



# The Log

## Fall 2023 Volume XXXVI Issue II

Greetings Alumnae and Camp Runoia Parents!

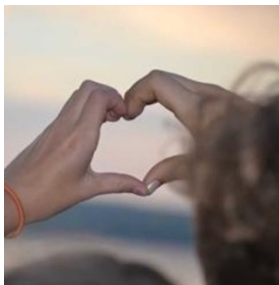
It's your CRAO Co-Presidents, Marie-Claude and Betsy, and we hope you're having a wonderful fall. For those of us with daughters at camp, we were told right when they hopped into the car that it was "right up there with the best summers at camp!" Under Director Alex Jackson, working in partnership with Canyonlands, the summer was filled with all the same cherished traditions that have defined the Runoia experience for generations.



If you are new to CRAO or curious about it, our mission is to raise funds that provide financial "camperships" for children to attend Runoia, who might not otherwise be able to attend. In the summer of 2023 alone, we are proud to say that the efforts of CRAO enabled 21 campers to attend Camp Runoia through various levels of funding.

One parent expressed her gratitude this fall, telling Alex, "Thanks for giving the chance of the experience that otherwise was not possible for families like ours." Her daughter "made so many friends and learned and practiced new skills. Will forever be grateful." Alex also noted "We had kids who were incredible assets to the community and received a life changing experience because of the CRAO donation."

Alumni and Parents alike, we are all forever tied to this special place that gave us – and our daughters – summer sisters, provided a lifetime of experience, and enabled us to flourish in countless ways. We are grateful to those of you who have chosen to support the CRAO's mission and make camp possible for dozens of campers over the years, and we hope we can count on your continued support. Please be sure to see the piece written by Jenny Sachs Dahnert, the CRAO's Director of Investments, in [this](#) issue of the CRAO "Log", to learn more about the Campership Fund, its management, and its impact. Note that all the funds allocated to Camp Runoia go directly to Runoia families awarded camperships through an application process.



In the spirit of "no gift is too small," CRAO has also piloted a "swag bag" project to provide camp gear for campership recipients, giving them things like a "Crazy Creek" chair, a sturdy water bottle, and other "extras" that help them fully enjoy their Runoia experience. And it's never too early to mention our excitement about the 120th Runoia Reunion in August 2026! Stay tuned for more information about that too in the coming months, and finally, a huge congratulations to Alex for being recognized by Maine Summer Camps for her dedication to camping in a leadership role at Maine camps nearly 30 years.

Enjoy the season and thank you for considering [supporting Runoia camperships](#) through CRAO!

***Betsy and Marie-Claude***

*Betsy Nicholson and Marie-Claude Francoeur*  
CRAO Co-Presidents

Dear Alumnae,

It is always hard to know where to start with the news from a camp summer. As I am sure you can all remember, every day at camp feels like a week and so much is packed into the summer that it often feels like you have lived a lifetime during those long lazy days.



Despite the rain in Maine (or was it a short monsoon season?) we had a spectacular summer and welcomed campers from all over the world to our little piece of Great Pond to develop friendships, community, and, of course, life-long skills. Our diversity among staff and campers continues to expand in many ways and we are so grateful for the work of the CRAO DAC committee that keeps us on track to make sure all campers have a successful camp experience. We had 85 staff from so many countries - three continents! Our most popular activities were riding, water ski, sailing, and target sports. We added Tae Kwon Do and expanded our farm and garden program. Drama was also popular, putting on rousing productions of Alice in Wonderland and The Odyssey. We hosted three sessions of HLC (Harmony Land Camp), our "try-it" program for our youngest campers.

Campers continue to thrive in our unplugged camp environment. We added a social worker position to our team to help those who need a little extra support and to make sure we are doing our best to provide optimum mental health support alongside our physical health team.

The 2023 facility upgrades included the addition of the "Berry Patch" - three cabins near The Cottage. Each cabin has its own pix. The boathouse deck- thanks to Tim- is updated with new bench seating, Tim also created cabin porch storage, new steps on the Dining Hall, expansion of the camp gardens and lots of great maintenance carpentry around camp.

We are already filling cabins with returning and new campers, and we are recruiting staff for 2024. The families who toured camp got first in line to sign up for this summer. As always, we are using the off-season to prepare for the coming summer- making smart choices about facilities, program, and staffing that will make 2024 our best summer yet!

We are incredibly grateful to the CRAO for allowing us the opportunity to make camp available to as many campers as possible. Bobos to all of you!



