



EAGLE ISLAND NEWS

March 2020

Eagle Island, Inc.

Vol. 10 Issue 1

SUMMER 2020

Women's Alumni Weekend (6/19-6/22), Women's Wellness Weekend (8/14-8/16) and Family Camp (7/26-8/1 and 8/2-8/8) registration opened March 14, and we are filling up quickly with eager alumni and friends. Singing songs in the dining hall, paddling kayaks on the lake, swimming at the waterfront, exploring the nature trail, and making new memories with friends and family will soon be a reality! Spaces are going fast, so please register as soon as possible. For more information or to register, visit eagleisland.org/womens-weekends or eagleisland.org/family-camp. A big thank-you to everyone who has signed up; we look forward to welcoming you back to our island home.

Registration for Day Camp for all genders and Overnight Camp for girls is also open. These programs are sure to provide incredible experiences for kids to become confident, courageous, and collaborative while learning new skills and making new friends. Send your sons, daughters, nephews, nieces, grandchildren, and friends to experience the outdoors in a unique island setting—where stargazing is an activity, sailing is a physics lesson, kayaking is a learning opportunity, and giggling with friends and listening to trees rustling are part of the bedtime routine. Get your kids away from the heat and screens by sending them on an island adventure! For more information or to register, visit eagleisland.org/campers-families.

EIC TRADING POST at THE VILLAGE MERCANTILE ONLINE



eagleisland.org/trading-post

learn more and register online at eagleisland.org

located in Saranac Lake, NY in the heart of the Adirondacks

Eagle Island Camp Programs 2020

Activities include: swimming, boating, nature education, teambuilding, crafts, survival skills and more

<p>All-Gender Day Camp</p> <p>Entering Grades 3-6, \$375/week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session 1: June 29-July 3 • Session 2: July 6-July 10 	<p>Girls' Overnight Camp</p> <p>Entering Grades 5-9, \$850/week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session 1: July 12-July 17 • Session 2: July 19-July 24
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Financial Assistance Available

located on Upper Saranac Lake in the Adirondack Park, NY

Eagle Island Camp.
Where history meets the future

Photos credit: Erika Bailey Photography

With a balance of structured and unstructured time campers are able to learn and grow under the supervision of trained staff in the great outdoors on Eagle Island

Questions? Visit eagleisland.org or contact Katrina at kdearden@eagleisland.org or 518-323-9422

These and other camp materials can be found at eagleisland.org/resources

IN THIS ISSUE

Programs for 2020	1
EIC Camper Returns	2
The Honorable Dorcas R. Hardy	3
El Board News	3
Monumental Women	4
Winter Carnival	4

EIC CAMPER RETURNS

Ryn Steck, Sailing Instructor

"You should come," Joanna matter-of-factly suggested when she said she was going up to the island to volunteer. "I don't know," I said reluctantly. The truth was, I had no plans that weekend. Joanna, a fellow alumna, would give me a ride and all of the logistics were taken care of. It couldn't be more opportune. Yet, something within me wanted to keep Eagle Island at a distance.

It was August of 2018 and I hadn't set foot on the island in ten years. In that time, I graduated from a college I chose, in part, because of its proximity to the Adirondacks, canoed past the Boathouse twice during the famous "90 Miler" Race, and worked professionally teaching sailing and leadership skills to kids on 50-ft. monohulls in the British Virgin Islands. The influence of my time spent as a camper and staff member at Eagle Island was undeniable.

I gave in and went to volunteer that weekend. Upon arrival, our boat drifted slowly toward the Service Dock and I could subconsciously feel the tension in my body soften. Despite all of the iterations this place has gone through, somehow, coming back feels just as right as it did when I left. The sound of the water lapping in the boat slips, the feel of the springy pine needles underfoot on the Island pathways, the wind blowing across the Lodge porch . . . it all felt surprisingly familiar.

