



***In this news you will find:***

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**“Ambassador Joyce “Joy” Leader**

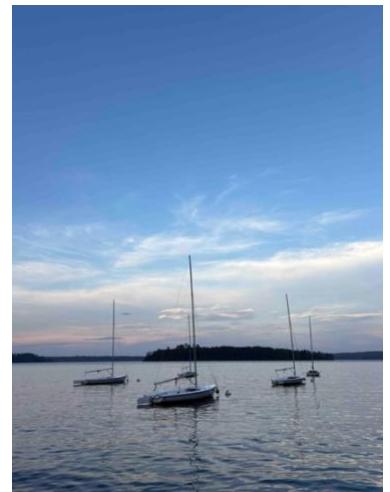
**Donations for Camperships**

**Gratitude for the People of the Dawnland**

**Thanks to our Board of Directors**

**“Out on the blue waves,  
where summer breezes blow,  
our boats go sailing into sunset glow,**

**we leave the shoreline for realms of dreams we go,  
out to the center of the lake where breezes blow.”**



**August 14-16, 2026**  
**The 120<sup>th</sup> Season Reunion**  
**A word from your reunion co-chairs,**  
**Claire and Pam**



We know by now you've heard all about our 120<sup>th</sup> reunion. All the social media, the emails, the direct messages, the carrier pigeons. Can you tell we are excited?!



We realize venturing to camp when you're not sure who you will know can be intimidating. There will be SO MUCH going on, you won't feel out of place at all. You'll be on Great Pond. Out on the Blue Waves! It will be like coming home to your very own special place. It literally will be "camp" available to you and your loved ones (or your camp friends when you find them – we can help you find them). From early morning coffee on the dock to canoeing on Great Pond to gathering 'round the campfire in the dusky dark to hear the timeless (mix of classics and newer) songs of camp. Flicker, Linger, Leaving on a Jet Plane, House at Pooh Corner, Wake Me Up Gently, Peace I ask of Thee oh River, Oh, A Thousand Miles I Traveled, Be it Ever So Humble, Barges...you can hear it now, can't you?! Anyway, we truly want the 120<sup>th</sup> to be an out of body of experience for everyone (and we mean that in the silliest of ways – come have fun!).

We will be rolling from Friday afternoon through Sunday brunch with the following events (schedule to be firmed up by springtime when the ice is off the lake):

- Wine and Cheese welcome party at the Lake
- Live Auction with Professional Auctioneers (new)
- S'mores at the Beach
- Early morning coffee (talk optional)
- Morning Yoga (new)
- 5 K Road Race (new)
- Tag Up for Activities (canoe, kayak, archery, riflery, tennis, arts, swimming and more)
- Tennis tourney
- Pickleball tourney (new)
- Wine Tasting Event
- President's Welcome
- Saturday Night Cookout
- Campfire
- Oak Island Swim
- Brunch
- And much, much more!

Here's the link to sign up...

<https://pci.jotform.com/form/252233075730147>



At the time of this newsletter, all Senior End shacks are reserved but there are still Junior shacks 1-4 and private cottages in the "Berry Patch" (new in 2024) with shower, sink and toilet. These 3 cottages have 2 bunk beds each (for a total of 4 beds). There are also still two options in the Health Cabin -both with private pixes, plus the EB White House with a queen bed and private pix (shared shower house). BYOTent and RV options are available as well. Ask us for more details! [Pam@runoia.com](mailto:Pam@runoia.com) and [claire.williamson07@gmail.com](mailto:claire.williamson07@gmail.com)



**"I want to go back to  
camp again to ole Runoia"  
Claire and Pam (then and now-ish)**



## ***Letter from the CRAO President, Betsy Nicholson***

Happy Fall Runoia Sisters! These past few months have been an opportunity to look back with fondness and also look forward to exciting events to come. As many of you know, our dear sister and summer Mom, MJ Mott Auns, passed away in late July, leaving a hole in our hearts and in our Runoia history with her incredible knowledge of camp back to Lucy Weiser. Not only did Maine become her “second home” taking the train from New Jersey as a young camper, but also a place where she led Runoia as Assistant Director to Betty Cobb and served on this CRAO board for decades.



I counted, and MJ gave me over 300 hugs and kisses while I was a camper in the 1980s, treating us all as her own (no matter how much trouble we got into!). As testament to her dedication to Runoia, there were eight decades of alumnae represented at her service in Winthrop, ME where she made an incredible impact on the community library and the people there who grieved right alongside us. We look forward to continuing to remember MJ at our upcoming reunion where she last shared reflections on camp at our 116th reunion by the campfire. *I have given a gift to CRAO in memory of MJ this year, and I would encourage you to do the same if you desire.*



Looking forward, our strong alumnae are already hard at work reconnecting and planning for an incredible **120th Runoia reunion in 2026**. Touch base with your summer sisters and plan to be there together! Big bobos to Pam and Claire for serving as our reunion co-chairs.

We are also creating ways to reconnect with your sisters ahead of the reunion. Nandy Florey Bradford and Hayden Owings Saturley have been planning regional gatherings including those hosted by our Past-President Marie-Claude Francoeur in July on Great Pond, by Sarah Bradford in NYC in early October, and by Sarah Nocka in Wellesley, MA just a few weeks ago. You can look forward to at least three more in the spring on April 25<sup>th</sup>: in Madison, CT hosted by Nandy Bradford and Liz West and in Freeport, ME the same day hosted by Harriet Hubbard. And finally, one more this spring in Alexandria, VA hosted by Sharon West (date TBD). Please RSVP to CRAOregionalgatherings@gmail.com and more information will be posted on our Facebook and Instagram pages. Please follow us if you do not already so you can hear the updates. Hot off the press, please also join our new LinkedIn page. This will enable us to connect professionally and will be particularly helpful to our younger alumnae seeking internships, jobs and networking connections.

