

# Friends of Eagle Island, Inc.

Eagle Island - Where History Meets The Future

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## A Wonderful Afternoon

The October reunion was the social high point of the year for Friends of Eagle Island. Over 100 people gathered to greet old friends, make new ones, sing, bid for Eagle Island- and Adirondack-inspired auction items, and generally have a great time. Even those unable to attend were able to see and hear everything, with more than twenty people watching as it was live-streamed on the FEI website.

People filtered in, greeting old friends, chatting with people they had “met” on Facebook or through emails, comparing vintage EIC attire, eating moose cookies, and dropping tickets into the bags of favored auction items. In the hall, Ginny Hildeband and Jenni Rodin had their only practice session to play guitar for the singing. The items collected for the auction were fantastic. Cricket Snearing created an Eagle Island-decorated chair, Connie Oldham Marchese donated a picture she painted of Big Watch, and Joan Harrop gave a handmade quilt. Other items included Temmings jewelry, GS artifacts, a map of Upper Saranac Lake, and pieces related to the Adirondacks, camping, and boating. Almost \$6,000 was raised.

Dorcas Hardy, FEI Board Chair, opened the meeting. Our attorney, Bob Goodsell (father of Stef Goodsell), updated us on the lawsuit. You can watch a video of his update on the FEI website. One special guest was Henry D. Graves, Jr., aka “Buz,” great-grandson of Eagle Island donors Henry and Florence Graves. Buz, an FEI board member, is a strong supporter of our mission. He spoke to the whole group and met as many attendees as he could. A highlight of the afternoon was the chance to sing together. We sang a few of the most popular camp songs spanning the years from 1938 to 2008. Afterward, as arranged, many people continued the gathering, carousing at a bistro in downtown Maplewood.



While many reunions have been held in the past with groups from a certain year or region, this was a reunion for everyone. There were people from across the country – California to Maine to Florida, including Texas, Nebraska, and Wisconsin, as well as most Mid-Atlantic and New England states and a large contingent from NYC. There was even an international presence, with someone from Florence, Italy. There were people who had been at Eagle Island in every decade from 1938 through 2008, the last summer of operation. Nothing will replace time spent together on Eagle Island, but this was a wonderful afternoon.

## Legal Update

FEI's attorneys have served a deposition notice to depose Susan Brooks and have made a request for production of documents by GSHNJ. The attorneys for GSHNJ had initially indicated that they would provide the requested documents in mid-November and make Ms. Brooks available for her deposition in December. Subsequently, our attorneys were advised that GSHNJ would be filing a motion to dismiss the lawsuit, rather than respond to our discovery requests. Our attorneys were not surprised by that request, and had expected the GSHNJ to attempt to dismiss the case early in the litigation. Based on the representation that this motion would be filed so as to be heard by the Court in February, our attorneys agreed to delay discovery until that motion was filed and decided. The motion has not yet been filed, and, if it is not filed shortly, our attorneys will press forward with discovery. If the motion to dismiss is filed, our attorneys are fully prepared to defend against that motion and expect that the Court will deny the motion. If that is the case, our attorneys will press forward with discovery, including the deposition of Ms. Brooks. Our attorneys anticipate that this discovery will reveal further documents and information that will be helpful to our case.

## **Marjorie “Skipper” Bell**

by Chris Hildebrand

January 31, 2013, we lost Marjorie “Skipper” Bell. She died peacefully in Newton, MA. Skipper was a graduate of Columbia H.S. and a Mariner in the *Water Witch Ship* in Maplewood. She first went to EIC in the 1940s as a Mariner camper. She got her “skipper” rating after only 1 month. In the 1950s she was Mariner Unit Leader. She was the first to read *Cradle of the Deep*, a tradition that continued until the camp closed in 2008. Later she became Program Director and held that position through 1964. Skipper was responsible for acquiring many EIC sailboats thru donations from friends on the lake. Among others, The Stanley Steamer was given to EIC by the Stanley Tool family and the Capt. Aussie by Mr. Austin Colgate. She began EIC participation in weekly Blue Jay races at Saranac Inn. Skipper was very musical and played the accordion and the ukulele and introduced many songs to camp thru Song Contest, including songs she wrote. “The Wind,” “Marching Along,” and “Lanterns Gleam,” were taught by Skipper, along with the harmonies and descants she was so good at. Most of the years she was unit leader the Mariners won Song Contest. Skipper loved animals, and was an avid birder. Joe Tucker (maintenance man at EIC in the 60’s and early 70’s) gave Skipper a puppy named “Nibs” that lived on the island in the summers and once had to chase a bear out of main camp during one of their Labor Day stays. As soon as Friends of Eagle Island formed she became an enthusiastic supporter. She wrote letters to the CEO and Board of GSHNJ. She attended the New England EIC reunion in Brookline in 2009. Unfortunately her failing health would not permit her to travel or she would have been on the picket lines to save Eagle Island. A memorial gathering will be arranged this spring in Boston.



## **Emily Novick 1949-2012: Her Spirit still Sails on Saranac**

by Ginny Hildebrand

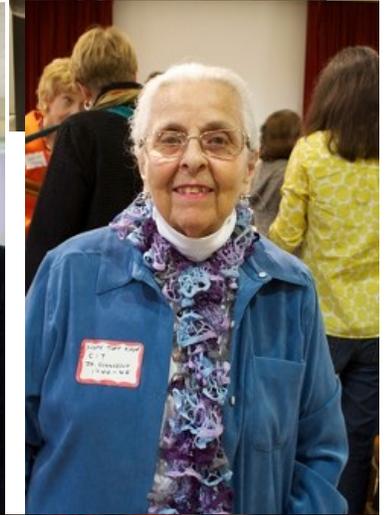
I met Emily our first year at Eagle Island in 1959. We were eleven. For the next five years we planned our summers so that we and other close friends could spend them together in a tent and then on the boathouse porch. Sadly after 1964 we lost touch for more than forty years. In 2008, when some of us began looking for friends and raising money to help EIC while it was still open, Emily jumped on board with the same energy she brought to every challenge. Her internet and phone hunting brought many of our “Rat Pack” back together for fundraising, reunions and two unforgettable Women’s Weekends. In 2009 she hosted a New England EIC reunion at her home in Boston. Emily raised two sons and was married to Steve Heikin, an award winning urban architect. Her acute intelligence and social conscience led her to become a much respected labor lawyer and worker’s compensation judge. Abigail Adler, Emily’s lifelong friend and EIC alum says, “The amazing thing about Emily is that she has always been the same very kind, smart, funny, warm, caring person she was in grade school...those qualities only deepened.” Emily’s qualities were deep and wide. She believed that Eagle Island was instrumental in shaping the woman she became. I will always admire and try to learn from her graceful combination of self-confidence and modesty. She was a true “skipper”, the highest sailing rank at EIC, which she achieved in 1965. Our beloved friend died of an aggressive cancer this past December. The last days she spent with camp friends were in July 2012 when we sailed on a schooner in Boston Harbor and shared a few glorious days on a houseboat. Emily will be alive in our hearts forever. Family and friends are planning to celebrate Emily’s life sometime in April in Boston. For more information contact me at [hildebrew@aol.com](mailto:hildebrew@aol.com) or 412-241-6087.



*“You can’t control the wind -- you can only adjust your sails”  
...Well, we have adjusted ours...please help by joining today!*

# More Reunion Photos





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