenges of today’s world and manifest their best selves in whatever they do, then our mission is accomplished.



Ann Joslin Williams, 2025 Artist-in-Residence



Ann in 1972 Topnots



Onaway Counselor Show 2024



Miss Phoebe, Georgie, and Miss Stu

The Value of Community & Social Connection *An Unexpected Appreciation of Its Continuance Online*

Alisha Saini, Assistant Director, *Skytops 2006*



By nature, we are social beings; canvases filled with landscapes of feelings. At times, our emotions serve as set directors, casting our thoughts and behaviors into different roles as we experience situations that evoke different reactions. Of course, no shared experience can promise a similar reaction from two people, and intention most likely always has a different meaning than impact. As a middle school counselor in camp's off-season, I see this daily through both regulated and dysregulated behaviors displayed by students. As an adult, I see this through celebrations and joinings of life, and at times, through unexpected goodbyes. As a year-round Onaway staff member, I see this in New Camper Zoom Calls and in weekly staff meetings.

At camp, this might look like uncontainable excitement about Pizza, Cake, and Ice Cream Night on Fridays. It might look like skepticism and disappointment about being signed up for a challenging hike when you were really looking forward to your morning activity schedule. While different situations elicit different responses from each camper and counselor, each response leaves an unexpected but important mark on our shared community. Maybe the excitement about Pizza, Cake, and Ice Cream Night spreads throughout the dining hall and creates an atmosphere that is too

loud for some, and others forget their table manners. Perhaps a Tiptop notices a usually talkative Birch uncharacteristically quiet at breakfast one morning and decides to check in with them at Cabin Duties to see what's going on. Or maybe the 2024 Skytops take the lead on organizing the entire camp to dress up like Strawberries for Sunday Night Dress Up without the counselors finding out until everyone is in the Center of Camp, laughing and posing for a whole camp photo.

Positive situations rooted in resilience, laughter, and connection are what ground us and frame optimistic, solution-focused global citizens of our world- True Onas! Feeling socially connected has allowed generations to flourish through creativity, imagination,

self-expression, spirituality, love, and joy. These practices mold the important foundation of self-love, allowing us to better connect with ourselves, other people, and ultimately a bigger human experience. Each summer, we strive to create this kind of community and culture, giving everyone—campers, aides, counselors/alumnae, and staff something bigger to bring home, something invaluable and something that takes up no space in a trunk.

Historically, social connection has been a fundamental human need, one that provides a stronger sense of belonging through structural, functional, and qualitative means. Structurally, we think about our social networks and roles within these networks. Functionally, we benefit from fulfilled needs we gain from relationships, while we also consider the positive and negative qualities of these said relationships and our interactions with others. Not only does social connection positively influence our physical and mental health, but also the inadequacy and lack of healthy relationships can unfortunately increase negative outcomes for individuals, ultimately leading to loneliness and other struggles.

As I mentioned earlier, social connection has existed on a multitude of levels from times of Hunter-Gatherer Societies to the Present Day. People have found ways to socially connect and form communities around almost anything that might matter to them: art, food, music, spirituality, familial bonds, professional networks, athletics, literature...you name it. Ironically, what feels most relevant today, however, is the connection formed and sustained

through community ties that originate from in-person human interaction and have traveled to the online media world. These two facets of community ties are undoubtedly intertwined, and with today's fast-paced, ever-changing, and demanding society, when in-person human interaction is not always possible, the internet and social media provide online communities; a shared space that houses and feeds our need for social connection.

The Anxious Generation, written by author Jonathan Haidt, legitimately argues that the virtual world and media age have taken away from play-based childhood experiences. He verifies that these spaces have replaced our human synchronous interactions with online asynchronous ones. While this is true and something I see in my daily work, the one thing that keeps coming back to me, especially when I think about camp, is how essential it is to authentically operate and function in these new online spaces while simultaneously nurturing our values and connections from original in-person communities.