That weekend we swept and polished and painted and readied the Island for more than 100 guests who came for the Dedication Ceremony. My shyness melted away as I met staff members from decades before me and past campers now introducing their own children to the Island for the first time. Through conversations and hugs and tears, I noticed several other visitors felt the same push-pull that I did before arriving. Should I visit? Should I read the newsletter? There is tenderness behind the walls we put up to protect ourselves from re-engaging because we care deeply about the Island. The experience of being here knits itself into the very fabric of our being. It is the common thread that connects all of us who love this place.

After that weekend, I came back to volunteer as a sailing instructor for the inaugural season of Day Camp and again for another Work Weekend. Here I am now, writing to you, to let you know what it feels like to come back to Eagle Island. Where it brings you back to, I cannot say. For me, it feels like coming home. It feels like belonging. It feels like wanting to be nowhere else in the whole world. And I hope, that when you're ready, you'll come back too.

Camper, 2000-2005; Staff, 2006-2007, 2019

BA, Hamilton College, 2012

Outdoor Education Leader, Wellness Technician, Foster dog mom!



Ryn Steck, Laura Bolger, and Allie Weill



**Eagle Island Youth Summer
Camp located in Upper Saranac
Lake, NY**

Eagle Island Camp is looking to hire a variety of positions to help foster young people while living and working as a community on our island.

eagleisland.org/staff
kdearden@eagleisland.org
518-323-9422



THE HONORABLE DORCAS R. HARDY

July 18, 1946-November 28, 2019

The Honorable Dorcas R. Hardy, the first president of the Board of Directors of Friends of Eagle Island, former counselor and camper and long-time supporter, passed away on November 28, 2019. Dorcas was not only an incredible leader in her support of our camp, but also a leader for the history books as the first woman appointed to head the national Social Security Administration in the 1980s. Eagle Island Board members and Dorcas's camp contemporaries attended her memorial service at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., on January 17, 2020.

Many of Dorcas's important national contributions were highlighted, including the institution of the use of a toll-free 800 number for citizens to call their government for help. Throughout her decades of dedicated service to her country, her devotion to Eagle Island proved, perhaps, to be even more incredible: She never forgot the place where she started relationships with lifelong friends, enjoyed camp life on and off the water, and developed and honed her leadership skills.

It was clear that her Washington colleagues and friends knew about her love of Eagle Island, having chosen to honor

her life with generous donations in her memory. A note from Kate Thorton, a contributor to the Dorcas R. Hardy Memorial Fund, perhaps said it best:

Dorcas was passionate about many issues throughout her life. This camp and what it represents was one of them. To be able to share her passion through this memorial is indeed a great honor. Dorcas was a remarkable woman who inspired a lot of us. One day, another little girl will attend this camp and perhaps grow to become a dedicated public servant, following in Dorcas's footsteps.

Dorcas was laid to rest at Quantico National Cemetery in Virginia, a beautiful tree-filled location, fitting for someone whose love for the outdoors, devotion to helping girls learn from the experience of summer camp, and service to others was unmatched.

Eagle Island honored Dorcas's contributions and dedication to the Camp with the title of Board Member Emerita and a plaque that hangs today on the Mariner Boathouse.

EI BOARD NEWS - GOODBYES, CHANGES, AND WELCOMES

At the March Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors made the following changes:

Christine Wubbolding, President, retired from the Board after serving for nine years. Chris will remain very active in several EIC committees.

Henry "Buz" D. Graves, Jr. retired from the Board and became a Board Member Emeritus. Buz will continue to be one of our organization's anchors in Saranac Lake.

Jane Lowell Evans and Karin Walsh Rutledge became the new Co-Presidents. Both were formerly Vice Presidents and are former EIC campers and staff. Jane was Karin's counselor! Jane will continue to lead the Grants Committee, and Karin will continue to lead the Fundraising Committee.

Current Board members Marina Padakis Lowry and Marie Spess became Vice Presidents. Shirley Grill and Joe Williams joined the Board.