Last, please keep Runoia at the front of your mind when considering charitable gifts as the year comes to an end. **100% of every dollar given to families goes directly towards tuition support** through the Betty Cobb Campership Fund. Your generosity enables campers to attend Runoia and, if interested, learn how to ride through the Pam Cobb Equestrian Campership. Last year with your help, CRAO gifts totaling \$75,000 enabled ten campers to attend camp and 13 campers to take riding lessons. Our fundraising goal for the Betty Cobb Campership Fund this reunion is **\$120,000**. We need your help as the need for financial assistance grows.



Please note that our PO Box has changed for check donations. Please use Camp Runoia Alumnae Organization, % **Treasurer Meri Wicks, PO Box 92, Auburn, ME 04212**. Thanks for the years Matti Williams Bradley tended the CRAO Belgrade Lakes Post Office box in the 04918!

Take care and pick your favorite Runoia song to hum as you register for the reunion. We can't wait to see you in August!

Chadiya,

**Betsy**



*P.S. It was so special to have my daughter, Sayles, be bunkmates with Rachel Sutel Sherman's daughter, Vee, when they were 8 years old and then graduate together this past summer. Generations of Runoia sisters! Photo above right: Sayles with her boathouse plaque – the hive for the Bee Team*

## Announcing Our Fund-Raising Goals for Camp Runoia's 120<sup>th</sup>!

Milestone reunions are a perfect occasion to gather and celebrate the camp we all adore! As you know from communications in recent months, plans are in high gear for a 120<sup>th</sup> Reunion you won't want to miss on August 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

From a grateful family in 2025:  
We deeply appreciate the opportunities  
Camp Runoia offers and hope our camper  
will have the joy of returning in 2026.



As we ramp up for the Reunion, this is also a great opportunity also focus on the **Betty Cobb Memorial Campership Fund**, which has become a defining part of Runoia's Alumnae Organization (CRAO). Through ongoing fundraising efforts of the CRAO and careful management of the campership endowment, the fund now provides support for about two dozen campers every summer, enabling them to reap the benefits of the camp experience when financial circumstances might not otherwise make that possible.

Since the last Reunion in 2022, thanks to the thoughtful generosity of alumnae, parents, and friends of Runoia, we have raised almost \$90,000 in new gifts and are aiming to reach \$120,000 – in honor of the 120<sup>th</sup>. With your help we can raise \$30,000 more and go the distance!! These funds supplement investment returns from the fund and allow us to make significant contributions offsetting camp tuition for those who need it. Last summer, the CRAO contributed \$75,000 for this purpose, and next summer we aim to contribute \$80,000.



If you haven't yet given – or if you have given and want to contribute again toward our 120<sup>th</sup> goal, please consider doing so! We have a great opportunity to build and sustain the campership as we celebrate 120 years, and we hope we can count on your support in getting us to this ambitious fundraising goal!

Thank you for helping to provide the life-changing experience of Runoia!

Co-Fundraising Chairs,  
Jennifer "Jenny" Sachs Dahnert  
Pam Cobb Heuberger

[Link here to make a gift now!](#)



*"Camp Runoia is like a second home to me. Whether I'm reading by the waterfront or learning how to make a friendship bracelet, I have found myself always at peace at Runoia. I am forever grateful for the campership you have given my family. My experience at Runoia is making memories that will last for a lifetime."*

## CRAO Fall News

**Dallas White** - from earlier this summer: "This summer, I'm interning with the Los Angeles Sparks on their PR and Communications team. My responsibilities include writing weekly stats-based articles highlighting player success, managing media inquiries, assisting with gameday credentials, and helping with interviews between players & the media. I'm super passionate about sports media, especially when it comes to amplifying women's voices in athletics, so getting to work firsthand with a WNBA team has been incredibly meaningful. Being part of the behind-the-scenes storytelling process and watching how narratives are shaped and shared has only deepened my commitment to pursuing a career in journalism & PR. It's also been exciting to learn from a team of professionals who are just as dedicated to equity and representation in sports as I am." And Dallas adds this fall "I'm thrilled to announce that I've joined **EAG Sports Management** as a PR Intern! Looking forward to gaining hands-on experience and continuing to grow in the world of sports and athlete representation."



**Holly Foster** shares: It's been crazy since we last caught up at the last reunion a couple of years ago. I was working in nonprofit fundraising (Major Giving) after the pandemic for a long time at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Boston College. I am excited to share that I am starting at Bank of America on their Charitable Gift Fund team in September here in Boston. I think this role is a nice (left: Holly visiting with **Carrie Knights** with her baby boy, Ollie in Rhode Island) blend of my previous career experience in financial sales and nonprofit fundraising and I look forward to being back in an office. I have been busy traveling and skiing a lot and playing golf! Skiing and golf have become such fun activities for me that make me feel connected with my dad and super present. Last winter I skied in Japan and this winter I am heading to Norway. I miss Runoia and all of my friends there - such a special place!



**Maroqui Serrano** writes: I went to camp in 1984. I have the most beautiful memories and will always have Phil and Betty in my heart. I just wanted you to know Camp Runoia is one of my best childhood memories. Maroqui is a vet in Columbia and posts: This is what it's all about! It's an honor to have contributed to the breakthroughs at the American Heartworm Society's Triennial Symposium and share the lifesaving work we've accomplished together.

**Fran Smith Morton** – still getting dressed up and having fun!! Fran, we hope you can return to camp in 2026 and share the reunion with your daughter!





After nearly 3 years in Atlanta at Emory and Grady Hospitals, Dr. **Crystal Cobb** started a new job at U Mass Worcester with the Endocrine Hospitals at UMass Memorial Health. Crystal and Pam took a trip to Amsterdam in July to celebrate Crystal passing her endocrine boards in November. Congrats Crystal!

Thanks to the Bradfords for hosting the NYC regional gathering with **Britt Long, Anna Chapin, Zipporah Hommel**, and the Bradfords in attendance!



