

# Camaraderie

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Le bulletin des Camarades de Canoe Island French Camp

Fall 2009

## 40th Anniversary Celebration on Canoe Island



*Pearl and Dorothy Austin blow out the candles on the 40th Anniversary cake.*

In 1969 Neil Armstrong became the first human to set foot on the Moon, 400,000 avid music fans attended Woodstock, the average cost of a new house was \$15,550, and gas was 35 cents a gallon. That same year, Dr. Warren Austin started his dream of building a French Camp on the West Coast for his daughter, Dorothy.

On August 30, 2009, Dorothy Austin and Dr. Austin's 10-year-old granddaughter, Pearl Austin Mudd, joined 75 friends on Canoe Island for the 40th anniversary of Canoe Island French Camp. It was a weekend of renewing old acquaintances, welcoming new friends, and enjoying the ambiance of a magical place that many hold dear. Dorothy and Pearl had the honor of blowing out the candles on the birthday cake made by Chefs David Amar and Carla Grahn.

Longtime friends of Canoe Island attending the function included:

- Bill Westlake and his wife, Cele, Orcas Island. Bill was in on the construction of the camp facilities and maintained them from the start until his retirement in 2005.
- Marie-Pierre Koban, Seattle, developed the French language program in the early years.
- Deb Mellom, Hawaii, past camper, was the volunteer designer of the camp brochure for years.
- Laura Grove, Seattle, past camper and counselor, is the board of directors secretary.
- Glenda Schuh, Longview, WA, has been a volunteer nurse for 28 summers.
- Micheline Bilodeau, Bellingham, WA, board member and French language advisor to the camp, brought a group of Bellingham French-speaking friends.
- Kevin Tracy, Novato, CA, grandnephew of Dr. Austin, is a current board member.

Participants took part in traditional camp activities including archery, kayaking, art and swimming. In the afternoon, the group gathered on Inspiration Point to share their memories with many poignant and funny stories being told. Then two teams headed off on a treasure hunt, a current favorite camp activity, to find the 10-year-old time capsule put together at the last reunion. Back on the pool deck, Laura shared the contents with the guests, telling stories of some of the more obscure items. Significant memorabilia from 2009 have been added to the capsule, and it will be secreted away to wait another 10 years to be laughed at over again in 2019.

The anniversary day ended on the pool deck with a French-inspired picnic buffet and bottles of Canoe Island 40th anniversary wine before guests reluctantly left Canoe Island to catch the evening ferries, taking with them memories of this magical place and toasts for at least another 40 years of successful French language and culture programming in the San Juan Islands.



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# 40TH ANNIVERSARY PHOTOS



L-R: Micheline Bilodeau, Connie Jones, Joseph Jones, Cele & Bill Westlake



L-R: Dorothy Austin & Marie-Pierre Koban share memories.



Enjoying 40th Anniversary wine on the pool deck



Laura Grove opens the time capsule.



L-R: Anakarina Colmenares, Matthew Vance, Marie-Pierre Koban, Diana Colmenares, Iris Lance.



L-R: Jim Swenson, Catherine Cornwall, Max Swenson, Harper Swenson



L-R: Elliot Polin, Angela Polin, Karen Stewart, Charlotte Elkins, Alex Stewart



L-R: Diana Colmenares, Anakarina Colmenares, Iris Lance.

# KEEPING IN TOUCH

## Where in the world is...



*Creighton Hofeditz, Past Camper, Counselor and Program Director. Japan. Teaching English in the JET Program.*

*Will Henderson, 2007 Chef. Pullman, WA. Studying organic and sustainable agriculture at Washington State University.*

*Justine Robinett, Camper, Counselor and Program Director. Paris, France. Studying Economics at Science Po.*

*Matthew Vance, Counselor. Paris, France. Writing for the travel blog: <http://www.projectevie.com>*

*Taylor Sproed, Camper, Kitchen Assistant, Counselor. Rennes, France. Studying in a University of Washington French language program.*

