



40th Anniversary Edition



# Camaraderie

Volume 11, No. 1

Les bulletin des Camarades de Canoe Island French Camp

Spring 2009



*Spring Daffodils on Inspiration Point, April*



# Bistro Canoe, Seattle Brings in Funds & Friends

By Laura Grove, CIFIC board secretary

Forty years of Summer Fun with a French Accent were celebrated March 20 at the Palace Ballroom in Seattle with a birthday cake and *joyeuse anniversaire* at Bistro Canoe: *les quarante ans de Canoe*.



Board President Laura Sommers welcomed guests, and the Tom Douglas chefs served smoked trout, lamb, mushroom tarts, and crême caramel. Brent Charley, Lopez Island Vineyards vintner, gave tastings of and took orders for Canoe Island's commemorative labeled chardonnay and red-blend wines. (See our website [www.canoeisland.org](http://www.canoeisland.org) to order.)

Opportunities to make a donation to the camp scholarship fund abounded: Board member Alan Marshall described the Memorial Day Weekend sailing and kayaking getaway in terms almost as vivid as his hot-pink tie. Tracie Luthi, board treasurer and event chairman, championed the Endless Summer getaway when Tom Douglas chefs will come to Canoe Island to provide gourmet meals for a relaxing and rejuvenating Labor Day Weekend. (Registration information for these events on page 9). Paddles in the shape of canoe paddles were raised to fuel the scholarship fund.

2008 camper, Brooks Donohue, described to guests his experience at Canoe Island French Camp and what receiving a scholarship meant to him (see page ?). Tucked into each napkin was a small card with the name of a prominent French person for the door prize ticket. Jared Roach board vice president and past counselor, drew one and said "John Root", waiting for guests to decipher Jean Racine. Micheline Bilodeau, board member, taught some French proverbs (*Repétez après moi!*), asked the kids for the translations, and gave guests the right accent for *Super Cool!*

A slideshow of past and current photos produced by Camp Caretaker Jessica Haag brought back memories of Madrona Inn, the geodesic dome in Siberia, the old dock, and Bill Westlake, Skipper, Marie-Pierre Koban and Dr. and Mrs. Austin, the founders of the camp.

*Merci mille fois* to all who supported the Canoe Island French Camp scholarship fund through their Bistro Canoe attendance and donations.



Bistro Canoe photos continued on the top and bottom of next page...





## An Experience of a Lifetime



*Speech made by camper Brooks Donohue at Bistro Canoe 2009*

Last spring, my mom and dad went to a camp fair and brought home a pamphlet with synopses of several summer camps. At the time, I thought that this would be my last summer of freedom—I was 15, and had resigned myself to the idea that next summer break, I needed to get a job—so I had better cram this summer with as much fun as I possibly could.

As I sat at my kitchen table going through the pamphlets, something caught my eye: the Canoe Island French Camp, which described itself as “Summer fun with a French Accent,” offering “the fun of an overnight summer camp on a private island.” I had studied French for two years at the time and my interest was piqued by the idea of spending that much

time with other French speakers. I had never spent that long away from home without my parents, too, and I wanted to see how I’d do surrounded with people I’d never met.

I dog-eared the page and later showed my dad all my potential choices, hoping for the best. My heart sank a little when he said that we couldn’t afford Canoe Island. He said there was still a chance of a scholarship but maybe not to get my hopes up too high. As it turned out, Canoe Island offered us financial aid, and Connie Jones asked me to write a letter about why I wanted to attend. I also got a letter of support from my French teacher that I hoped would get me into the camp. After a week or so of crossed fingers, my dad received an email telling him that I was going to Canoe Island. We were overjoyed and extremely grateful.

Months later, in the middle of August, I stepped off a boat onto Canoe Island’s tiny pier. I made fast friends with the other boys I was sharing my teepee with as well as most of the counselors. I found myself enjoying my stay at Canoe Island by the first morning breakfast. As opposed to other camps I’d been to, I was surprised to find that the main building had heat, which I remembered to look forward to every morning afterward. I loved meal times. Everybody was so friendly and I was able to strike up a conversation with anybody about anything, be it in English or broken French!