Benefits of online communities can

exist when these communities stem from social connections formed through in-person community ties. Camp Onaway is an example of this. While Onaway only "exists" in the summer season, campers, counselors, and alumnae stay connected to its magic in the off-season through various online communities that are ever-so normalized in today's everyday world. The shift to carry Onaway's magic and presence into the off-season, especially for those who live far away, has been a new experience. Onaway continues to be a place rooted in letter-writing instead of emails, maps instead of GPS, and even at one point, where writing a check to Miss Sheila at the Camp Store was a Writing Period activity - one that you made sure to do before you got in line to buy a nail file!

However, as I think about Onaway's debut into the online world, and as I think about the online communities we have joined or created, I think about it as a form of social connection. In essence, it is a continuance of an in-person community founded and maintained by generations of strong and



ageless women, generations of tears and laughter, and generations of Sunday Night sunsets at Campfire Rock. Being on Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn has allowed Onaway's spark to keep the fire going, even in the colder, wintery months! While the online, virtual world will never take the place of those in-person, inexplicable social connections that produce feelings of unconditional belonging and love, it does allow for the bonds created to exist even when camp is not in session.

Let's Stay Connected!

Want to reconnect with the Onaway community and stay up to date on camp and alumnae news? If you are not already receiving mail and/or email from Onaway, please send your current contact information to Beth Beckman at bbeckman@camponaway.org. We'd love to hear from you!

For anyone looking to expand their professional network, or anyone open to connecting with other Onaway Alumnae about their

careers, we encourage you to join the private Camp Onaway Alumnae & Families LinkedIn page and follow the public page.

You can also find Onaway on Instagram and Facebook through the public page or stay connected through the alumnae's private page, The Onaway Circle. Request to join today!

Check out these QR codes for links to the Onaway Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn pages.



Instagram
Camp Onaway



LinkedIn
Camp Onaway
Alumnae & Families



LinkedIn
Camp Onaway



Facebook
Camp Onaway



Facebook
The Onaway Circle
Alum Private Page

Bunker Senior Campers Reminisce

Do you remember Bunker Senior, the large cabin on the left side of the top of the hill? It is near the path to Campfire Rock and Chapel. As best we can recall, from the history book, *Let Her Strong and Ageless Be*, it was built in the late 1920s and used for staff as it had several rooms and one of only two working bathrooms at camp! But as the camper population grew, from the 1940s through the '60s, it became home to the youngest campers, sleeping on bunkbeds in a more traditional bunk style cabin. It has not been used as a camper cabin since the late 1960s, but rather for staff once again (aides, counselors, kitchen staff).

So we thought it would be fun to email the handful of alumnae we have on record as living there to ask what it was like to live in a bunk-style cabin before they graduated to the famous and unique two-person cabins. It was an email "to all" and here is the conversation that followed, with their Bunker Senior year noted.

Alexandra Jacobus, 1966

I was in Bunker Senior. I think it was the summer I turned 8, 1966. I had a best friend from New Jersey, Caroline. She was a good friend and I wondered what happened to her. We were friends the next year too in bunker junior. I stayed for a third year and then my family pulled me out to go to a camp where I could supposedly learn French. I was devastated. I loved Onaway. Caroline, are you on this list?

Liz "Beanie" McClelland, 1958-1959

I came to Onaway as day camper at age 7. My grandparents who lived in Hebron knew Mrs Stiles and also the Hollisters. Mrs Hollister gave me a Beanie to wear my first day. Beanies were no longer worn by the campers during my camp experience. Consequently, I acquired the nickname "Beanie." Following my year as a day camper, I spent 2 years in Bunker Senior. There were 8 of us plus the husband and wife counselors to look after us. Our bunkbeds had a wooden slat which kept us from falling out of bed. I always opted for the top bunk, so I remember that particular fact. I also remember we had a bathroom inside the cabin. It was a great experience. I loved being at Onaway.



Polly Peterson Wright, 1965

I was probably the oldest one to ever have their first year at Onaway in Bunker Senior. It was 1965 which meant I would have been 11. I remember it very well. I had the top bunk in the first partition on the left side of the cabin when you walked in. My bunkmate was from Venezuela. I think her name was Stephanie. I don't think our group ever got perfect beaning to earn a trip to the Mary Lamb. Beaning was not one of my strong suits in my 4 years as a camper.