*Tristan Amblevert, Counselor. Bourdeaux, France. In a work-study training program for early childhood education.*

*Julien Rolin, Counselor. Valenciennes, France. Studying management and preparing for a humanitarian race through Morocco, [www.4trophie.com](http://www.4trophie.com) and [www.pandoraracing.blogspot.com](http://www.pandoraracing.blogspot.com)*

*Malika Bapst, Counselor. Fribourg, Switzerland. Doing teacher training for secondary school in English, French and arts and crafts as well as training an indoor hockey team of 5 to 8 year olds.*

*Stephanie Rosenbloom, Counselor. New York City. Working in Finance.*

*Glenda Schuh, Nurse. Longview, WA. Attended the International Federation of Infection Control conference in Lithuania and planning to attend the next conference in Cape Town, South Africa in August 2010. She'll be staying with Adrienne Langley Blignaut, past CIFC counselor.*

*Manuèle Mayer, Nurse. Seattle. Working as a school nurse — taking care of students with swine flu (oink).*

*Charly Kuecks, Counselor. Salt Lake City, UT. Preparing to move to Zurich, Switzerland.*

*Elena Bakoucheva, Guest French teacher. Toronto, Canada. Teaching French.*

*Carla Grahn, 2009 Sous chef. Seattle. Working on her art shows and commissions.*

*David Amar, 2009 Chef. Seattle. Giving French cooking classes and translating recipes for [www.allrecipes.com](http://www.allrecipes.com)*

*Muriel Boisnard, Counselor. France. Studying languages.*

*Alex Fermanis, Counselor. Portland, OR. Studying Music Therapy at Marylhurst College.*

*Marie Stoddard, Nurse. Roseburg, OR. Being mom and working as a nurse at Mercy Medical Center.*

*Elise Kruidenier, Counselor. Madison, WI. Finished MA in French Literature in August 2009, and starting a PhD and teaching French 204 at the University of Wisconsin.*

*Eden Cooke, Camper, program assistant, fencing instructor. Seattle. Working as an artist at Trader Joe's and studying at Gage Academy of Art.*

*Eugenie Howell, Counselor. Lille, France. Studying for her Master of International Business at IESEG School of Management.*

*Mathieu LeMerle, Counselor. Lille, France. Studying engineering.*



**YOU CAN STAY UP TO DATE WITH CIFC THROUGH OUR WEBSITE, FACEBOOK PAGE, TWITTER, AND YOUTUBE**

Check out off-season happenings and last summer's photos on Canoe Island's Facebook page and videos on YouTube. Recent postings: sea lions sightings on Whale Rock near Lopez Island and the Shaw Island apple cider squeezing party in October. YouTube videos include Session 3 Foire Mondiale and a funny snorkeling video of life underwater around Canoe Island.

# COMMUNITY

## Canoe Island French Camp Welcomes Local Island Kids to Special Programs



*Reis Southworth teaches landscape painting to Kahana Pietch.*

Children from many of the San Juan Islands visited Canoe Island this year in two special, island-only programs put on by Canoe Island French Camp staff. “We are excited to partner with other San Juan islands in providing excellent programs for local kids,” said Joseph Jones, CIFIC Executive Director.

More than 30 budding writers, artists and scientists from the San Juan Islands traveled to Canoe Island French Camp for a three-day hands-on learning experience June 5-7, 2009. The Young Artists, Writers and Scientists program was created by Canoe Island staff in cooperation with the Orcas Island Recreation Program of San Juan County Parks. Students from San Juan, Orcas, Shaw, and Waldron islands attended.

In September, all the students in Waldron, Shaw, and Stuart island schools spent three days on Canoe Island investigating island ecology and geology.

In June, children, ages 10-15, composed digital photographs, studied rock formations, explored marine life, painted acrylic landscapes, acted in a theatrical production and wrote news stories. Each student chose an activity to focus on for the weekend, led by volunteer professionals who provided hands-on learning experiences.