The activities at Canoe Island were endless. For instance, along with fencing practice and a brisk outing on the Sound with one of the camp leaders for some early morning crabbing, I also took part in a theater class and a rousing island-wide game of Capture the Flag. I learned to tie sailor’s knots and snuck out in the morning to take pictures of the sunrise (honest, Connie, that’s all we did). I danced to awful techno music with my French class and performed Romeo and Juliet in ten minutes at the talent show. I laughed, I learned, and I had a blast.

Honestly, I wish I had better individual memories of Canoe Island—some way I could say “The single best thing that happened to me at Canoe Island was blankety blank blank.” I can’t do that—not because I didn’t have a good time; in fact, the exact opposite is true. I had so many good experiences on my trip there that they all have blended together into a joyful whirlwind that I can only pull bits and pieces out of. I’ve never been to other camps like Canoe Island, so I don’t know what to compare it to, but it’s difficult to imagine that Canoe Island isn’t setting the standard that all camps like it should try and reach. I’m absolutely sure of one thing, though—I had the experience of a lifetime at Canoe Island, and I hope that every other camper will have that same experience in their own unique way.





## **Financial Assistance Needed This Year More Than Ever**

*by Joseph Jones*

Given the current fiscal situation, many families are finding it difficult to afford the full tuition for camp this year. We are urging parents and campers to take full advantage of our financial aid program.

Our goal is to insure that our programs are financially accessible for all children with an interest in French language and culture, and a desire to attend Canoe Island French Camp. To uphold that philosophy we focus our fund-raising efforts on raising money for our Scholarship Fund.

We recently became aware of several families who felt they would not be able to afford full camp tuition this year, but who were hesitant to request financial aid with the idea that it might deprive someone else with greater need from being able to attend camp. This is not the case. All requests for financial aid will be considered until the camp sessions are filled.

Please do not hesitate to register for camp this summer because of your current financial situation. Please pass on information about CIFIC to others, and let them know about the availability of financial aid for our programs for youth.

We would like to thank all of you who have helped keep our camp financially accessible for all campers by your generous donations to our Scholarship Fund. We would also like to thank all of you who have helped insure the full maintenance of our camp's infrastructure by voluntarily paying for camp at one of the higher tuition levels.

We hope to see you this summer for one of our camp sessions, our June 20 Open House, our 40th Anniversary Celebration on August 30, and/or one of our family camps.

Register for camp at [www.canoeisland.org](http://www.canoeisland.org)

Download a financial aid form from our website

Tax-deductible scholarship donations or general camp donations can be mailed to:

**Canoe Island French Camp  
PO Box 370  
Orcas, WA 98280**

## Retro t-shirt



Donate a minimum of \$25 to our Canoe Island French Camp Scholarship Fund, and receive a retro CIFIC T-shirt as a thank you gift. Our 40th anniversary shirt is inspired by the famous French Camp Canoe Island T-shirt from the 1980s. Donation checks should be made out to Canoe Island French Camp - Scholarship Fund and mailed to:

**Canoe Island French Camp**  
**PO Box 370**  
**Orcas, WA 98280**

Please include: Size & Shipping address  
T-shirt details: 100% cotton, 3/4th length sleeve, Unisex, Sizes available: Small-3XL, White body, red sleeves, CIFIC 40th Anniversary logo in black on front left chest

## A Grape Cause! Canoe Island Anniversary Wine

We can't think of a better way to commemorate 40 delightful years than with great wine. After all we are a French camp!

Canoe Island French Camp has teamed up with award winning local vintner, Brent Charnley from Lopez Island Vineyards to custom label two of his fine wines for our 40th anniversary celebrations. The labels, designed by Jessica Haag of Canoe Island French Camp, will be a souvenir of the island and the anniversary.

All orders will be processed through Lopez Vineyards with \$79.20 from each case of the Malbec blend and \$49.00 from each case of the Chardonnay going towards the CIFIC scholarship fund. Support Canoe Island French Camp and help send deserving youngsters to camp while you enjoy the fruit of the vine!