**Andrea “Nandy” Florey Bradford** checks in with family news: **Stephanie** is a corporate attorney for the firm, Akin and Salaman. **Sarah** is an immigration attorney for the firm Fragomen. **Lizzie** is working towards her PHD in Biological Sciences at Columbia University. She works in the Duvall Lab which focuses using genetic, pharmacological, and behavioral techniques to understand how blood feeders like mosquitoes regulate mating, blood feeding and daily rhythms in their attraction to humans. Little disease carrying buggers. Sarah – did you hear Iceland discovered its first ever mosquitoes?!



The CRAO Board of Directors gathered at camp in July for the annual meeting. The new tech center hidden under the old movie screen allowed Zoom attendees to be “in the room” for the meeting.



The eve of the board meeting, **Marie-Claude Francoeur** hosted an alumna gathering at her home on Great Pond. **Harriet Hubbard, Nandy Florey Bradford, Meri Wicks, Trudy Rutherford, Meg Table Kasprak, Boop Tabell Jordan, Matti Williams Bradley, MC Francoeur, Jenny Sachs Dahnert, Betsy Nicholson** are pictured and attending, but not in the photo were, **Alex and Mindy Martone Jackson and Mark and Pam**. Bobos to MC for hosting and all who made the event so special!



Officially joining the CRAO board this July was **Heather Duckworth Smith**, pictured here with daughter and camper Ellie Smith. Welcome Heather!





Joining the CRAO **Diversity Advisory Committee** are two new members - both ten years and more at Runoia: **Lilly Grace** (camper 2013 -2018; staff 2019, 2021-2023) and **Charlotte “Charlie” Moremen** (camper 2010-2017; staff 2018, 2020, MEGA participant 2025) Charlie is pictured on the right of the bench with **Zipporah Hommel**. Lilly (photo on left), a graduate of Villanova with a BA in Psychology, is working on a combined masters and specialist

(MA/CAGS) degree in School Psychology at William James College. Charlie will be joining us from Ireland where she is in graduate school, working on the effect of AI on children’s growth and development. Lilly and Charlie are ALSO Junior Maine Guides from their earlier days at Runoia! DAC is fortunate to have these two new members

join the committee which includes: **Erin Lasher, Claire Williamson, Pam Cobb, Emma Owings Saturley, Kendall Wilson, Zipporah Hommel, Emily Friedman, Asha Wills, Lilly Grace, Charlie Moremen**. The mission of DAC is to research, discuss and convey best practices in diversity, equity and inclusion work pertaining to youth development and employee experience at Camp Runoia. DAC also spiffed up and reorganized the camp library in the Lodge with new books donated by CRAO. Thank you donors to the library!

*Other news from Camp:* The Pin Cushion Shack is now a SEWING SHACK, complimenting the arts program and the amazing new arts building “Hartwood” which was well utilized and enjoyed this summer. Here’s a tidbit of information, **Betty Cobb** called the tiny rock and birch island on the southeast end of Oak Island “Pin Cushion”. The name stuck and now with cabins Otter and Oak, Pin Cushion is another building named after a Great Pond islands.



This summer, Operations Manager, **Tim Pearson**, who oversees trips, camping and wilderness trips worked with certified trip leaders and support staff at Runoia to send out a total of nine trips including 82 campers for two-night, three-day excursions around the state. Highlights were summiting Katahdin as well as two trips to Gulf Hagas, the “Grand Canyon of Maine”. Another new spot was on Norris Island in Androscoggin Lake. **Do you have any favorite trips or memories of trips from camp?** Share on our Insta or FB pages – we want to hear from you! Always! <https://www.instagram.com/cralums/>





We enjoyed a great summer visit with  
**Barb St. Peter Bassler**  
and Sarafina this at camp



**Natalie Martin** shares a mini camp reunion from this summer with **Gracie Bloom, Jenna Petrie, Bianca Drouin, Jill Zerkowski, Sophia Hussman, Ella DiMartino, Olivia Mundy and Natalie**



We love getting updates on **Kelly Dishner and Zoe** with mom - grandmom, **Kathy Dishner**



Having **Jenny Sachs Dahnert** back on Great Pond for two weeks is like a mini reunion for another group. Jenny and her husband, Steve, stayed in Echo Cove next to Runoia and she and **Matti Williams Bradley** and Pam played pickleball at Runoia

With **Trudy Rutherford's** recent retirement (**Congratulations Trudy!**), Jenny got together The DUDES, Trudy, Jenny and **Sarah Wilkinson Bird**



**Stella Owings and Henley Schultz** camp friends are roommates in DC. *Camp friends for ALWAYS!* If you can room at camp, you know you can grow up and be confident rooming together



**Katie Roberts Dinneen** at camp on opening day with her daughter and camper, Vail



**Ally Leighton** (left) with her family in Sun Valley Idaho

**April Marini**, (right) who works full time, year-round with Camp Runoia on bookkeeping, bill paying, payroll, HR and all the important back-office work, received the well-deserved Core Value – Model Integrity award from Canyonlands. April had her 11<sup>th</sup> camp summer! She just visited numerous camp friends on her whirlwind westward trip in September. Camp friends for always! Thanks for all your hard and dedicated work, April!



**Erin and Max Lasher** visited camp and Erin finally got to show her husband, Leo, around her favorite spot in the 04918! Max shared their most recent tattoo of Seven Golden Daffodils and how much meaning their camp experience at Runoia means to them (and their love for the song!). Erin serves on the CRAO board as well as DAC. Erin, we appreciate your years of contribution to CRAO with your loyal goal of doing the best for Runoia and the CR community!



**Nandy Bradford** and her mom, Ann Florey at Day's Store's NEW in 2025 "1958 Café". Stop in for a meal or specialty cocktail throughout the spring summer and fall seasons.



Nandy has been organizing the regional gatherings around the US this fall and next spring with **Hayden Saturley Owings**. Thanks to both of them for bringing together Runoia alums and for the camp spirit.