While Canoe Island is known for its French culture and language summer camps, this special weekend was designed to introduce new campers to the island and focused mainly on career opportunities in science, art, and writing. Subjects included marine biology, geology, photography, landscape painting, creative writing and journalism.

Husband-wife team Drs. Sandy and Tina Wyllie-Echeverria led the marine biology activities on Shaw Island where students studied a variety of fish, sea grass and other species. Reis Southworth, a Lummi Island-based painter and teacher, introduced students to French impressionistic painting giving each a canvas to create original art. Joseph Jones provided a thorough lesson in geology using the natural landscape of the San Juans as his classroom. Jessica Haag, CIFIC marketing director, introduced digital photography and graphic design, and Jennifer Karchmer, journalism instructor at Western Washington University in Bellingham, gave press passes to five campers and helped them with interviews and news writing.

At the end of the three-day program, students did mini-presentations showing their work to the entire group. Brodie Miller, a sixth grader at Small Island School on Orcas Island and a past summer camper, who was handed a Canoe Island Press Pass as part of the journalism workshop, wrote his own headline and news article. “It was really fun going around the island taking notes and interviewing people,” said Miller, 12.

“It was great to see so many different kids come together and create community for the weekend,” says Kathryn Kier, chaperone from Orca Island.

Joseph is working with island schools and recreation associations to provide more local opportunities for local students in 2010.



*Left, biologist Tina Wyllie-Echeverria and Ben Straub prepare for a beach seining class.*

*Right, photography and journalism students interview Chef David Amar for their weekend projects.*



# CaNewsworthy

**Here are the articles we've been mentioned in this year:**

## **CANOE ISLAND WEEKEND IS FIRST PRIZE IN SAN JUAN ISLANDS VACATION VIDEO CONTEST**

Visitors who came to the San Juan Islands this summer had a chance to win more than \$6000 in prizes by entering a video of their time spent in the San Juan Islands from January through October. The grand prize is a 3-night stay on Lopez, Orcas, and San Juan islands with lodging, dinners, activities and \$1,000 in cash, plus five additional nights of lodging, gift certificates, and passes that can be used on the same or multiple trips (value of \$5,367.) First prize is a 4-day Family Camp at Canoe Island French Camp, which includes transportation from island ferry terminals, lodging, gourmet meals, and the use of all the island facilities and equipment. Information can be found at "Vacation Video Contest San Juan Islands" on YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gcUSImEKXHo> ). The contest ends Oct 31, 2009. We'll post the link to the first prize video on our website.

## **ON THE AIRWAVES! COUNTDOWN TO COLLEGE WITH BETH PICKETT**

Canoe Island French Camp Program Director Justine Robinett was interviewed in June about CIFIC programs for this live radio show that aired June 26, 2009. Listen to the interview at <http://www.canoeisland.org/news/news.html>

## **BUDGET TRAVEL MAGAZINE: Summer Camp for All (That Means Parents, Too!)**

Canoe Island French Camp's Family Camps were featured in the May 2009 *Budget Travel* magazine along with 20 other family camps nationwide. Read the entire article at <http://www.budgettravel.com/bt-dyn/content/article/2009/04/03/AR2009040302981.html>

## **2009 EVENING MAGAZINE: THE BEST OF WESTERN WA & NORTHWEST ESCAPES**

Thank you to everyone who voted for Canoe Island French Camp in Evening Magazine's online contest, Best of the NW Kids Camps! We are in the top 5 in 2009! The contest for 2010 is going on now, and you can cast your vote. Just click <http://best.king5.com/king-5-s-the-best>, create an account (free, quick, and easy), search for Canoe Island French Camp, and vote!

## **CAMP BUSINESS MAGAZINE, NOV/DEC, 2009**

We did an interview this summer with Camp Business magazine to be published next month. We'll post it on our website "when it come out."

## **THE JOURNAL OF THE SAN JUANS, JULY 1, 2009**

The San Juan Island newspaper printed an article about our Young Artists, Writers and Scientists Weekend similar to the one in this newsletter.