**Alex** for the Runoia Team

Alex Jackson  
Camp Runoia Director



### CHANGING LIVES THROUGH CAMPERSHIPS

As Betsy and Marie-Claude said elsewhere in this Newsletter, the Camp Runoia Alumnae Organization (CRAO) aims to provide “camperships” that make it possible for campers to experience Runoia, even when their families’ circumstances might not otherwise be able to afford it. 2024 will mark the 25th year that the CRAO has been providing this support for campers. As we approach this significant milestone, we are reminded of the inspiring story behind the Campership Fund and the impact it has had, which not everyone knows. So, please give me a minute and read on...

The CRAO Campership is formally known as **The Betty Cobb Memorial Campership Fund**, named for long-time director Betty Cobb – mother of Pam Cobb Heuberger, the immediate past Director of Runoia. The Campership Fund was seeded in 1999 with an endowment gift of \$230,000 from Betty and her husband, Phil, when they sold a piece of property the Runoia Cove, just beyond Fairy Ring.

Since that time, through the CRAO’s ongoing fundraising and prudent management of the endowment, the fund has more than quadrupled in size. The CRAO follows a strict spending policy that allows finite draws on endowment returns, while continuing fundraising and reinvestment in the principal of the endowment. At its Annual Meeting each summer, the CRAO hears from Runoia’s leadership about the level of financial need among its campers, assesses the financial status of the endowment, and votes on an allocation.

Last summer the CRAO’s contribution provided grants of varying amounts to 21 campers. Those grants, totaling more than \$80,000, were made possible by returns from the endowment combined with outright contributions from alumnae and parents





who recognize the life-changing experience of Camp Runoia, and want to provide that for campers and their families who seek it. Over the past 2+ decades, the CRAO has contributed more than \$600,000 which has gone **entirely** to Camperships (no administrative fees), supporting dozens of campers. Canyonlands is committed to maintaining that promise of stewardship to the CRAO and the alumnae, parents and friends who have

contributed so generously. In addition to CRAO's contribution to Runoia campers, Canyonlands and its camps provided over \$250,000 in camperships in 2024 at four other camps.

Looking ahead, the CRAO aspires to at least maintain – and hopefully grow – the level of support we give to Runoia every summer for Camperships, and our ability to do that depends on the continued willing generosity of donors. As you make your annual contributions, we hope you will consider including **The Betty Cobb Memorial Campership Fund** as a priority in your philanthropy. And, consider this: gifts to the CRAO in honor of your loved ones make great holiday gifts!

**Donate**

Click on the donate button or here is a link where you can make an [on-line donation](#).

I also invite you to contact me if I may provide more information or be of assistance to you in contributing: [jensachsdahnert@gmail.com](mailto:jensachsdahnert@gmail.com).

If you are an alumna or have a child or friend who is an alumna or a current camper, you know the impact Runoia can have on a person's life. Please help us continue to make that experience a reality for generations of campers to come, THANK YOU!

With bobos and gratitude,

*Jenny*

Jennifer "Jenny" Sachs Dahnert  
CRAO Fund Development and Investment Officer





## ==== Milestones ====



Caroline "Carrie" Knights  
married Jack Krantz  
October 7, 2023

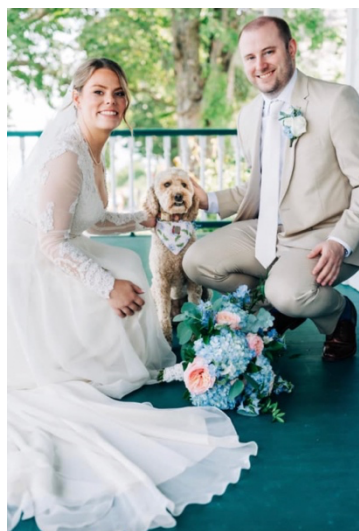


Justine Thompson and  
Cian Stryker married  
November 19, 2023

Sarah Schmidt  
married Kyle Starr  
May 22, 2022



Emma Bickford and  
Ben Jones married  
July 2023



Elizabeth Williams  
married Glover Peter  
August 19, 2023



Claire Sidman  
marries  
Nick Job  
August 6, 2023

## Milestones - continued



**Passings –**  
**Sandra “Sandy Jo”**  
**Rinehart Famous – August**  
**19, 1938 - July 31, 2023**  
Pictured on the left with

her limerick in the 1953 Camp Runoia Log with  
her 6<sup>th</sup> Shack roommate Debby Janney