I do remember when Dad sent me a box of sour balls. I wanted to keep them, but I had to give the box to my counselors. They were then distributed as a treat at lunch.

I have a picture of some of us outside the cabin doing a very silly pose. Bunny McClave is in the picture and a few others. I'm in Colorado right now.





Carolyn Cummings Cordeiro, 1967

Hi Alexandra, I definitely remember you and your brother Ian, who was at Mowglis with my brother David. I still live in NJ, we bought my parents' house. My brother-in-law lives near relatives of yours in Sun Valley. My husband and I have a house on Newfound Lake and enjoy our summers in NH. I remember Bunker Sr., it was fun being all together in one cabin. I stayed at Onaway through Aides. Great to hear from you!

Bunny McClave, 1965

I was in Bunker Senior as a 9-year-old. I can't remember the counselors' names but I think they were a husband and wife. We always arrived at our very large cabin first on walk back from Campfire Rock. I had a lower bunk, and have no recollection of who was up top. Miss Stiles was the director and Mrs. Hawkes the asst. director.

Sarah "Sally" Langdell Lamdin, 1957

I was in Bunker Senior in 1957 when I was 10. That was for the youngest campers. Next was Bunker Junior, then Wendies, then Birches. The next year I was in Birches which was an unusual jump. But that year, in 1957, my bunk was on the top of the two just on the right as you came in the front door. My roommate's name was Tyler Lincoln. We used to play "jacks" on the floor of the center room as well as on the porch of Woodland Hall. I started using my real name of Sarah when I went to college but at camp, I was Sally Langdell.



Stephanie Smith, 1963

In 1963, when I was 10 years old, I arrived at Onaway from Grosse Pointe, Michigan with my sister who was a counselor. As campers from Michigan, we were unique. I remember feeling odd camper out as I wasn't from Philadelphia and wasn't one of the campers who had brown leather tie shoes.... shoes I longed to have. My mother learned of Onaway from her best friend in Grosse Pointe, Mary McClure Stearns, who attended Onaway as a young girl and hated it. My mother sent us anyway, saying, "It builds character." My older sister, Cecily Smith, recalls her first year at Onaway as a young girl....that our parents put her and another Grosse Pointe girl, Susie Bowman, on a TRAIN all by themselves from Detroit to Boston to then head up to Onaway. That would be unheard of now, as I assume they were 10 or 11 years old! Onaway's founder Mabel Hollister's son lived in Grosse Pointe and she died there in 1964 per the Detroit Free Press. The connections/friends she made there brought several of us to Onaway.


Having heard from my sister about the small cabins with two campers, I was crestfallen when I arrived to learn my assignment was Bunker Senior, a group cabin with bunk beds. That quickly passed as having bunk beds was a novelty for me. My roommate was Jan Franklin. A vague memory has me on the top bunk though I could be wrong about that and have no idea how Jan and I sorted that out. What isn't vague is how quickly I bonded in friendship with Liz Hawkes, another Bunker Senior camper, whose mother was one of our counselors and lived in the cabin with us. Liz and I were friends during all our years at Onaway.

Looking back, Onaway was a huge influence in my life, shaped my outdoor skills, shaped my feelings about "belonging," so much so that when I had the fortune last year at age 70+ to purchase an off-the-grid log house in the woods on Upper Sysladobsis Lake in Maine, I named it Onaway.

SUPPORT THE ONAWAY FUND FOR TODAY'S CAMPERS

Make an Immediate Impact this Summer!

*Top 4 Reasons to Support the Onaway Fund—
the all-important, keeps-the-boats-afloat annual fund...*

- #4** The point you win for your team, if you're an Onaway alumna, in the Alumnae Brown & White Challenge this summer.* 
- #3** Cake! Every 4th year that you donate to the Onaway Fund, you add a layer to your cake on the annual report, just like Cake Night! (with fewer calories)
- #2** Knowing that your gift keeps the tuition rate from going through the roof and supplements scholarship funds, allowing more families to attend camp.
- #1** The real winner... the joy of giving the transformational gift of Onaway to campers this summer, a gift that lasts a lifetime.



