

I started coming to Islesford in 1972 when my husband, Philip Ravenhill, and I were in graduate school and we came to visit our professors Sally McLendon and Harvey Pitkin. I have come every summer but two since then. The Ravenhill home, nestled in the woods off Sandbeach Road, has been a summer haven for the family and our only home in the U.S. for many years when we lived overseas. People who knew the Ravenhills when our children were young remember the little French-speaking kids selling African sand dollars to tourists, outselling their local competition. Our island home and community have been a solid rock and touchstone for the family over the years, particularly important after Philip's death 20 years ago, and we haven't stopped being involved and giving back ever since. Each of our three children came home to the island to spend a winter or more after college -- lobstering, supporting community development. The now 13-year old Islesford Boatworks program was born of a Ravenhill sibling desire to create a reason to be home every summer and contribute to the community. I am now retired with time on my hands and am very happy to have joined the CIRT board of directors and capital campaign committee, bringing with me many years' experience working overseas in public health programs directing women's health projects, doing research, teaching, and building health care systems in Bolivia, Haiti, Guatemala, Uganda, Ivory Coast and elsewhere. I sense a new vigor and energy in CIRT with a strong will and doubling down of efforts to contribute to the long-term sustainability of year-round communities on our islands. I look forward to adding to that energy with a solid contribution.