

Grains of Sandy

This issue of the Grains of Sandy focuses on the camp committee and all that they do for camp. Sandy Island is not what I would call your typical vacation. It's not a sightseeing tour, it's not a resort with fruity beverages on the beach and water slides at the pool. You can come to Sandy and simply be part of the community and enjoy your vacation but there are MANY campers who also take on a mission of the YMCA to give back and serve. During this season, gratitude and thankfulness are in the forefront of my mind and it is in this spirit that I write about the camp committee.

photo credit: Karen Lein



The goal of the Sandy Island Camp Committee is to improve the enjoyment of the Sandy Island experience by preserving and extending the rustic outdoor environment and the family-oriented social atmosphere of Sandy Island.

The committee serves as the body responsible for advising the YMCA Camp Staff on the direction and quality of programming, facilities and service for Sandy Island as part of the Overnight Camps of Greater Boston. The committee works in conjunction with the camp staff as the voice of the Campers. The committee will help set goals, clarify purpose, and recommend priorities to the Board and YMCA Staff on behalf of Sandy Island.

The Sandy Island Camp Committee is composed of volunteers representing all weeks of Sandy Island. The Sandy Island Camp Committee is chaired by an elected member of the committee, your current chair is Anne Goutis and Vice Chair is Wendy Fisher. The committee is supported by a member of the Full Time Overnight Camp Staff team.

The camp committee has several sub committees. This year's sub committees are Small changes, Big impact, Sandypalooza Volunteer Weekend and Sustaining the Sandy Spirit. In addition to these committees there is also a subcommittee dedicated to the celebration of the 125th camping season with a once in a lifetime gala event. The Grains of Sandy will feature a corner dedicated to the camp committee in upcoming issues of the Grains of Sandy so that you can keep abreast of all they are doing for you!



Your camp committee:

Week 1: Sarah Zarzycki and Lucy Krzanowski

Week 2: Suzanne Brown and Zachary Nutter

Week 3: Wendy Fisher and Susan Mrockza

Week 4: Mike Verrelli

Week 5: Christine Byrnes and Larry Wenglin

Week 6: Devon Ward and Amy Brown

Week 7: Mark DiStefano

Week 8: Ann Goutis and Wally Long III

Week 9: Jocelyn Chertoff and Jeff Kurzweil



Have you or someone you know considered becoming staff at Sandy Island?

Check out this link to apply to work at Sandy in 2024

[Work at Sandy](#)

[Calander link and Dean Coe link here](#)

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Meet the newest members of your camp committee!!

Lucy began her Sandy Island story not as a camper but as staff. Lucy started on staff in the summer of '93 and worked 4 consecutive summers. She started coming with her family as a camper in 2005 and has been coming ever since. Lucy continues to volunteer at the end of the summer, weeks 8 & 9 when she is able. So much of Lucy's life is entwined with Sandy Island. Lucy is a nationally certified sign language interpreter. The very first deaf person she met who taught her sign language was Amy Bacigalupo whom she met at Sandy. Lucy has many lifelong friends who come from Sandy and has continued to meet new people over the years as campers have come and gone. Lucy's parents, brother and his family come to Sandy, and it is the best of her family's traditions together. Sandy provides carefree time with family since there is no meal prep and no required planning for activities. Lucy was asked several years ago to join the camp committee but as with many things in life the timing just wasn't right. This year when she was asked to join the timing was right and she said yes. Lucy hopes to give her time and energy to projects that need attention, to be able to give input from her fellow campers, to be a good liaison for campers' feedback. Lucy enjoys the sense that she belongs to the larger Sandy family and is pleased to have something to give back. We are very grateful to Lucy for saying "yes" to Sandy!



Lucy Krzanowski, week 1

Jeff has been coming to Sandy Island as a camper since the late '70's, he worked on staff in the kitchen during the summers of '90, '91, and '92. He has since spent the rest of his working life in kitchens, bars and restaurants. You could say that working at Sandy made an impression on him! Jeff's mother recently passed away and the people who either reached out to him or came to her services were predominantly Sandy people. In Jeff's words "Sandy people show up!" For Jeff a vacation at Sandy is a return to a simpler time, a time to engage with people and talk about things relating to oneself and life rather than the outside world and the news of the day. Time at Sandy can quiet the pull the world has on us and for Jeff the silencing of the outside world is impactful on the rest of his life. This summer Jeff was asked to join the camp committee and he said yes! Jeff is excited to learn more about the larger structure of the way Sandy works. Jeff hopes to learn more about how Sandy can move forward and change while keeping its traditional roots. Jeff feels that over the past 40 years Sandy has given him so much that now it's time for him to give back to Sandy. We are grateful for Jeff's time and talent!



Jeff Kurzweil, week 9

Wally's first summer at camp was 1984 when he was less than a year old. As a child there were 3 rules Wally had to follow on the island. 1. Show up at every meal. 2. Be kind. 3. Don't go swimming without an adult. This is true freedom for children! Now as an adult the first thing Wally and his wife Kristina do when they get on the Big Sandy II at North Woods is turn off their phones. For Wally, nothing exists outside of the island when he is there that he doesn't want. It is a place like no other where his family can simply be. Wally worked on staff during the summers of '01-'03 working primarily in the kitchen. You can often find Wally flipping omelets on Sunday morning still, giving him an opportunity to catch up with Sandy Lemieux, who he worked with in the kitchen, as well as his fellow campers. Wally's mother, Anna Young, was on the camp committee when George Pacheco was the director. When Ann Goutis asked him to join the camp committee this year, he already had an idea of what it would be like. Wally sees his main role on the committee as the duality of updating camp as is necessary while preserving the Sandy spirit. We couldn't agree more and are so grateful for Wally's service!



Wally Long III, week 4