Most recently, **Sarah Tabell Nocka**, hosted a reunion in Wellesley, MA. (photo to follow)





Pictured at Sarah's left to right: **Dave Wilson, Jenny Alfond Seeman, Pam Heuberger, Meg Kasprak, Boop Jordan, Sarah Nocka, Kristen Nocka, Cathy Fuller Nicholson, Mitra Morgan, Claire Williamson, Betsy Nicholson.**

**Jane Gair Prairie** shares: I'm standing here in my kitchen breaking ends off of the asparagus and a memory popped into my mind from oh so many years ago, in the springtime sometime, my mother and I went to



Runoia must've been for an interview or a visit. Getting ready to do the CIT program and Betty Cobb cut some asparagus fresh from the space around the cabin there and must've cooked it while we were standing there together, I remember eating it maybe I didn't eat it, but I remember eating it. My mother always liked Betty. I've been thinking about sailing on Great Pond. What fun that was.



Editor's note: **Miss Weiser** planted the asparagus garden next to the Farmhouse and tended it for many years.

**Margaret Loiselle** recently moved from DC to NY after her time as Judge Advocate General (JAG) in the military. She took a new leadership role at McKinsey and Company, a global management consulting firm and leads 65 attorneys and consultants in her department. She recalls her leadership started at camp as White Team Captain which she feels was a very important part of her life giving her leadership opportunities that inspired her to want to make a career of leading others. . She plans to make it to the August 2026 reunion at camp. Margaret is a second-generation alumna and her mom, **Margie Warren Loiselle** went to camp with many of the "old guard".



Here are excerpts from a conversation with **Alison “Allie” Chase** memories who went to camp in the 1950s with **Margie Warren, Joyce Leader, Jan Leader Ahern, Sandy Jo Rinehart Famous, Polly Parkhill Beaty** and more! Alison shares – next page: My friend Gina Bowler (**Caitlin Bowler’s mom**) visited me after touring Camp Runoia, which I recommended for Caitlin. She noticed all my curtains were blue

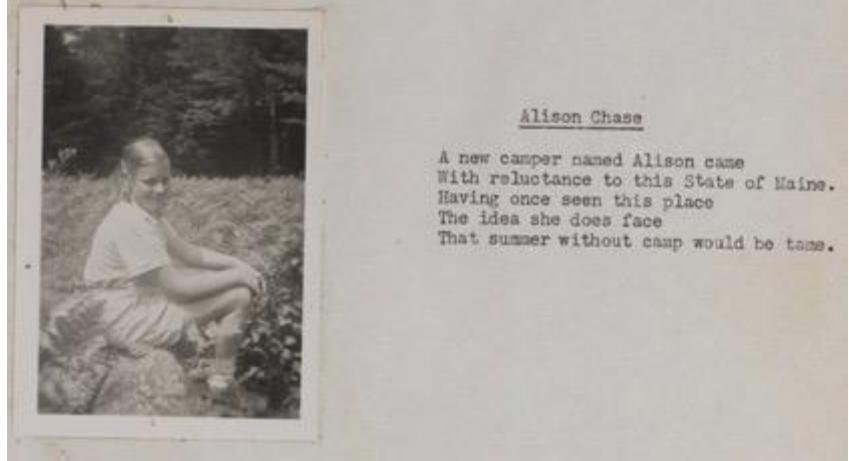
and white gingham. I then realized I had decorated like that because of camp! I loved camp so much. It shaped my whole life. I mean, I learned to canoe at camp, and I’ve kept that with me my whole life. Eventually I found a little cabin in NH where I could get away and light a fire and put on tea and invite friends who need a place to get away. This was all because of camp. Let me tell you, “You want someone in your cabin, always”! I was pushed to be my best self at camp. I was terrified of heights. Well, Barbie Leader took me out to the Big Float and that high dive and said we weren’t leaving until I dove in. Then she made me do it two more times to be sure I could get over my fear. That helped me take a lot of things head on in life! Learning how to canoe at camp made me the favorite aunt and friend of other youth, I was helping at a canoe race with my friend’s two sons, and I taught them how to take the three quick strokes to get the canoe going ahead and the boys won because she taught them that! Now I’m so happy Caitlin (Bowler) has my cabin in NH and has been fixing it up right - she will enjoy it with her friends, now.

**Jeannie Shenkar and Karen Mynes Allen** traveled with a group of knitters to Scotland and to the Shetland Islands. Karen hikes and travels many places but this trip with camp friends (for always), was very special. We are looking forward to seeing both of you at camp at the Reunion in August 2026!



**Asha Wills**, a recent graduate of MIT’s Sloan School of business, writes from Thailand: Since June, I have been abroad in Asia. After three months in Thailand, three weeks in China, and weekend visits to the Philippines and Honk Kong, I have renewed my interest in relocating to Asia for the next 1-2 years.

This summer, I was in Bangkok working with True Digital (Thailand’s largest telecommunications company) in their



cybersecurity division, developing a strategic roadmap for their 12-month regional expansion plan. While in Bangkok, I took the opportunity to visit Chiang Mai, Krabi, Duo Inthanon National Park, and Pai.

Post-internship, I participated in a cultural exchange program through CUSEF ([China-United States Exchange Foundation](#)), where I engaged with business leaders in Beijing, Wuhan, and Hong Kong, and extended my travels to visit Foshan and Guangzhou. I had an **incredibly** expansive experience in China. I'll return in October to attend the [Canton Fair](#) in Guangzhou (China's largest trade fair), and I have begun conversations with AmCham ([American Chamber of Commerce](#) in Hong Kong) to express interest in their off-season internship.

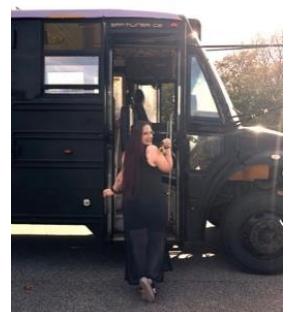
Short-term, I am excited to deepen my professional footprint in APAC through contract, consulting, and/or internship opportunities. My interest remains in anything design consulting/strategy/process improvement/product development. I'd also like to maintain proximity to innovation and creative spaces like accelerators, hackathons, design workshops, universities, sponsored conferences and cultural exchanges, etc. I am in the process of reaching out to a number of Sloan professors and staff, as well as external contacts in pursuit of such opportunities.

