



From The Heart

News For The Strong of Heart

Fall/Winter 2021

It Was Great to Be Back Together on Lake Dunmore for Sure!

It felt like a true gift to have camp in-person in 2021 after over 20 months of being apart. What excitement to see the cars driving on to the west-side fields and real live campers getting out. (It was also amazing to see up close how much luggage came out of some cars!) We all felt great appreciation for our families making sure their girls would be Covid-free upon arrival, and for the staff being vaccinated and staying on campus for the 10 days before campers arrived to ensure the safety of all. And we made it to August 21st without any cases of Covid on the property! Well done!

While the vast majority of camp was very much the same as years past we did have to learn how to do some things differently – sanitizing hands at our tables before each meal and lots of hand banging games in the dining hall but no singing. This meant tons of Bananagrams at the end of meals. We often ate on paper plates due to staff shortages in the kitchen. At the Circle our new fourth row of benches allowed us to sing while sitting safely distanced. The first time I heard “We’re on the Upward Trail” sung at the Circle it brought me to tears listening to the voices of campers and staff sing together after so long.



The Lolly McPhee Burton Trip Planning Building

Even with tight cohorting, until everyone tested negative, we still had a big variety of activity options. We were busy on the waterfronts with swimming, boating and diving. The Arts Village was in use morning, afternoon and many evenings. Lots of pent up creativity found opportunities for expression this summer. And elsewhere on campus all variety of sports and collaborative games happened outside throughout the season. Campers earned camp letters and expert coups at the same rates as previous summers and there seemed to be more interest in getting a Campership Coup. This coup demonstrates contributions to the larger community through volunteering to help with cookouts, at ceremonies and having a positive attitude in general.

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Opening The Lolly

Last summer we were able to make full use of The Lolly McPhee Burton Trip Planning Building which we call “The Lolly,” after waiting two years (due to Covid) to finally do so. The building and outside features were

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Summer 2021
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Tripping was the perfect way to cohort! The tripping program went off without a hitch even as the Verendrye trippers and leaders pivoted to travel in northern Maine. All trips were able to pack out of our newest building – the Lolly. Built on the site of the former Wangan Room with new outdoor spaces, expanded shelving and greater space for trip planning, the building was a huge upgrade for everyone, since at Songa “everyone trips!”

We celebrated in some new ways this summer. For the Fourth of July we had a Garden Way Cart Parade with each cohort decorating a cart. We added Coffee House style singing at our all-camp barbecues. While we missed having parents on campus at midseason and end of season, the Final Campfires still had plenty of games, songs and celebrating. In addition, we had wonderful Candlelight Ceremonies led by our oldest campers, and a new ceremony at the start of season called Three Principles, which replaced Four Winds.

Camp is not camp without our strong and loyal staff - they are who make it all happen! For the first time we awarded two 20-year canoes at the final banquet, honoring Sarah Harrison-Lynn and Cilla Leng. Next summer you can paddle their beautiful wood canvas canoes on Lake Dunmore.

Our successes this summer came from our ability to appreciate, learn from and lean on each other.



From Units to Longhouses to Groves: Age-Groups get a New Title

Over the last several years we have been looking at various aspects of Songadeewin to see where we might have used language that reflected the cultural appropriation of indigenous peoples' language. For several years the Leadership team, in conjunction with campers and staff, have looked at wording in our ceremonies and made changes. Some of these were a change to the start of the Old Timer's Circle and some of the language in the Four Winds Ceremony. This past summer we decided that we would no longer use the term Longhouse to designate our four age groups. Longhouses were long communal dwellings of some Northern American tribes, such as the Iroquois of what is today northern New York state. The term Longhouse was chosen in 1999 because the houses usually held multiple families who were matrilineally related. At the time that seemed like an appropriate choice for the girls' camp as it was distinct from the term wigwam used at both of Keewaydin's boys' camps.