Shirley's connection to Eagle Island began in 1996 with her daughter Allison, who attended EIC as a camper, CIT, and counselor through 2008. She has been volunteering her coaching, leadership development, employee relations skills to the organization since 2016.

Joe, who splits his time between Brooklyn and Saranac Lake, was a longtime camper and staff member at Floodwood Mountain Reservation, where he frequently led Boy Scout treks past (and sometimes stopping at) Eagle Island. Joe currently leads an education policy advocacy organization and is looking to connect EIC with youth and youth organizations in the NYC area. We are thrilled to welcome Shirley and Joe to the board.

You can read more about all our Board members at eagleisland.org/board.



The Annual Meeting included planning, teamwork and a bit of fun.



MONUMENTAL WOMEN

Meredith Bergmann

A new monument to Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Sojourner Truth—the Women's Rights Pioneers Monument—will be unveiled on August 26, 2020, the 100th Anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote, . . . and Girl Scouts helped make it happen! The statues in the monument were designed by former Eagle Island camper Meredith Bergmann. Her design was chosen from among 91 submissions. Meredith fondly recalls her experiences in the wilderness unit at Eagle Island, "My summers at Eagle Island were vital for me in discovering that I could be strong and have endurance, physically (I was not athletic)--but not merely physically. I remember the Island often: the scent of pine trees, the sound of lake water lapping and sloshing, the trails, the singing and the songs!" Meredith has drawn on her experiences and the skills she developed at Eagle Island in her career as a sculptor, including the creation of this monument. The call for the statues was initiated by Monumental Women, an all-volunteer nonprofit organization formed in 2014 to create the first statues of real women in Central Park. Wanting to do their part, local Girl Scouts in New York City donated from their cookie funds to help pay for the statues and helped raise awareness about their creation.

Please join Eagle Island Camp alumnae and friends for the unveiling in Central Park on August 26th, 2020.

For more information, visit: <https://monumentalwomen.org>

2020 WINTER CARNIVAL

Myths & Legends

A group of Eagle Island Camp volunteers and supporters were shining stars during this year's Winter Carnival in Saranac Lake. The theme of the carnival was Myths and Legends. The group, led by Camp Director, Katrina Dearden, donned attire resembling the night sky and held signs of different constellations, along with signage promoting EIC. The group won first place for Best Youth Group – Walking. Special thanks to Katrina and all the volunteers who helped with the event.



Share Eagle Island happenings with your friends!

Please **LIKE**, and **FOLLOW** us on social media



EagleIslandInc



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Eagle Island, Inc.

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Funding for this project comes in part
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LEGACY CIRCLE

Don't keep your love of Eagle Island to yourself!

Help inspire future generations to be confident, collaborative, and courageous by making a legacy gift. All donors who support Eagle Island in their estate plan become part of the **Legacy Circle**. Long-term planning will ensure that Eagle Island continues to thrive for future generations.

Membership in the Legacy Circle involves no dues or other obligations, and you may join the Circle anonymously. All information is confidential.

We hope you will consider Eagle Island in your long-term plans. Information can be found at <https://eagleisland.org/planned-giving/>

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In Memory of Kris Hansen



Irene "Renie" Kaplan Leiwant (1926- 2019), was a camper in 1938, the inaugural year of camp, through 1945. Renie was an early "Friend" of Eagle Island and instrumental in the efforts to save EIC after it was closed in 2008.

Photos: 2015 with Penelope Parmington Long and as a camper 1939 on Panther Mountain and in the Main Lodge



Upper Saranac Lake, 1951
Shining for future EIC campers

Photography by
Nancy M. Hale
Friend of EIC

Nancy Hale (1932-2019), was counselor at Eagle Island from Malone, NY. Nancy was a professional photographer and provided photographs for the book "Architecture from the Adirondack Foothills" by Robert McGowan. Upon her death, a representative of her estate donated one of Nancy's photographs from 1951 (see right) to Eagle Island.

Photos: view from Eagle Island and the original Chapel on Chapel Isle