### **CABERNET SAUVIGNON-MERLOT-MALBEC** 85% - 7% - 13% Yakima Valley

These varieties, originating from the Bordeaux region of France, have been aged 2 years in small oak barrels making a full-bodied wine with flavors and aromas of blackberry, cherry, raspberry and cedar. Brent recommends aging this wine for best flavor.

\$22.50/bottle (minimum order 6 bottles)  
\$270/case (12 bottles per case)

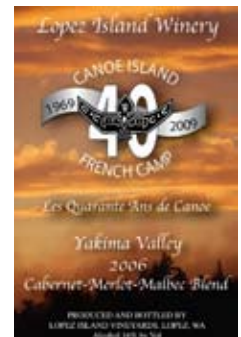
\$79.20 per case will be donated  
to the CIFIC scholarship fund.

### **CHARDONNAY** Yakima Valley

This wine shows the elegance of this classic grape with the wonderful crisp acidity of this grape growing region. Barrel fermented and sur-leees aged, Lopez Vineyards' chardonnay has flavors of pineapple, apple, butter and vanilla. Brent suggests enjoying this wine with grilled poultry or salmon, vegetables or cheese.

\$13.50/bottle (minimum order 6 bottles)  
\$162.00/case (12 bottles per case)

\$49.00 per case will be donated  
to the CIFIC scholarship fund.



### **Lopez Island Vineyard Payment Info:**

Visa, Master Card, or Discover, are accepted as well as personal checks. You can order from us in four ways: Please make sure you designate CIFIC 40th Anniversary Wines when ordering.

- Call us at 360.468.3644. (To help expedite the order process, please download our order form and fill it out before calling us.)
- Download and fill out the order form, then fax it to Lopez Vineyards at 360.468.3644 \*9. We will call you to get your credit card number and verify your billing address and card security code.
- Download and fill out the order form, then email it. We will call you to get your credit card number and verify your billing address and card security code.
- Download and fill out the order form, then mail it to us with your check enclosed. Send your order to: Lopez Island Vineyards, 724 Fisherman Bay RD, Lopez Island, WA 98261
- [www.lopezislandvineyards.com](http://www.lopezislandvineyards.com)



# Meet the 2009 Staff



## **Justine Robinett, Program Director**

I feel so lucky to be spending my 8th summer on Canoe Island! I can't imagine my life if a random stranger hadn't mentioned French Camp to me when I was 11, the summer after spending a whole year living in Tours, France. I grew up near San Francisco, went to a boarding high school in Southern California, and just received my college degree in Economics from the University of Chicago. I've taught photography and been a life guard for the past three years, and look forward to returning as Program Director.



## **David Amur, Chef du Cuisine**

David moved to Seattle from Provence two years ago and is eager to bring bistro-type meals to Canoe Island guests, campers and staff this summer. He is excited about sharing his knowledge of French food and culture during meals and classes. His first degree was in wildlife management and his second in cooking. He also was a counselor in a French summer camp.



## **Carla Grahn, Sous Chef**

Carla has been involved with food and restaurants for 15 years. She is an artist by profession teaching metalworking and blacksmithing in Seattle. "I am a believer in challenging myself to new experiences, a lover of nature, an appreciator of food/culture, and a huge advocate of experiences that open the mind and provide perspective."



## **Marion Esperou du Tremblay, Kitchen Assistant**

Marion, comes from a restaurant-owning family in Teyran, France. She is captain of her handball team in France and has played for 10 years. She spent two months in Australia on an exchange program. She plans to get a degree in business.



## **Tristan Amblevert, Lead Counselor**

I am 23 years old, and I come from Bordeaux in France. My mother is American and my father French, which explains why I have dual nationality. I have studied the cello since I was 6 years old. I have come to Canoe for the past three summers now, which has made me even more interested in working with children. I am hoping to get into a professional training program in France, that involves this type of work. I really enjoy being able to come to the US frequently, and I am hoping to live on the West Coast for at least a year in the future. I like music a lot, and I am a big fan of the *Girondins de Bordeaux* soccer team.