If memory serves, the age-groups at Songadeewin on Lake Willoughby were called units. That worked well, and in fact, many other camps use that word to designate different groups. After discussions with some campers and staff this past summer we decided that going forward the age-groups at Songa will be referred to as “Groves.” This works nicely on several levels since many of the tent and cabin names refer specifically to trees (Aspen, Cedar, Elm, Hemlock, Maple, and Sassafras) which often grow in

groves. All the other tents and cabins are names of other indigenous plants in Vermont. Groves are generally known as a cluster of similar trees and growing together they help preserve their species, often providing shade or food and comfort to humans as well. In this country we often hear the term associated with where oranges and other citrus grow. At Songa each of our age groups have campers of similar ages and we nurture, provide comfort and help the campers grow and get stronger throughout their summer at Songadeewin. Going forward we will use the term Director for the individual who is the leader of each Grove. The four names for the Groves will remain the same.



Willoughby



Verendrye 2021 Becomes the Legacy Trip to Maine

While we were able to open camp on Lake Dunmore in 2021 the Canadian border remained closed to travelers throughout the summer. This meant that all of our Willoughby trips had to remain in the United States. Since we suspected this might be the case Tim Tadlock, Head of Tripping for Keewaydin Dunmore and procurer of campsite reservations for both Songa and Dunmore, began making plans for the senior trips in early winter of 2021. In consultation with Dunmore's Owen Gutfreund and Songa's Lelia Yerxa it was decided to make plans to travel in Maine in the area where the senior trips originally went many decades ago. These earlier, legacy trips traveled on both the Penobscot and Allagash Rivers in northern Maine. The challenge for Tim was to create routes on which four senior trips could travel

without overlapping for 17 days. Given that there would be only two main routes we decided to have the Dunmore trips leave two days earlier than the Songa trips.

One of the reasons Keewaydin had abandoned these rivers in favor of first Algonquin Provincial Park and now Verendrye Provincial Park was due to the crowded nature of these tripping areas in Maine. The summer of 2021 proved that these rivers are heavily traveled in the summer months and so while the trips did not get to have the typical days without seeing others besides themselves, they did have the adventure of traveling new routes for our campers and staff. A solid reason to choose these rivers was there were good travel and technical notes and when these were not available there was information to be gathered from other summer camps traveling in the same areas.

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Looking through the Groves with cabins

The Lolly

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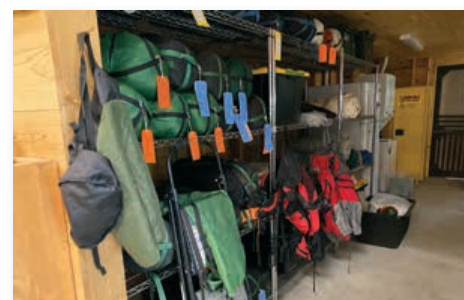
planned over several summers in consultation with Nancy Margolin '65, head of the Wangan room (where all trips had packed from since 1999), Lelia Yerxa '03, Head of Tripping, and Victoria Gutfreund '89 who has helped design and update buildings for more than a decade at both Songa and Dunmore, as well as with trip leaders and campers. The Dunmore Site Committee of the Keewaydin Board was led by Tom Gluck '80, Lee Randlett '14, Head of Maintenance for the Vermont Camps.

From the start we knew that due to Vermont permitting rules we would need to design the building on the same footprint as the old, rotten and poorly designed previous trip packing and planning areas. With that stipulation we decided that we wanted to turn the building 180 degrees so the main work area would not be right on the road into camp. Historic preservationists from the state did request that the building have a similar look to the previous building and so the main room remains one and half stories with doghouse dormers.

New features include a “walloping porch” where the three-bay stainless-steel sinks for cleaning pots, pans and dishes is placed, a trip planning space with operable windows for light and ventilation, tons of wire-tech shelving making them inhospitable for nesting mice, a spacious room for tents, tarps and other trip supplies, a washer and dryer for cleaning borrowed trip clothing and dish towels, outdoor covered kiosks for packing two separate trips simultaneously, and a covered storage shed for wangan.