Sandy “Jo” As a counselor in 1957  
(pictured in the middle)

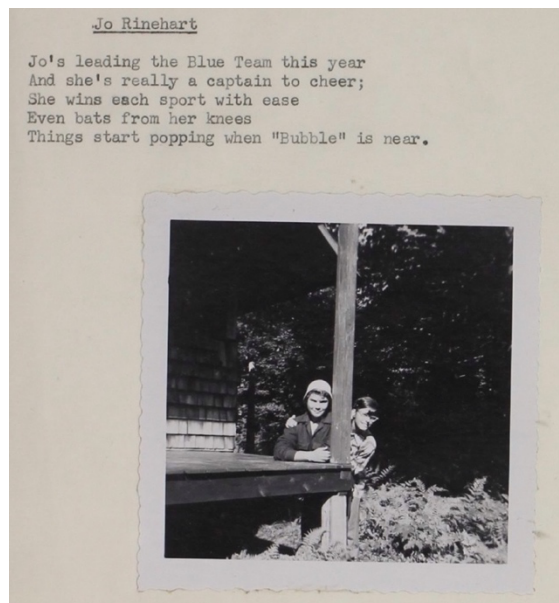


## Births –

**Hadley Bergh** and  
Margaret Moses  
welcome Orin who is  
being loved by  
his big sister, Edie.  
November 2023  
Congratulations!  
Hadley and Margaret!



Thanksgiving **engagement!**  
**Emma Owen**  
and Vince Weltz





# CRAO Fall News

**Justine Thompson** is a doctor in Clinical Psychology and in November married Cian Stryker in Japan. Currently Justine shares: I am conducting research on how threats to men's masculinity impacts their likelihood to shoot a replica firearm during dangerous simulated reality scenarios via a police firearm training simulator.

**Sarah Schmidt** ran the NYC marathon in November 2023 – congrats Sarah! We caught up on her May 2022 wedding in our Milestones page. Sarah lives in Denver and works at the Rocky Mountain Children's Health Foundation.

**Meg Tabell Kasprak** and **Boop Tabell Jordan** hiking Gulf Hagas in Maine this fall.

**Hannah Scotch:** I am excited to share that, after finishing my Fulbright in June, I have moved to Denver and started a new role as a Professional Research Assistant at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus Center for Bioethics and Humanities.



**Crystal Cobb** is working on her fellowship at Emory University School of Medicine and presented her findings on Cystic Fibrosis related bone disease in Phoenix, AZ.

**Gerty Flagg** has returned from Alaska to New Hampshire where she is teaching and nannying – she stunned us with her Barbie Halloween costume this October!

**Hannah Wythe** visited camp with her husband in September at the end of her sabbatical from work and returned to the UK to start her new job. Pictured right with Pam Cobb at camp.



We'd like to express another appreciation – a phenomenal effort by **Ginny Geyer** and **Meg Kasprak** for relocating the trip department at Runoia to the old maintenance shop and repairing, restoring, and revitalizing the trip equipment including tents, stoves, mess kits, axes, knives, compasses, maps, and more. A mammoth effort that began the fall of 2022 and continued throughout the summer and into the fall. THANK YOU and Bobos to you both! Ginny pictured right at JMG Testing Camp as the "wet day fire" examiner.



The **CRAO Board of Directors** gathered at camp in late July for the annual membership meeting. This meeting is open to all members and takes place in late July at camp. Every five years at the reunion (mark your calendar for August 2026!), the Board meets at the reunion gathering. The board meetings are now a hybrid of virtual and in-person making it possible for people from around the globe to meet to make important decisions about the organization, present from committee work and share in comradery and celebration [for the work of the CRAO](#). We'd like to acknowledge and thank with enormous gratitude, the volunteer effort of the [Board Members](#).





**Amy Rosenberg Cohen** wrote a book –  
Black History in the Philadelphia Landscape  
[amyjanecohen.com](http://amyjanecohen.com)



Newlyweds **Claire Williamson** and Derrick Gibson visited Runoia this fall – it's so great to see alumnae return to show their family their special place

## Engagement News from Camp Runoia Alumnae



**Erin Lasher** was engaged to Leo Nasi in Acadia National Park. Erin declared "I added one more reason for Maine to be my happy place!"



**Alex Jackson** and **Mindy Martone-Boyce** were engaged at the Talent Show!

We wish everyone a  
happy and magical  
engagement time!