## **Taylor Sproed, French Cuisine & Nature**

Taylor was a camper for 6 years -- about as long as you can be a camper, is a past kitchen assistant and will be returning to teach French Cuisine and Nature for her second summer. She just completed her second year at the University of Washington in environmental studies and French. She's a jazz pianist and singer. "I have first experience of the life-changing contributions that a camp has on children."



## **Muriel Boisnard, Theater**

My name is Muriel and I live in the northern-west of France, near Brittany. I am 19 and I study English. I also can speak German and Spanish, I like languages! I love children and I want to become a primary school teacher. I like going to the cinema, dancing, reading... I am very happy to do this camp and I am sure it will be a great time!



## **Maija Skarp, Art & French Cuisine**

Maija attended French immersion camps as a teen-ager and has taught French for four years in an after school language program in an elementary school. "I live breath and eat French. It is my passion and I want to share it with others, especially children." She graduated from Concordia Moorhead University in December with a degree in French and has spent three months living in France.



## **Malika Bapst, Lifeguard & Ceramics**

Malika is from Hauteville, Switzerland; her father is Swiss and her mother is English. She will be our pool lifeguard in the afternoon and ceramics instructor in the morning. She is currently studying to be a secondary school teacher in French, English and arts and crafts. She has been a camp counselor and is a soccer coach for 5-9 year olds. She taught English in Tanzania and competed in regional and national synchronized swimming competitions.



## **Amaury Coin, Fencing**

Once upon a time, Amaury was born in the north of France. People often said that he was a very nice person with a good personality. Actually, he's really enthusiastic and dynamic with what he enjoys. He's now 19 years old and studies history, one of his passions. Before arriving on Canoe Island, Amaury passed the BAFA (a French diploma to oversee children during vacations) and worked a few times with children in France. He'd like to become a history teacher, that's probably why he likes to work with young people. He practiced indoor climbing for 4 years and he's now practicing fencing, a sport inherited from the old knights of France. So, are you ready to learn how to fence like the French knights of the Middle-age? Come on, you won't be disappointed!

**Gillian Coy, Kayak, Canoe & Archery**

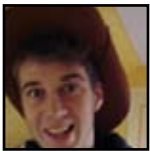
Salut! Je m'appelle Gillian et je viens de Gig Harbor, Washington. Je suis une étudiante à l'Université de Willamette où je me spécialise aux études internationales et au Français. L'année prochaine, je serai à l'étranger en France et je suis ravie ! Quand je ne suis pas en classe, j'aime courir, passer du temps avec mes amis, et essayer de jouer à la guitare...Hi ! My name is Gillian and I'm from Gig Harbor, Washington. I'm a student at Willamette University where I'm majoring in International Studies and French. Next year, I'll be abroad in France and I'm so excited ! When I'm not in class, I like to run, spend time with my friends, and try to play the guitar.

**Charly Kuecks, Art & Journal**

This falls Charly will begin graduate studies in public health and communications. She's engaged to a wonderful man she met at BYU (qui est francophone, bien sûr!). She has enjoyed studying the French language since elementary school, and her favorite part of France is the Loire Valley. She loves all types of dance (folk, social, ballet); her piano skills have vastly improved over the past six months; and she's loved writing for college print and web publications. When she was at summer camp herself, she gained a reputation for being the most adventurous of the girls when it came to rappelling and the ropes course. She highly recommends *Les parapluies de Cherbourg*, *Kaolin*, and *Le comte de Monte-Cristo*.

**Alex Fermanis, Photography, & Guitar**

Alex is a university student who spends his free time painting, photographing and singing about the Pacific Northwest where he was born and raised. He spent last year studying French and psychology in Grenoble and will be pursuing a Bachelor of Music Therapy degree in Portland, Oregon, come September. Alex has spent several years rehearsing and performing with the Seattle Youth Symphony and last year with the Grenoble Community Orchestra on the French Horn. He is most happy when making music, camping, hiking, bicycling and speaking foreign languages.

**Julien Rolin, Kayaking & Canoe**

Julien, from Merville, France (near Lille), is a sports enthusiast, but since we don't do BMX racing or mountain biking on Canoe Island, he will focus on his other skills as a kayak and canoeing instructor and tennis player. He has been a camper himself, and has led kayaking, canoeing and camping trips for children. Next year he will take part in an orientation race through the south Moroccan desert in an RENAULT 4L and bring school equipment to the local children.

