



Craigville
Retreat Center
ON CAPE COD

Reservations: 800-678-5102 | uccr.org/craigville | reservations@uccr.org

For more than a century, the Christian Camp Meeting Association's Craigville Retreat Center has welcomed guests and visitors from all walks of life to enjoy and embrace this "Special Place of Grace by the Sea." For many, it's become a family tradition. Following is a story about one such group.



About 28 years ago, the Huntington family started a tradition of hosting a family reunion at The Craigville Retreat Center. They discovered Craigville after they realized that their location in the Catskills just wasn't working—there was a silent retreat going on while they were there. "Our group is just not that silent," says Weezie Huntington, one of the family's unofficial reunion organizers. "We can be a bit raucous."

This year, the family returns in late June for their annual "cousins' gathering." There will be 23 overnighters at CRC, with a few cousins living nearby. Spanning four generations, they range in age from 2 months to 95 years. They travel from Washington state, California, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Vermont, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and New York. Sometimes they call their cousins Anne and Fiona in Ireland.

Last summer was the first time in nearly 30 years that they could not gather--- due, of course, to the pandemic. Weezie agrees that they have a lot of catching up to do. "We missed it just terribly last year," she says. "It's just not summer until we have our cousins' reunion."

"I don't have a 'most fond' memory," says Weezie. "I have many, many wonderful memories."

The family is usually anchored at The Lodge because they all like to be in the same place. They also spill over into Marshview. While numbers are lower this year, they have had up to 55 family members in the past. A typical day begins with coffee at The Lodge. "Then it's a stroll down to The Inn dining room for

breakfast until they kick us out. Then we hit the beach until someone decides it's time for lunch. It's off to the beach again, and then a glass of wine on The Lodge deck before our group spreads through the streets on our way to dinner."

Over...



One of the greatest benefits of CRC is that no one needs to buy food or cook. “It’s just wonderful to have Craigville do the cooking, and they are very good to us,” says Weezie, adding that the CRC kitchen usually has to make at least one birthday cake.

Weezie credits her father’s mother, Edith Chamberlin, for the tradition of an annual family reunion. “She always said the best way to spend money is by bringing people together,” Weezie says. “It is a blessing to get to know my cousins’ kids. Seeing the growth year to year is really fun.”

When the gang is not on the beach or in the dining room, they are biking, or competing in a “raucous” three-generation game of volleyball on The Green. There are also games of hide and seek, capture the flag, kick the can, and perhaps a talent show. “We also do something we call the ‘Fish Bowl,’ where one night each person talks about what they did the prior year. We followed Masters’ and Doctoral candidates,

watched young ones start kindergarten and watched next generations get jobs, as well as hear about other accomplishments or struggles.”

“A few still play tennis, but we have some knee and hip replacements, so it is more biking and walking these days.”

There is a wooden plaque dedicated to Weezie’s cousin Steve Huntington on the deck of The Lodge. The family rebuilt the deck in memory of Steve, who has passed. “Our family loves to laugh. And Steve had a wonderful belly laugh. You could always tell where he was, and he used to love sitting on the old deck”.

In 2013, Weezie arranged for a high school reunion of 39 classmates from across the country to visit Craigville in October. “Everyone loved it,” she says, adding that they came back two years later. Longtime Village resident Alice Brown was among those classmates and is credited by the Huntington family for introducing them to Craigville 28 years ago.