All reports from the summer indicate the new building was a big hit and

huge improvement to its predecessor. While we couldn't gather for an official dedication with the Burton family (see box) and many donors we look forward to doing so in August of 2022. In the meantime, Songa's campers and staff will continue to enjoy packing trips in and out just a little bit more than in previous years. Huge thanks to all who made this newest Songa building possible through their vision, generosity, planning, hard work, and love for the woman for whom it is named, Lolly McPhee Burton. She would be so proud and would love knowing that generations of Songa campers will make good use of the building.





Burton Family Dedication



In 2021, for the second time, we scheduled the dedication of The Lolly to happen during the Alumni Family Weekend. Due to Covid we had to cancel the gatherings and thus our official dedication. However, a small but intrepid branch of the Burton family came to Vermont last summer to unofficially dedicate The Lolly with a champagne toast and photo opportunities. In August 2021 Grace Burton '99, along with her brothers Rob '91 and Evan '94, paid a visit to the Songa campus to see our newest building. They posed in front of the sign made by some of Songa's newest Old Timers and then made a toast to their great aunt Lolly. It was lovely to catch up with the three siblings all of whom I had as campers – first as director of Annwi for Rob and Evan and then for Grace when we opened Songadeewin in 1999. We also enjoyed reminiscing about Lolly and her love of family, Songa and Keewaydin.



November 16, 2021

Dear Members of the Keewaydin Community,

With a legacy of service, commitment and leadership spanning her five-decade career with Keewaydin in place, Ellen Flight will be retiring as Director of Songadeewin after the summer of 2022. Beloved and revered by hundreds of campers and staff, Ellen has been Songa's only Director since the camp reopened in 1999. It is impossible to overstate Ellen's impact on Songadeewin. Her vision, energy and leadership molded and nurtured the camp to become what it is today: one of the most respected and successful girls' camps in the country.

Ellen's relationship with Keewaydin dates back to 1958 and 1959, when she spent the first two summers of her life on Dunmore, where her father, David, was Waramaug Director. When she was old enough, she attended Songadeewin on Lake Willoughby, where she spent every summer from 1967-1974, progressing from Mattagami to CIT. She joined the Songadeewin staff in 1975, but was heartbroken after that summer when it was announced the camp was closing. An offer from Abby Fenn to be the camp babysitter brought her back to Keewaydin Dunmore in 1977. Displaying an unusual level of responsibility, she was offered the job of running the Wangan Room, a position she held from 1978-1986. When Dan Patch decided to step down as Annwi Director after the summer of 1988, Waboos asked Ellen to take on the challenge of running the youngest age group at camp. She became only the second woman director at Keewaydin (the first being Mrs. Duke, who ran Annwi from 1944-1956). For the next ten years, from 1989-1998, she stewarded Annwi through some of its most successful summers.

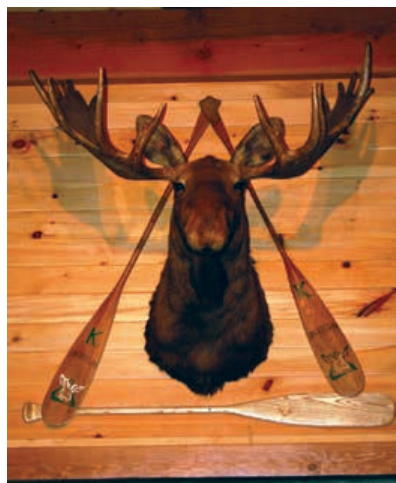
But a bigger role was still awaiting Ellen! In 1995 the Keewaydin Foundation purchased the Camp Dunmore property on the west shore of Lake Dunmore with the goal of eventually making it a girls' camp. In 1998, Executive Director Jim Wacker and the Foundation board asked Ellen if she would lead this new camp. Eager for the opportunity and undaunted by the challenges, she enthusiastically accepted! She spent one full year preparing, including researching many other girls' camps in the Northeast. By the time the new Songadeewin of Keewaydin opened in the summer of 1999, Ellen had a vision for the camp that combined the best of the old Songa, the tripping program of Dunmore, and ideas she learned from other camps.