*The annual **2025 Alumnae Brown & White Onaway Fund Challenge** begins May

1st and ends on August 1st, when the winning camper team flag and the winning alumnae team flag are raised at flagline. If you do not recall which team you were on at camp, let us know, and we will re-search or add you to a team. Thanks for your Onaway spirit! No matter which team is victorious, it's a win-win-win... Onaway wins, alumnae win, and most importantly, campers win!



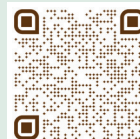
Ways to Give

Onaway Fund 2025 Goal \$250,000

We are halfway through the fiscal year with \$146,000 to date, \$104,000 to go by September 30th, our fiscal year-end. Please don't wait! Your gift this spring will help Onaway prepare for her 114th summer and the campers who are eagerly counting the days and packing their trunks!

Donating online is quick and easy!

Make a one-time gift, or make it monthly by joining Onaway All Year.

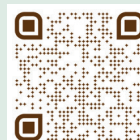


Donating by mail is easy too!

Send a check to Camp Onaway, PO Box 339, Glenside, PA 19038

Donating appreciated stock/securities is always appreciated!

Find transfer details on our website and give us a heads-up when your transfer is on its way so we can watch for it.



JOIN CAMPFIRE ROCK SOCIETY TO SUPPORT FUTURE CAMPERS

Make a Lasting Impact Beyond your Lifetime!

*Top 4 Reasons to Join Campfire Rock Society,
Onaway's Planned Giving Program...*

- #4 The lovely little thank you gift you'll receive with Onaway's heartfelt thanks.
- #3 The special invitation to gather on Zoom with the director at camp this summer!
- #2 The exclusive extra communications you'll receive in the summer with photos and camp updates.
- #1 **The real winner... the joy of knowing that even though you cannot live forever, you are helping Onaway live forever, by implementing a simple plan to leave Onaway a future gift, no matter the amount.**



*Campfire Rock
Society*

Your planned donation from a will, trust, or financial account will ensure the gift of Onaway continues to empower future generations of girls. To learn more about Campfire Rock Society and ways to plan a gift, visit our website, www.camponaway.org.



Please let us know if you are planning to include Onaway in your future giving plans or if you have already made arrangements so we can show both our heartfelt appreciation and the growth of the community of planned givers in our annual report next fall.
Thank you!

CAMPFIRE ROCK SOCIETY MEMBERS

Save-the-Date!

July 26, 2025, at 2 PM ET
For a summer rendezvous on Zoom

Live, from Camp Onaway!

*Hear from Director Barrie Pendergast
Connect with other Campfire Rock Society members.*

(Details to follow via email)



EVENTS

“Glad to See You!”

The Onaway staff was happy to be on the road this winter to see old friends and meet new ones at open-house gatherings across the country! We are grateful to the families who hosted our get-togethers, warmly opening their homes, serving refreshments, and inviting prospective camp families.

Miss Ally Hurdman’s Onaway cookies were photo-worthy and yummy! And her tiny cabin, constructed during the pandemic summer of 2020 as a camper craft activity, proudly graced the family buffet. We were having so much fun in Baltimore at a joint Onaway and Pasquaney gathering that we forgot to take a picture. Next year!

We hope to visit a few new cities next winter. Let us know if you would like to host a gathering in your hometown, especially if you know some families who might enjoy learning about Onaway. Word of mouth is our best way of meeting new and future campers. And an Onaway introduction may be the best gift you could ever give a friend or neighbor!



Brooklyn, NY hosted by the Clary Family



Boston, MA Alumnae Reunion over Trustee Weekend



Brooklyn Open House



Boston, MA Alumnae Reunion over Trustee Weekend



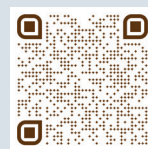
Falmouth, Maine hosted by the Hurdman Family



Wayne, PA hosted by the Connor Family

Onaway All Year

(monthly giving) is an amazing way to donate because it helps me “set it and forget it!” With all the day-to-day things to remember, emails, asks, etc, I know that I won’t forget to donate to Onaway because I’ve already committed to an ongoing, annual donation. It also helps me donate a bit more each year. The incremental donation doesn’t impact me month-to-month and actually adds up to a bigger donation than I might do in a one-off scenario. Onaway is so important to me, and by doing **Onaway All Year**, I can make sure I’m contributing and helping to provide campers and counselors with their own unique and amazing Onaway experiences.