Otherwise, I am well and happy post-graduation. I'm happy to continue my exploration of life and living and working for myself. 'Expansive' is the word that keeps coming to mind for my time in Asia so far — trying **such** different foods, making friends across cultures and languages, seeing for myself how things work out here, etc. I just completed a 10-day silent meditation at a Buddhist Monastery in Northern Thailand, and I have another 10-day Vipassana retreat (also silent meditation) in late October. **Asha** finishes by sharing I'll be back home in Brooklyn for the Thanksgiving/Christmas holiday.

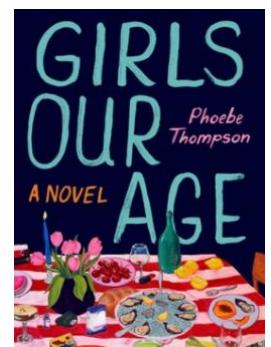


**Caroline Matthews** from  
Canyonlands on a summer  
Alpinegirl Alpaca Trek in Montana

Riding in a different style,  
**Gerty Flagg** bought a bus – nuff said!  
Gerty, we love following  
your adventures.



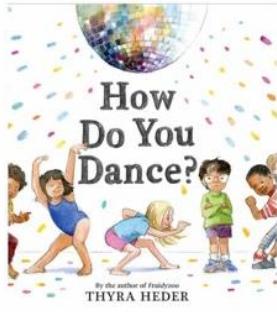
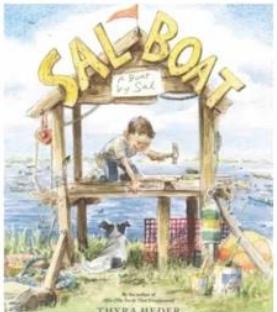
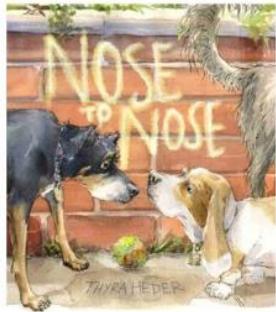
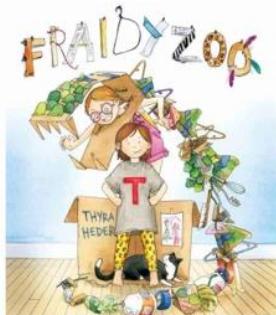
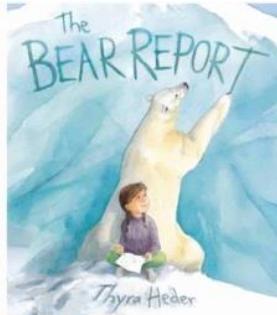
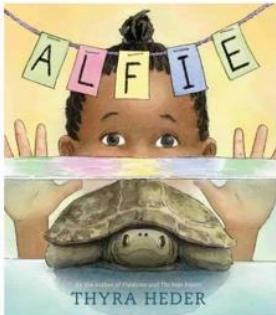
**Phoebe Kranefuss Thompson** writes: Hello, early readers! Last time I emailed you, I shared a preorder link and a totally uninspiring "image coming soon" placeholder. This time, I get to share my official book "Girls Our Age" and its cover, painted by the incredibly talented [Lindsey Cherek Waller](#), with



lettering and art direction by [Tree Abraham](#). If you want to read my book, or if you just want to look at this gorgeous art by Lindsey and Tree and never read my book (I am completely fine with that), you can preorder it from [Amazon](#), [Target](#), [Books Are Magic](#), [Parnassus Books](#), [Bookshop](#), [Hudson Booksellers](#), [Green Apple Books](#). Thanks for being along for the journey. I am so thrilled to share this with you!

Speaking of readers and book authors and illustrators, [Thyra Heder](#), is working on a new book. [Click here for Thyra's books](#) - a wonderful gifts for the littles and biggies in your life AND are also available at all the places you purchase gifts. T – good luck with your next book. We are eagerly waiting in our reading spots. Meanwhile, get psyched

for the reunion  
Auction – Thyra is  
donating two of her  
precious books!



Check your calendar and book it!  
Reunion at Camp Runoia  
August 14-16, 2025



## Letter from Camp

Dear Runoia Alumnae, As the seasons turn and the last echoes of summer fade across Great Pond, I find myself filled with gratitude and reflection for another wonderful season at Runoia. Each summer reminds me of the enduring magic of this place—where girls grow into confident, capable young women, surrounded by strong role models and the timeless traditions that connect generations of Runoia campers.



We continue to grow our Runoia programming and 2025 saw us expand our 10 day 'try it' sessions to slightly older campers. Moms also joined their daughters for a very successful MEGA weekend at the end of the camp season and had a blast sharing camp activities together. We will definitely offer that again in 2027. We also opened "Hartwood," our fabulous new arts building. It is great to have a central location that is practical for managing our extensive art program and the sailors are also happy to have a better 'classroom' space in the boathouse!



This past summer was especially meaningful for me personally, as it marked my 30th year at Runoia. The 'Alex day' celebration was both humbling and heartwarming. I was deeply touched to receive a hand-crafted quilt stitched with love and memories from the camp community, as well as a beautiful pottery plate made by Matti Bradley from the CRAO. Thank you to everyone who shared in that milestone with me; the thoughtful messages from alums around the world will stay with me always.

Over the summer, I was reminded again and again of why Runoia matters. Whether it's a camper learning to get on a horse for the first time, a counselor leading songs at campfire, or the quiet teamwork that happens at the waterfront each day, the spirit of Runoia continues to nurture resilience, leadership, and joy in every camper who comes through our gates. The lessons learned at camp —collaboration, courage, and community—carry far beyond the shores of Great Pond.