From that first summer, when 40+ brave girls and 15 staff enjoyed the inaugural season, Songadeewin has done nothing but flourish. Within a few years, its enrollment grew to 125 (per month). Campers were experiencing the adventure of tripping from the Green Mountains to the Saranacs to the Rangeley Lakes, with the first group of senior girls going to Verendrye in 2003. Old traditions like the Carnival and Old Timers' Day were revived. New ones like Halloween, Valentine's Day, and the Songathon were started. The physical plant has been transformed since 1999. Of the many new or renovated structures, the signature buildings have been the Fraser Dining Hall, the Arts Village, and "The Lolly" (a.k.a. the Wangan Room). Ellen was intimately involved in all of these projects, from the earliest design planning to the selection of hardware and wood stain tints. The camp is wildly popular—its retention rate, frequently above 90%, has been the highest of the three Foundation camps!

Ellen's love for Songadeewin—its mission, its campers and its staff—is self-evident to all who know her. Her dedication has been total. Hundreds of campers and staff have grown up under Ellen and see her as one of the most important role models and mentors in their lives. Everyone associated with Songadeewin and Keewaydin—campers, staff, and parents—owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Ellen for what she has created and accomplished as Director of Songadeewin. The search for a new Director for Songadeewin will begin immediately. Our goal is to have a new director selected by the spring who will work side by side with Ellen this coming summer. If you know of anyone who might be interested in the position, please have them contact pete@keewaydin.org.

On the following page, please find Ellen's letter to the Keewaydin and Songadeewin community.

Keewaydinly, Pete





*Dark green canoes upon a Vermont lake,
Girls becoming Strong of Heart, what does it take?
Friendships so deep and loving guidance, do,
Trips, the arts, activities and nature, too.
(Tune: White Coral Bells)*

Dear Songa Community,

I wrote the words to the short round above for the 20th anniversary of Songadeewin on Lake Dunmore hoping to capture those aspects of camp which make Songa so special to campers and staff. It certainly says to me ways in which Songa has made a difference in my life and that of so many others. After several years of contemplating when it will be right to retire I have decided that 2022 will be my last summer as Director of Songadeewin. 2022 will be my 24th as Songa director and 43rd season working for Keewaydin. I turn 65 in September 2022 and the time for me to move into the next phase of life and for Songadeewin to move into a new era is now.

Starting Songadeewin on Lake Dunmore in 1999 was something I wrote on a list I created in 1995 of 100 things I wanted to do with the rest of my life. Little did I know, nor could I imagine, all that it would take to create a summer camp even with the full backing of the Keewaydin Board, my 19 years of working in various positions at Keewaydin Dunmore, and my nine summers as a child at Songadeewin on Lake Willoughby. Perhaps it was not knowing all that would be involved, but feeling deeply that this was important work for the girls and women who would come through our gates to experience a camp with the best of Keewaydin and Songadeewin combined. Having grown up at an all girls' camp and knowing the way it helped develop me as a person and taught me to feel capable, I wanted to create similar experiences for more modern times after the 24 years that had elapsed since the closing of my beloved camp on Lake Willoughby.

From the earliest years of Songa on Dunmore to last summer, I feel proudest when I hear campers and staff talk about how much they love Songadeewin, when they write songs and sing lustily about the values I have hoped to inspire within them, and when I see the deep life-long friendships they have made at Songa. These things come from their time on Lake Dunmore, out on trips and through participating in the ceremonies and traditions of our camp.

Now, having successfully shepherded the camp I love for more than 20 years, through the world-wide pandemic of the last two years and seen from my friends outside of camp the joys of retirement, while bittersweet, it is time for me to step into the next phase of my life and for Songa to move forward with new leadership. This next transition, the change of leadership, is an important next step for the long-term resilience of Songa. As author and activist Arundhati Roy said in a different context, but that rings true to me in the moment: "Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing."