**Emma Owings**  
and  
**Hayden Saturley**  
are engaged!

**Colleen O'Malley**  
was engaged to Ian Ustanik in October – a beautiful venue for a proposal





## Donations Count in all Amounts!

Are you feeling like your donation ability can't make a difference? Well, it CAN!

Gifts of \$20-\$75 are very helpful to CRAO and in turn, Camp Runoia.

*This tax-deductible donation can go directly to a cause you care about – just mention it when you make your donation.*

**SWAG!** A tremendous thanks and shout out to the nine donors to the “new in 2023” SWAG donation. These donors made it possible for campers who are supported with CRAO campership funds to receive some fun camp essentials like a Crazy Creek chair and Hydro Flask water bottle. This program will continue in 2024 so feel free to send a [donation](#) that fits your budget and make a difference!



**LIBRARY!** New in 2024, the [Diversity Advisory Committee](#) (DAC) would like to extend the tax-deductible donation opportunity to the Camp Runoia library. Over the past 3 years, DAC has added 60+ books to the nearly 1000 book library located in the Lodge. DAC's goal is to provide a balance of diverse books to excite and indulge the many Runoia readers. Camp Runoia counselors still read

out loud every night in each cabin as part of the bedtime routine - a timeless tradition continues! We proudly encourage out of school reading at camp and rest hour and bedtime are the perfect chances to read in a busy camp day.



We have an inventory of our library books. Each spring a DAC task force picks the new books. The books are displayed and announced at Assembly during the summer. Do you have a favorite children's or young adult book you'd like to suggest? If so, email

[colleen@runoia.com](mailto:colleen@runoia.com) and she will share your idea with the committee, we will check our inventory and consider adding your book!

In past years, an anonymous donor has supported this project. This year, we would like to have alumnae involved in raising funds for the library project.

**Please consider a [donation](#) and note if your donation is for SWAG or the library project.**

Donate and include your email and you will receive a tax email for a tax deduction.



### Camp Runoia Alumnae Board of Directors

**Co-Presidents Betsy Nicholson and Marie-Claude Francoeur**

A shout-out to our board members who keep the CRAO shaking and moving! You can find the list of directors [here](#). Are you interested in finding out more? There are many parts to the [CRAO menu](#) on the Runoia website. Find Camp Runoia's Logs from 1910 – 1997 online thanks to a generous grant from the **Tabell** Family Foundation, discover a medley of songs recorded thanks to a generous gift from **Jane Orbeton**, read the latest alumnae newsletter, peruse the Runoia family trees – thanks to **Roberta “Boop” Tabell Jordan** who created the historic legacy of Runoia generations, see testimonials from campers who received help from CRAO to attend camp, find reunion news (psst... it's August 2026 – put it on your calendar!)

CRAO annual meeting in person & virtual attendees 2023

# Donations

*it is with gratitude and appreciation; we thank our donors who contributed from June -November 2023*

## Rangeley \$5000+

Alison Chase  
The Winkler Family

## Great Pond \$1000-4999

The Morse Family  
Marie-Claude Francoeur  
The Tomlinson Family Foundation  
Anonymous  
Mary "Mia" Rosenwasser Kishel



## Katahdin \$500-999

Betsy Nicholson  
Diane Dorsey Edwards  
Facebook combined donors from fund  
raisers

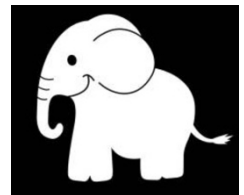


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## Tidbits from CRAO and Runoia



The Bees (formally known as the Blue Team) defeated the Elephants (formally known as the White Team) in overall points in 2023. **Congratulations Bee Team!**



Four Runoia JMG candidates went to Junior Maine Guide testing camp in 2023. Congratulations to second year candidate Hayden Hoffmann (pictured on far left) who is Runoia's latest JMG! Thanks to **"K" Bolduc** and **Ginny Geyer** who are two of the many testers who dedicate their time to youth and outdoor living skills at JMG. Ginny helps to set up testing camp and spends the week testing campers from many different Maine camps in Oquossoc, Maine.

***We honor the Wabanaki "People of the Dawnland" who lived, hunted, and fished for thousands of years on these lands (and Camp Runoia's land) before white settlers claimed land. The four tribes in the Penobscot Nation are the Maliseet, Micmac, Passamaquoddy, and Penobscot.***