Camp Runoia also holds a special place in our family's hearts. As a Maine native who grew up just 12 miles from Belgrade Lakes, and with my mother still living in Winthrop, it is truly wonderful for her to build her own deep connection to this beautiful part of the state. Beyond the time we spend with family each year, camp has become a second home to her.

(Note from a campership family (left))

Looking ahead, we are already filled with excitement for the Runoia 120th Reunion in 2026! It will be a wonderful opportunity to reconnect, share stories, and celebrate the legacy that ties us all together. Mark your calendars now—we can't wait to welcome you home to camp.



Finally, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for your continued support of our campership fund. Your generosity ensures that girls of all backgrounds have access to the life-changing experience of a Runoia summer. Each gift truly makes a difference, keeping our mission vibrant and inclusive for the next generation of strong, kind, and capable girls.

Wishing you peace, joy, and a touch of camp magic this season. Thank you for being part of the Runoia family—past, present, and future.

With deep gratitude and bobos to all Alumnae,

*Alex*

## CRAO Milestones



Maggie Bradley and Mike Baker  
married on September 27, 2025

Maggie with beaming mama,  
Matti Williams Bradley



Emma and Hayden Owings Saturley  
celebrated their marriage with a  
ceremony at Camp Runoia and a reception in  
Portland with a table “tag up” board!



Anna Teresa O’Keefe and  
Matthew Lebowitz  
married September 6, 2025



Gwyneth “Gwynie” Evans  
married Andrew Young  
November 1, 2025

Kate Maple and Sara Maple  
married Oct. 11, 2025



Colleen “Cleen” O’Malley and Ian Ustanik  
married September 19, 2025



Kristen Nocka and  
Navid Shahrestani  
wed on September 27, 2025 –  
pictured surrounded  
with Tabell sisters!



Sarah Ricker and Hunter Rich  
married on May 18, 2025



Ruby Nagel and Caden  
Williams married  
September 27, 2025



## Welcome to the World – Runoia Alumnae Babies



Marie Kind McKenna and Panos with Mikela McKenna Korantzopoulouon joining the family, August 21, 2025

Claire Williamson and Derrick Gibson share the joy of their future Runoia girl born August 16, 2025



Eliza Mae Brown Schechter and Matthew welcome Maisie Rae Born July 22nd, 2025

Alison Bukacek Kinnes and Adam are over the moon with Ashleanne Sept. 6, 2025



Hannah Bolduc Jackson Hines and Sam cheer their third, Isla “Bones” Hines born January 2025. Pictured with grandma “K” Bolduc



## Passings



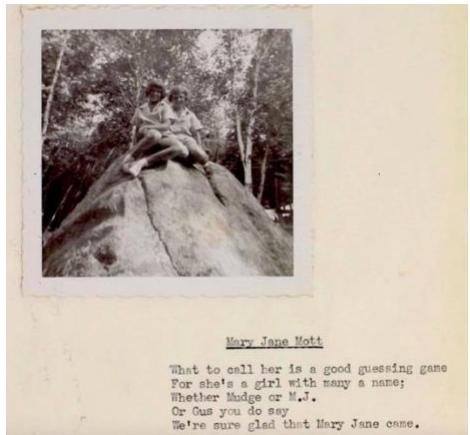
### Mary Jane "MJ" Mott Auns

August 4, 1944 – July 25, 2025

A camp "mom" to many, we mourn the too-soon passing of MJ. MJ started at Camp Runoia as a camper and then a counselor in 1954 until 1963. She spent summers at Runoia with her lifelong friends. In 1985-1989, she returned as an assistant director with Betty Cobb. Photo below: 1954, 3<sup>rd</sup> shack – MJ is in the front row, 2<sup>nd</sup> from the right. Pictured below is her photo and limerick from 1954.

Here's more about our wonderful, MJ:

After graduating from the Cathedral School of St. Mary in Garden City NY, Mary Jane received her undergraduate history degree from Denison University in 1966 and received her master's in education from the University of Pennsylvania. Following school, Mary Jane worked in New York City, and it was there where she met the love of her life, Vilis Auns. They were married for 44 years until Vilis' death in August 2016. During their marriage, they lived in New Orleans and London, England, raised their family in



Princeton Junction, New Jersey and then spent five years in Houston, Texas before retiring to Winthrop, Maine in 2005. Mary Jane spent her career as an elementary school teacher in New Jersey and Texas. An avid reader, she was always an advocate for public libraries and after retiring to Maine, she joined the Board of Trustees for the Winthrop Public Library where she served for twelve remarkable years. She was integral in raising money for the library's expansion in 2015 and the 2021 parking lot project. Mary Jane also was a member of the CRAO Board of Directors for many years. She volunteered at the Winthrop Food Pantry,

offered her time as a tutor to children at the elementary school, and played ukulele in the Bailey Ukulele Band. She loved going to the Maine State Music Theater, often with her camp friend, **Polly Parkhill Beaty**, who was her camp counselor at Runoia, and visiting different towns in Maine with her close friends. She was a competitive trivia player! Mary Jane is survived by her children, **Krissy Auns Oliver** and her husband, Justin, of Scituate, Massachusetts and Andrew Vilis Auns and his wife, Enith, of Southlake, Texas; six grandchildren, Jackson, Grace, and Maddie Oliver and Claudio, **Cristina, and Mariana Auns** (Runoia alumnae); and many cousins. Donations in memory of MJ are being accepted by the [Camp Runoia Alumnae Organization](#)



Celebrating MJ's life in Winthrop in August pictured:  
**Cathy Prodo Hamm, Melissa Gary Gabrielle, Pam Cobb Heuberger, Betsy Nicholson, Cathy Fuller Nicolson.** Attending but not in photo: **Ginny Geyer, Meg Tabell Kasprak, Jody Sataloff, Alex and Mindy Martone-Jackson, Krissy Auns Oliver, Christina and Mariana Auns, Polly Parkhill Beaty**

Krissy Auns Oliver supported by  
her close camp friends at MJ's  
celebration in August: Betsy, Cathy, Melissa



### MJ's 1985 "Return to Camp" Limerick

#### Mary Jane 'MJ' Auns

With her daughter M.J. came to tramp  
Down the hill, lots of things to revamp -  
Finding candy's her nemesis -  
"The chocolate means blemishes."  
And these 'suckers' cannot stay at camp!