With Songa Spirit and love,

Verendrye

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Each of the Songa crews returned having seen plenty of wildlife, running some good whitewater, carrying gear over plenty of portages and traveling in beautiful wilderness.



VERENDRYE ALLAGASH: Taryn Gluck '14, Daphne Lamb '17, Klara von Stauffenberg '15, Alexis Shepardson '16, Kenna Melvin '13, Laila Thompson-Wainer '10, Bobbi Lindstrom '14, Addie Laster '14, Fatmata Sesay '15, Lena Kinser '14



VERENDRYE PENOBSCOT: Seanna McGraw '07, Mora De Flavius '15, Grace Marseilles '13, Chelsea Morales '16, Julia Shaw '15, Erin Reichman '15, Mollie Kenney '14, Liv Lavino '17, Brooke Bertrand '13, Larkin Kenney '18

Carlton's Tree

In the fall of 2001 my brother, **David H. Flight '56**, along with my nephew, **David R. Flight '06**, helped plant a tree at the Songa Circle in memory of **Carlton W. Bartels '70** who had died in the North Tower of the World Trade Center on September 11th of that year. At his memorial service the family had requested that people take a seed for a Japanese Maple and plant it in Carlton's memory. The growing zone for Salisbury is not appropriate for Japanese Maples so that fall we decided to plant a Sugar Maple, the Vermont State Tree, instead.

In choosing to plant the tree at the Songa Circle it was hoped it would provide much needed shade for our morning gatherings. Therefore, the tree was planted on the eastern side to block the morning sun as it rises over Mount Moosalamoo.

Seen here are my brother and nephew in the fall of 2001 just after they had finished planting the tree – not too much bigger than my then three-year-old nephew. During the intervening 20 years the tree has grown and now gives us a great amount of shade throughout the warm summer days. You can see in the other pictures, up close and from across the circle, just how much Carleton's tree has grown, as well as how much my nephew has grown, too.



~ THE KEEWAYDIN ANNUAL FUND ~

It's one thing to be told that you are strong, courageous,
and gritty enough to succeed; it's another thing
to actually live those qualities.



Gifts to the Keewaydin Annual Fund ensure that Keewaydin can provide scholarships, protect and maintain our fleet of canoes and equipment, and fund critical needs that are beyond our annual operating budget.

Most importantly, your gift to the Annual Fund helps to ensure the opportunity for Keewaydin campers to experience what they are truly capable of.

Please give today at www.keewaydin.org/give
or send your gift to: Keewaydin Foundation,
500 Rustic Lane, Salisbury, VT 05769

Thank you!

Alumnae News Notes

Callie Jane “CJ” Simmons ’08 graduated from Ole Miss with degrees in Biology and Chemistry. She then went to Officer Candidate School (OCS), 10 weeks of training in order to become a Marine and an officer. She was commissioned as a Lieutenant on Oct 2, 2021 and reported on October 4 to TBS (The Basic School) in Quantico, VA.

She will be there for the next seven months learning to be an infantry platoon commander. If everything goes to plan, she will move to Pensacola, FL sometime in the summer of 2022 to start flight school to become a pilot!



Members of the 2018 Verendrye trips started out the summer attempting to hike The Long Trail in Vermont. While no single member of the two groups that set off completed the entire trail by summer’s end, I think it is safe to say that all portions of the trail were hiked by some members of the two groups. And, since not everyone hikes the whole trail in a single attempt there is plenty of time for each of our former campers to complete the trail in the future. The first group to set off were **Maggie Griffis ’13** and **Meredith Blanchard ’12**, seen in the



photo here on the top of Mount Ellen about halfway along the way. The other photo shows the large group at their starting point at the southern end of The Long Trail. They are from left to right: **Elijah (Ella) Mirman ’11**, **Amelia Bergeron ’13**, **Ada Knauff ’16**, **Alyssa Cahill ’13**, **Olivia Lynch ’13**, **Kaitlyn Parker ’12** and **Maddie Cochran ’13**.





