

November 2023

Grains of Sandy

Sandy Island is a unique kind of vacation. It's more than time away from the world, it's also time spent in a special community of people. In addition to the wonderful community of friends and family you make during the week(s) you are at Sandy, there is also the staff community. Many of the faces on staff are faces we have seen year after year. So, what do these people do when they are not at Sandy? Read on dear Sandy friends...



photo credit: Don Dome



Karen Waitekus is our fantastic camp nurse and has been for the past 17 years! Karen also helps with pre and post season weekends, runs emergency training for staff, developed COVID protocols for 2021, redesigned the hostel treatment room, plays countless games of tennis to the delight of campers and staff and of course raised 3 super staff members. When not at Sandy, Karen works as a nurse for Sharon High School.



Congratulations to Jordan Ackerman and Aaron Waitekus who recently got engaged!

Harry and Betty Stilphen have been a Sandy Island staple for a very long time. Much has been written about the work they do for us at Sandy but what they do cannot be quantified by the tasks they complete. They are always available to staff and campers young and old. Their kindness and generosity are boundless. It's hard to imagine what our little island would be like without them. When they are not in New Hampshire on a small island in the middle of Lake Winnepesaukee they live in Florida. They help care for their great granddaughter, take care of their 2 beautiful cats and go to as many yard sales as possible gathering treasure!

Meaghan Moore is our amazing craft shop manager, but her Sandy story started in the 80's as a camper. She was on staff from '99-'04 working on the waterfront, program and in the kitchen. "In 2017 I had the privilege and honor of joining the Sandy Island Camp Committee, where I served for 6 years."

"When I'm not at Sandy I work part-time at a horse barn near my home in NH. After riding and showing horses at the barn, I stepped up from occasionally helping with the lesson program to working behind the scenes- managing the tack room, preparing horses for lessons, and ensuring a smooth "behind the scenes" process. As much as I love the barn, though, when I'm not there you can find me in the mountains, either hiking or skiing."



Grains of Sandy



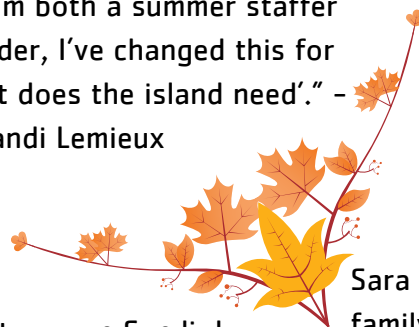
On staff we have several people who are “weekenders”. Beth Magnusen and Sandi Lemieux are a dynamic mother-daughter duo who are 2 of our weekenders. You see them at check-in, the office, the kitchen and between the two of them they have pretty much worked every job at Sandy.



When we have a wedding at Sandy, Beth is the one who makes the dining hall sparkle and shine in a very special way. She particularly enjoys setting up the crudité for the reception after the wedding ceremony. Weddings at Sandy can be magical, and Beth is a very big part of making that happen.

“When I’m not at camp, I work as an Occupational Therapist in an Early Intervention program, providing services to families with children from birth to 3 years with or at risk for developmental delays. My program covers Lawrence, Andover, North Andover and Methuen MA. I am one of the team leaders, and supervise a team of 16 professionals, including teachers, other OT’s, Physical Therapists, Speech and Language Pathologists, Social Workers and Nurses.”

“The weekenders motto is ‘Whatever it takes.’ Since I’m both a summer staffer and a weekender, I’ve changed this for myself to ‘what does the island need’.” - Sandi Lemieux



During the post season Sandi does “whatever it takes” to help shut down camp. From cleaning out the walk-in refrigerators to power washing the dish room floor to cooking for the post season staff Sandi is there to help. During the off-season, or the school year, Sandi is a pediatric occupational therapist, currently working in a school district with students from 3 years old, up to 22 years.



Sara (Moriarty) Belanger and her family are a wonderful long-time addition to our staff family. “I have been going to Sandy Island for over 30 years as a camper and a staff member. I have had the privilege of working in many areas on Sandy Island over the years. My most recent role at Sandy Island was working in the Store.

Other positions I have enjoyed working in have been the kitchen, office, craft shop, waterfront, and program. My favorite part of working at Sandy Island is seeing all the amazing families year after year, meeting new families, and giving my children the opportunity to be at Sandy Island.

When not working at Sandy Island, I am a Special Education Teacher for students in grades K-5. My children are very active in sports, and many of our weekends are spent on the soccer field, the swimming pool, or the basketball court.”



In case you missed this...NOTES FROM YOUR CAMPER COMMITTEE!!

On September 9th, your dedicated Sandy Island Camper Committee, along with Angelo Firenze and Kate Lemay, met to reflect on the achievements of the 2023 season and lay out our plans for 2024. They noted many “wins” for the summer, created a list of suggestions for next summer, and have a list of answers to many of your questions and concerns. Please read the letter they wrote to all of you included [here](#).