**Manuele Mayer, Session 2 Nurse**

Manuele be returning for her second year A native of France, she is the school nurse at Kenmore Junior High School. She brings her knowledge of French language and culture as well as her nurturing caring spirit to take care of staff and campers alike.

**Glenda Schuh, Session 3 Nurse**

Glenda has been a volunteer nurse at Canoe Island French Camp for 28 summers and has been a constant supporter of our programs. A Girl Scout life member and alpine ski instructor, she has focused on infectious disease nursing in her professional life. Glenda always has her camera ready to document the fun activities at camp.

**Jessica Haag, Island Caretaker**

This will be my 3rd season on Canoe Island. I live on the island year round, during the summer, I support programming in any way needed and help keep the camp safe and clean, I also lead snorkeling with anyone who wants to see the sea critters up close and personal. During the winter, I assist with the camp's marketing and advertising efforts. I lived in Yap, Micronesia for two years and worked with a Library and Technology program for an elementary school. I enjoy cooking, kayaking, rock climbing, photography & planning for my next adventure!

**Ben Straub, Island Caretaker**

Ben, originally from Eastern PA, has been the caretaker/facility manager of Canoe for two years. He is curious and excitable about everything and is most interested in the creative side of life. In addition to his construction he has a background in fine woodworking, machining, optical instruments and artistic woodturning and madekaleidoscopes professionally for 14yrs. He is (or was, no pool table on Canoe) an avid pool/billiards player and also makes pool cues. He is passionate about nature, hiking, rock climbing, cycling, photography, boating, food & travelling.

**Joseph & Connie Jones, Camp Directors**

Joseph and Connie live year round on the Canoe Island. They have more than 30 years of experience running some of the Northwest's most respected camp programs. Joseph has a geology and natural resource undergraduate background, and a graduate degree in science education and education administration. He has extensive experience in land, sea and air search and rescue and emergency medical response. Connie has lived, studied and traveled extensively in France. She is a past EMT, has an English literature degree, was a certified teacher, and a reporter, editor, and restaurant reviewer with The Oregonian newspaper.

# Contest: What or Where On Canoe Island Is This?

*Photos by Jessica Haag*

How well do you know Canoe Island? Below are 8 photos taken randomly around the island. Some are locations, some are objects. Correctly identify all of them by sending a numbered email with your answers to: [info@canoeisland.org](mailto:info@canoeisland.org) (you can also mail a letter). The names of those who submit correct answers will be drawn at random each month starting in May until the 40th Anniversary Celebrations in August. Winners under 21 will receive a retro t-shirt, 21 and older will have the choice of a t-shirt or a bottle of our 40th anniversary Charnonnay. Anyone can play. Good Luck! Winners will be contacted and names will be posted on CIFIC's Facebook Page and on the Alumni section of our website.

1



5



2



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7



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# 2009 Schedule

Register online: [www.canoeisland.org](http://www.canoeisland.org)

## Campers

### Open House

Saturday, June 20

### Session 1 Les Voyageurs

Sunday, June 21-Friday, July 10

### Session 2 La Révolution Française **FULL**

Sunday, July 12-Friday, July 24

### Session 3 Le Monde Francophone

Sunday, July 26-Friday, August 14

### Session 4 Les Chevaliers

Sunday, August 16-Friday, August 28



## Adult & Family Camps

### Spring Work Party

Friday, May 1-Sunday May 3

### Adult Yoga Benefit Weekend

Friday-Monday, May 15-17

### Memorial Day Weekend Adult & Family Camp

Friday-Monday, May 22 -25

### Endless Summer Weekend

Friday-Monday, September 4-7  
Labor Day Weekend

## 40th Anniversary Celebrations



1 Day  
Sunday  
August 30

2 Day  
Saturday-Sunday  
August 29-30

4 Day  
Saturday-Tuesday  
August 29-September 1

## Camaraderie

### Editors

Connie Jones

Laura Grove

### Guest Contributors

Brooks Donahue

Laura Grove

### Photographs/Design

Jessica Haag



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