We lost another Runoia great September 2024 – Ann “Greenie” Green:

## ANN S. GREENE



Ann Sophia Greene, 91, of Chapel Road, Barrington, died unexpectedly on September 1, 2024 at Rhode Island Hospital, Providence due to complications of a fall.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Edward O. and Madelyn C. (Crombie) Greene, she was a lifelong resident of Barrington.

Ann was a graduate of Barrington High School Class of 1951 and Tufts University Class of 1955 where she earned a degree in Education. She furthered her education at Boston University earning a Masters degree in Health, Physical Education and Recreational Activities for the Handicap Child.

Ms. Greene enjoyed a 35 year career teaching Physical Education, including aquatics in the East Providence School system before retiring in 1991. She was appointed to the Physical Education Department in 1955. During her career, Ann volunteered to teach Water Safety Instructor courses for the American Red Cross and received numerous awards for her volunteer service in aquatics.

Anne was a communicant of St. Luke Church. She was a 35 year member of the Barrington Women's Club which brought her much pleasure and many friendships as she excelled in leadership and Bridge. Her idea of a perfect day was bidding 6 No Trump and making it!!! She enjoyed reading mystery novels and watching football and Jeopardy.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday September 6, 2024 in St. Luke Church, Washington Road, Barrington at 10 a.m. A private burial will be held in St. Paul's Episcopal Cemetery, Portsmouth, RI. Calling hours and flowers are respectfully omitted.

### DATE OF PASSING:

September 1, 2024

**The Camp Runoia Class of 2023 to the Class of 2029  
Congratulations Runoia Alumnae!**



Emilia Pasquarelli  
Tulane



Sloane Mendelsohn  
Syracuse University



Maddie Palumbo  
Colgate University



Sofia Patarini (on right)  
Florida State University  
And Helen Nash (on left)  
Tulane

Lily Sidovar U of Delaware  
pictured with Dr. Susie and dad



Ava Civiello –  
University of Delaware



Aoibhe Cooke (right)  
University of St. Andrews



Raquel Marino  
Northeastern University



Jane Rudnick  
University of Michigan



Ella Flemming-Gifford University of Ohio



Nicola Dadlani  
Brown University



Reminy D'Albert  
Tulane

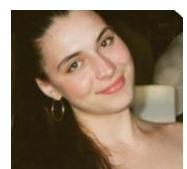


Sofie Levine

George Washington University



Trisha Zormelo  
Cornell University



Lucy McKenna  
Columbia University

Rian Bolduc-Jackson  
UMaine Orono Nursing School



**Did we miss where you have sped off to school? Let us know!**

## Director Alex Martone Jackson Honored for 30 Years at Runoia



Alex arrived at camp as a counselor through BUNACamp international counselor program in 1995. She was a counselor in Sixth Shack and the Waterfront Director. She spent 30 years over the past 31 years working summers as a counselor, Waterfront Director, CIT Director and in 1999 joined Runoia year-round as an Assistant Director eventually co-directing camp and becoming the Director of Camp Runoia in 2023. The

summer of 2025 saw many instances of recognizing Alex for her years of dedication to youth development at Camp Runoia. At the

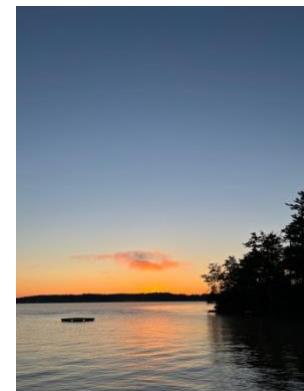
July 2025 CRAO Board Meeting, the CRAO gifted Alex a special "Matti Bradley" pottery plate and the campers and staff decorated quilt squares in her honor. Nonother than Runoia's very own, April Marini, put the pieces together and created this beautiful quilt.



In 2025, the Runoia program team put together a very special Alex Day which was the second session special event day with carnival slides and many fun games. Alex was surprised to arrive at camp

by boat and find the entire camp announcing the special day!

**Congratulations Alex! 30 summers and years of career focus on youth development is not only an achievement but a dedicated gift to hundreds. Thank you for your years of service to youth - we look forward to many more! Oh! And did you swim on the Alex Jackson Swim Team??!! Sign up on [www.runoia.com](http://www.runoia.com) for the reunion and OIS!**



## Runoia Alumnae Spotlight on Ambassador Joyce Ellen Leader

### Runoia Alumnae (1954-1959)

Joyce "Joy" Leader was born in Pittsburgh, PA and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. She was a camper and a counselor at Camp Runoia from 1954 to 1959. She graduated with degrees from Dennison University, the University of Chicago, and the Columbia University School of Journalism. Joyce served on the Collegiate Council for the United Nations and then joined the Foreign Service and State Department.

**Joy Leader (right) with co-counselor Sandy Jo Rinehart on the porch of 4<sup>th</sup> Shack in 1959**

During her 22-year career with the State Department she specialized in African and refugee affairs. She served as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea, Deputy Chief of the Mission in Rwanda during the three years prior to the 1994 genocide, Consul General in Marseille, France, and Director of the Office of Refugee Assistance to Asia and the Near East. In addition, she was Deputy Director of



the Office of Refugee and Migration Affairs at the U.S. Mission in Geneva, Deputy Director of the Office of West African Affairs, and held positions at the U.S. embassies in Nigeria and Burkina Faso. She received multiple State Department awards for both Superior and Meritorious service. She was a Senior Fellow at The Fund for Peace as well as a visiting professor at the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University where Ambassador Joyce E. Leader (photo left), is a consultant on African affairs emphasizing conflict mitigation and protection.