—Samantha Walsh Gibson,
Skytops 2002

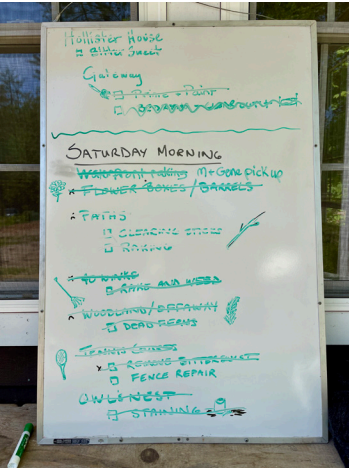
Camp Onaway
presents...

New
Merch!

Look for an email in late
May! Available for 10
days only!

Work (and Play!) Weekend
Join Ms. Pendergast and Staff at Camp
May 30 - June 1, 2025

In these scenes from Work Weekend 2024, you can see how much fun it is to work and play at Onaway Work Weekend. Just like at camp, many hands make light work, leaving plenty of time for fun. Come Friday evening and stay at camp or book lodging nearby. Or come for the day, Saturday. Enjoy meals in the dining hall, a campfire Saturday night, and the joy of knowing you helped make Onaway beautiful for the campers arriving in June. We will send email reminders, and you can also follow this QR code to register today!

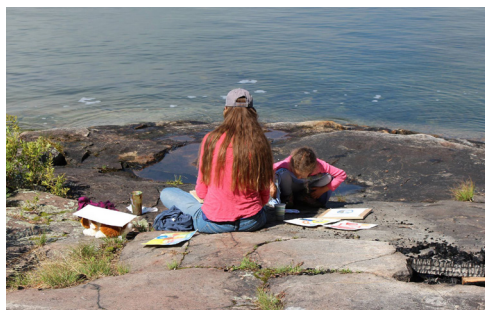


The Lake Calls and the Hills Call!



Onaway Alumnae Reunion Aug. 14 - 17, 2025 At Camp Onaway

Onaway alumnae and families, we hope you will join us for a weekend of fun at camp. Refresh your Onaway spirit on the shores of Newfound Lake. Swim, sail, paddle, play tennis, hike, and, of course, sing! Share Onaway with your family and find your name on your old cabin walls. Here are some memories from our 2017 reunion. Be on the lookout for emails with details!



ALUMNAE NEWS



1940s

Anne Carter Mahaffey I am living in a wonderful retirement community in Oakland, CA near my Onaway daughter Lucy Mahaffey and Onaway granddaughter Isabel Langen. Such happy memories of spending the summers of 1943-48 at camp!

1950s

Lynn Hammond I was at Onaway in 56, 57, & 58. I am now 80 years old, living near Berkeley, Ca, especially active in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley & very worried about the future of our country. Unitarianism grew out of the Transcendentalists, Emerson & Thoreau, so we believe in civil disobedience, the interconnectedness of all beings, and I still have my love of nature that was heightened at Onaway. I'm trying to become wise about aging and death and would love to hear from anyone nearby or far away, this being a digital age. I enjoy learning about idealistic

pursuits alumnae are engaged in. Love, strength and peace to all. lynnhammond_phd@yahoo.com

1980s

Katharine Gratwick Far from NH but still with Onaway in my heart. Happy to share any writing from here: https://tolight.substack.com/?utm_medium=web

Sarah Hebert Have been lucky to spend a lot of time this winter skiing at Ragged Mountain, looking out over our beloved Newfound! ¹

Mandy Killen It has been a hard first year after I lost my husband Jay last April but also a year of reconnecting and travel. I have managed to visit family and friends in New Hampshire, Los Angeles, Chestertown, MD, Portland, OR, New York, and Asheville. I also just spent some time in the Caribbean where the sun and the water were the perfect balm for my soul after a long hard winter. I didn't get out

on a sailboat, unfortunately, but did get a lot of time on and in the water! I am looking forward to further adventures in Hawaii this fall and am planning to attend the reunion weekend in August at Onaway. I hope to see you there!