## **DID YOU KNOW...**

### **CIFIC is proud to be a member of the following organizations:**

American Camp Association  
Western Association of Independent Camps  
Chambers of Commerce on Lopez Island, Orcas Island, San Juan Island and Anacortes  
Tourism and Visitor's Bureaus of the San Juan Islands, Seattle, and Bellingham

### **CIFIC will have a booth at the following Camp Fairs & Events:**

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Annual Convention, San Diego (ACTFL) - Nov. 20-22, 2009.  
Bush School's Summer Opportunity Showcase, Seattle - Thursday, February 4, 2010.  
St. Thomas Camp Fair, Seattle - Saturday, February 6, 2010.  
Bastille Day Celebration, Jamison Park, Portland, Saturday, July 10, 2010  
Bastille Day Celebration, Seattle Center, Seattle, Sunday, July 11, 2010

Are there any organizations, events or publications, in your area that you think CIFIC should know about to join, advertise or attend? Please let us know by emailing your ideas to [info@canoeisland.org](mailto:info@canoeisland.org).

## **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

**Help us improve our website ranking in the Social Mediasphere.**

Helping Canoe Island have a web presence outside of our own website is important. It increases the chances that new participants will find us when they are online since there are more web pages that contain information about Canoe Island.

[www.del.icio.us.com](http://www.del.icio.us.com) is a web-based bookmarking site. Delicious users save their bookmarks on the website so they can access them from any browser. A website that has many users bookmarking it is generally popular and will get more traffic.

[www.digg.com](http://www.digg.com) is a social media site where anyone can submit articles and viewers can vote for articles they like. Very popular articles make it to the front page of Digg, resulting in more site traffic.

# 2010 CALENDAR

**2010 registration is ready online and by mail-in forms**, both of which you can find at <http://www.canoeisland.org/online-registration/online-registration.html>. Last year some camps filled by March, and, as we are already receiving registrations, now would be a good time to choose your summer session. Registering now with a \$450 deposit saves your spot and the deposit is fully refundable through Dec. 31, 2009. If you register with full payment by the end of 2009, you can take a \$100 discount. Invite your friends to camp and save \$50 on your tuition. When a new camper registers and mentions your name, we'll deduct or refund \$50 from your tuition. Just remind your friends to fill in the box on the on-line or paper registration with your name when they register.

**Financial Aid available.** Canoe Island French Camp gave out \$24,720 in financial aid in 2009 to help youngsters who would not have been able to attend camp without assistance. Only about half of that was covered by donations to the camp's scholarship fund. We encourage those who sincerely want to attend Canoe Island French Camp, but would be unable to do so without assistance, to apply for financial aid. We also encourage more fortunate families to donate to the scholarship fund so that we can continue to offer assistance to deserving youth.

*Magical, Educational, Unforgettable*

## Campers

**Open House**  
Saturday, June 19

**Session 1 Les Voyageurs**  
Sunday, June 20-Friday, July 9

**Session 2 La Révolution Française**  
Sunday, July 11-Friday, July 23

**Session 3 Le Monde Francophone**  
Sunday, July 25-Friday, August 13

**Session 4 Les Chevaliers**  
Sunday, August 15-Friday, August 27

## Adult & Family Camps

**2 Spring Work Parties**  
April 23-25 and April 30-May 2

**Adult Yoga Benefit Weekend**  
Friday-Monday, May 21-23

**Memorial Day Weekend Adult & Family Camp**  
Friday-Monday, May 28-31

**Labor Day Weekend Adult & Family Camp**  
Friday-Monday, September 3-6



*Unplug, relax and connect with nature.*

**CIFC 40th Anniversary  
Commemorative Wine from  
Lopez Vineyards makes a great gift!  
Order your souvenir bottle of  
Malbec-Cab-Merlot from  
[www.lopezislandvineyards.com](http://www.lopezislandvineyards.com)**



## Camaraderie

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