As a diplomat in the state department her work as Ambassador to Guinea in West Africa eventually led her to involvement in Rwanda for three years until evacuation on the cusp of the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Her most recent assignment aimed to strengthen the capacity of the Southern Sudan Human Rights Commission to protect displaced persons. After her service in the State Department, she "retired" to Eugene, OR where he has been a professor at the University of Oregon specializing in foreign affairs and conflict mitigation.

Among her many other accomplishments, she is a guest lecturer at colleges and organizations across the states, including at the University of Cincinnati, the University of Oregon, Georgetown University, and Dennison University. Joy is the author of Ghosts of Rwanda, and Rwanda's Struggle for Democracy and Peace, she has been interviewed on PBS's Frontline and other media outlets.

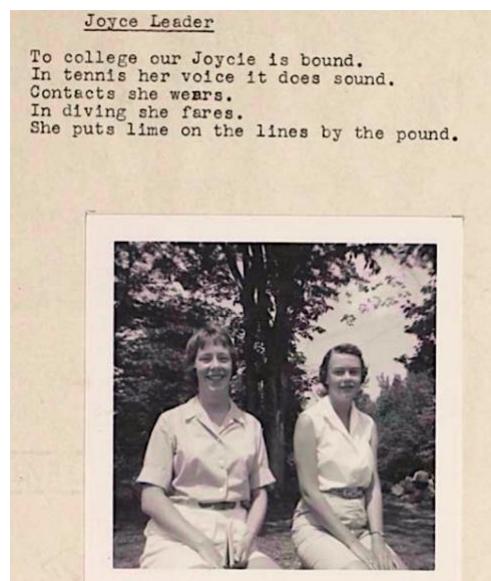


Joy's mom, Barbara "Barbie" Leader, was a long time Camp Runoia waterfront counselor. Joy and her sister, Janice "Jan", attended Runoia in the 1950s where Joy was a camper from 1954-58 and a counselor in 1959.

**Joy pictured (2<sup>nd</sup> from R – back row in 1955**

**How exactly did Joy end up at Camp Runoia?** Part of a 2002 interview with Joy by Charles Stuart explains:

Q: What was family life like? Who brought you up? LEADER: We lived with my grandparents. My mother worked, so my grandmother had a lot of the responsibility for driving us around when we were kids and taking us to nursery school and making sure we got across the street on our way to grade school and so forth. But my mother was very busy with her teaching. At one point she wrote a health book. My mother was a physical education teacher, so every summer after we got to be about seven years old, we started going to summer camp (eventually at Camp Runoia). She was the waterfront counselor, and we were campers. This gave us a lot of exposure to other people and to sports and the lake and all of these kinds of activities and was just part of our experiences that helped shape me into who I am today.



**Editor's note:** Marion "Johnny" Johnson was a teacher in Cincinnati, Ohio, which is where Barbie Leader was a PE teacher. We presume it was Johnny who recruited the Leaders to join in at Camp Runoia.



## Donations and More!

We are excited to announce our goal to raise **\$120,000** for the CRAO Betty Cobb Campership Fund in honor of Camp Runoia's 120 seasons! As of November 2025, we are three fourths of the way to meet our goal! Now is the time to chip in and help us meet or surpass our goal for the 120<sup>th</sup>.



Please consider your year-end gift to CRAO to help campers attend Camp Runoia. 100% of awards given to families apply to tuition. Camp Runoia/CRAO do not charge administrative fees.

We appreciate those who have registered with their friends and/or families and whose registrations contribute to the CRAO: Penny Sanders, Jen Dahnert, Lucy Baruch, Pam Cobb, Andrea Bradford, Stephanie Bradford, Theo Stein, Lauren Moriarty, Jo Solomon, Lee Moriarty, Betsy Chominski, Betsy Nicholson, Holly Foster, Karen Allen, Meri Wicks, Claire Williamson, Sara DeTurk, Melissa Gabriel, Carrie Knights, Shelley O'Brien, Krissy Oliver, Britt Long, Jeanne Shenkar, Jennifer Sachs Dahnert, Jennifer Rohrbach Asplen, Britt Long, Jai and Jesse Kells, Molly, Sawyer and Frannie Kells, Rachel Sutel Sherman, Vee Sherman, Betsy Nicholson and Sayles, Kathy Fuller Nicholson

**"Thank you CRAO! Camp is having a profound impact on my daughter, and it is a much-needed escape where she can just be a kid."**

### Donations from May 15 – November 7, 2025

We send "bobos" to alums who gave earlier in the year and acknowledgements were in the spring 2025 newsletter

#### **Moosehead \$20,000+**

Anonymous Donor

#### **Rangeley \$5000-10,000**

The Tomlinson Family Foundation

#### **Great Pond \$1000-4999**

Leigh and Cheryl Williamson Charitable Fund, The Tabell Family Foundation, Andrea Florey Bradford, Kathy Fuller Nicholson, Betsy Nicolson

#### **Katahdin \$500-999**

Diane Dorsey Edwards, Pam Cobb Heuberger

#### **Bigelow 250-499**

Kendall Wilson, Penny Britell Sanders, Lucy Baruch, Shelley Ahearn O'Brien

#### **Mt. Blue 100-249**

Zareen Mirza, Pam Cobb Heuberger, Point32Health, Stephanie Bradford, Betsy Nicholson, Krissy Auns Oliver

#### **Tumbledown 50-99**

Claire Williamson, Jai Kells

#### **Mt. Phillip 10-49**

Jennifer Rohrbach Asplen, Jennifer Sachs Dahnert, Britt Long, Theo Stein



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Main Street, Belgrade Lakes - Owned and Operated by Runoia Alumnae Mom, Liz Fontaine!

Auction Items are being accepted. Please contact [pam@runoia.com](mailto:pam@runoia.com) #617-283-4244 with your auction item ideas. Also, there are fun volunteer roles at the reunion including helping with registration, the CRAO store, set up for events, organizing activities and more. Additionally, join us before August on break out committee, social media (c'mon influencers!). Contact [cralums@gmail.com](mailto:cralums@gmail.com) for more info on volunteer opportunities.