Keewaydin Club

CAMPING, CANOEING, AND FISHING IN THE CANADIAN WOODS



Keewaydin Club is open to Keewaydin alumni, parents, Ojibway guests, and anyone ready to experience a Keewaydin canoe trip.

Offerings may include local destinations, seeking out prime fishing spots, secret lakes, and cooling waterfalls for men and women. We also plan to navigate some kilometers of historic and beautiful rivers that Keewaydin has traveled over the last 128 years.

Most trippers begin their adventure arriving in the early evening, with two nights at Devil's Island, providing time to acclimate, jump into learning or remembering tripping skills, paddling, and portaging gear. On the second morning, trip staff will ready the crew for their canoe trip, paddling away from the main dock after a belly-filling Keewaydin breakfast. Following your trip, upon your return and a hearty Keewaydin cheer, trippers can take a hot shower, enjoy cocktails and dinner.

As the sun dips on the western horizon, Keewaydin's tradition of trippers sharing stories around a fire is an essential and fantastic finale for a life-changing event. We are confident you will have some wonderful and likely comical stories to share! The following day, after one last perfect sleep under the Canadian sky, trippers will head home after breakfast.

Why join us? Because...

Keewaydin Club adult trips provide the opportunity to hit the reset button by immersing yourself in beautiful paddling of the Temagami region, cooking over an open fire, taking in the beauty of the tall pines and clean water, and SLOWING down. Trippers embrace the Keewaydin Way and feel the support and guidance of our veteran Keewaydin staff as you learn new or regain old skills, form connections, unplug, grow stronger, face challenges, build resilience and adapt and learn. Most trips are open to all abilities and will be strenuous at times.

Trips for 2022



Trippers gather around the map

Women's Trip

July 30-August 7, Temagami region

Three nights in camp and five days exploring the beauty of the Temagami and surrounding waterways. Eight spots are available. Cost: USD \$1200/person

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Keewaydin Club

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Memories made with this crew

Men's Trips

July 25-August 8, Quebec or Ontario River
Fishing, and whitewater travel. For experienced trippers. Nine spots are available. Cost: TBD

July 30-August 7, Temagami region

Three nights in camp and five nights exploring the beauty of the Temagami and surrounding waterways. For experienced or new to canoe trippers. Eight spots are available. Cost: USD \$1200/person

Reach out to Emily Schoelzel (emily@keewaydin.org) if you are interested. Registration for the Keewaydin Club is now open. Visit our website to enroll.



In loving memory of Koko: Songadeewin 2007 to 2020. Koko enjoyed all the seasons on the Songa campus; from early morning walks in summer, to dips in Lake Dunmore, to snowy walks through the campus in winter and then long naps next to the heater. She was a good dog.



Alumni-Family Weekend

~ August 25-28, 2022 ~

Whether you're looking to reconnect with the camp you love or introduce Keewaydin and Songadeewin to your kids, Alumni-Family Weekend is the place to be next August!



After missing Alumni-Family Weekend the past two summers, we are excited to have alumni, friends and kids back on Dunmore's shores in 2022! Alumni Family Weekend is the ideal way to relive your camper days or introduce some future campers to Keewaydin and Songadeewin.

Sleep in tents by the waterfront or cabins in Brown's Bay. Eat meals in the great Keewaydin Dining Hall. Swim, paddle, hike and more! Our excellent staff will be on hand to lead activities like canoeing and kayaking, guide hikes on Mount Moosalamoo, organize campfires, and help out however they are needed!

TOP TEN REASONS TO ATTEND ALUMNI-FAMILY WEEKEND

10. Be in the Frolics
9. Paddle a real Keewaydin canoe
8. Hike to Ethan Allen's Cave
7. Catch frogs in the Lagoon
6. Play games at the Campfire
5. Sing songs after dinner
4. Cool off in beautiful Lake Dunmore
3. Enjoy the company of great camp people
2. Go to sleep to the call of the loon
1. Watch the moon climb over Moosalamoo



For more information, contact
Mary Welz at mary@keewaydin.org



Watercolor by Soleil Schroeder

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