Lizza Miller After 20+ years in Seattle, we moved to Boulder, CO a few years ago and still wake up smiling at all the sunshine! Lots of outdoor adventures, including ski weekends with lots of Onaway & Pasquaney alums!! A recent gathering with past and future campers: Kath Keen, Helen Gemmill and daughter Margaux and sons John and Henry, plus my girls Heli & Elsa Dittmeier and son Kaspar. Also pictured from Pasquaney: Steve Hibbard, John Ward and family. ²

2000s

Nancy Conolly In February, Rachel Wolfe came out to visit me and Brookie Lanigan in Colorado for "JFFST" — just for fun ski trip! ³

T Feldman We enjoyed a family trip to Disney with Miss Jess & Miss Nancy! Rosie (5) loves to sing Four Leaf Clover and for Vinny (3) life is all about trains! ⁴

Lili Meyer I am excited to share that my (now) fiancé, Archer Minor, and I got engaged in November in Punta Cana, and will be getting married this August in Washington, DC! ⁵

Caitlin Mixer I married the love of my life, Marek Sotola, on March 2, 2025 in Estes Park, Colorado! We're off on our honeymoon to Tahiti and New Zealand! ⁶

Gevvie Stone Albert "Bertie" Harmon Pritz was born 12/29/24 at 9lb 12oz, 21 inches. He's doing great and is already signed up for Pasquaney where



he'll be lucky to be a camper with at least two other On-aBabes (Miss Richie and Miss Claire's sons). 7 8

Carter Ramquist I visited Becca Supple in St Andrews in January. We had dinner and she took me for a tour of the town, and it was lovely to see each other and catch up after a couple of years. It would have been great to stay longer but there was a huge storm coming in!

2020s

Dani Gomez Anez This May, I will be graduating from high school, and starting in the fall, I will be attending Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, and planning on studying Neuroscience and running for their cross country and track team.



Ed Cragin and Liz Porter Hawkins

IN MEMORIAM ED CRAGIN TRUSTEE EMERITUS, ONAWAY DAD

It is with great sadness that we share the news of Edwin Bradford Cragin's passing on March 9, 2025, at age 84.

Ed was loved by so many in the Onaway community, and we will forever be grateful for his decades of support as a trustee and steward of Onaway's financial

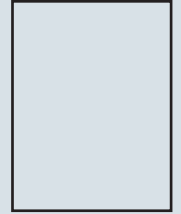
health when he had oversight of Onaway's endowment portfolio. Ed is survived by his wife Ginny and his love of camp was deeply tied to the love of his family as the proud father of alumnae Amy, Susan, and Lael, grandparent of recent Skytop, Gigi, and father of Brad (Pasquaney alum).

Onaway's former trustee and treasurer, Joe Quinan, shared, "I have fond memories of working with Ed over the years and so much appreciated his insights and support for Onaway. Ed's thoughtful guidance through some of the challenges we faced brought the mission, vision and values of Onaway clearly into focus. He was really fun to partner with on the financial and investment aspects of our mandate to secure Onaway's future, and I learned so much from him about the history of camp and the board. We would often connect separately to chat about the markets and policies coming out of Washington just to get smarter about what we were hearing and experiencing. I always enjoyed those chats with him will miss his engaging banter! Our thoughts and prayers are with Ed and his family."

We send our Onaway spirit and love to Ed's family, especially his wife Ginny, and we know his Onaway legacy lives on through the strong alumnae in his family. We are grateful for Ed's gifts of time, talent, and treasure to Onaway, but mostly his love and friendship.



Since 1911
Camp Onaway
PO Box 339
Glenside, PA 19038



**2025 Onaway
Camp Season**
June 21 - August 10

Fair Cup Weekend
July 12
Cup Weekend
August 9-10

**2025 Alumnae
Weekend at Camp**
August 14 - 17

**Pack your gear and come
back to camp this summer!**

