The Walt Street Journal Spring Edition 2018 VALT WHITMA VASTABLISHED 1948

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

If you haven't seen our previous newsletters or noticed all of our posts on Facebook, Camp Walt Whitman is celebrating its 70th season this summer! It's an exciting moment, because not only do we get to celebrate and reflect on our past, we can use this occasion to pave the way for a limitless future.

At 70, CWW is entering the prime years of its life. We can clearly see the benefits of key decisions we've made and camp traditions we've upheld. But we don't want to let our successes and accomplishments weigh us down. Turning 70 can't find us on the cusp of feeling established (read "old"). Instead, we want to stay focused on how we can continue to have a meaningful and lasting positive impact on the lives of children for another 70 years. We want to mark our



70th anniversary by recognizing how we can be both young and old simultaneously. It's time to reflect on the values that guide us as a camp community and help us evolve along with the changing world we live in (nine months of the year!).

Almost 20 years ago our leadership team created our Camp Walt Whitman Core Values. These mission statements are key to defining who we are as a community and determining if we are on the right path and fulfilling our goals. It's worth considering them again before camp begins a few weeks from now:

Community: We intentionally create an inclusive community where campers learn that they are part of something bigger than themselves.

Continuous Personal Growth and

Development: We provide the support and trust that are essential for campers to take healthy risks and experience personal growth. Children leave camp stronger, with a greater sense of independence and self-esteem with which to handle life's challenges.

Respect for Individual Abilities, Interests, and Talents:

We provide an environment where every person is treated fairly and with respect. Campers and staff are valued as individuals who together form our community.

Safety: We exceed all safety standards and have a staff to camper ratio that is greater than 2:1 which allows us to reinforce physical and emotional safety at all times.

Boys and Girls are Equals: Children learn to see each other as equals and view everyone as equally capable regardless of gender.

These values are constantly guiding the decisions and improvements we make at CWW. As we take stock of our core values and focus on building a bright future, we also want to say: thank you for letting us be a part of your lives every summer. We wouldn't be celebrating 70 seasons without our families back home.

See you soon,

Carolyn # led

Camp Walt Whitman's 70th Reunion

There are moments when we cannot believe how quickly time passes and yet can also stand still, especially at camp. 70 years is a lifetime for some and yet we are confident Camp Walt Whitman will continue on for many generations to come. For some attending our reunion, camp is a distant, yet fond memory. For others, it is not at all in the past, but a very present experience and just the beginning of everything our alumni hold so dear.

Just like when you see a great friend after years apart, CWW will look a little different for those who attend our 70th reunion this summer, but the striking feeling of 'sameness' will be undeniable.

You'll turn down Cape Moonshine and feel a little flutter in your stomach; reminiscent of a much younger self ... a much simpler time. The air will be filled with excitement, laughter, a whole lot of nostalgia, and that fresh clean White Mountain breeze.

The 70th reunion will be a great opportunity to reignite old friendships, relive past memories, see CWW in all its glory as kids play in the lake and dart to activities, and of course, we'll do a little square dancing.

We cannot wait to have over 500 former staff, campers and their families from across generations come together in our magical corner of the world.

It's already June, and if you have not made your plans for the reunion, now is the time.

We can't wait to see you at the reunion!





CWW's 70th Reunion

Saturday, July 28th 10 am – 4 pm

The cost is \$35 per attendee. Children 16 and younger are free of charge.

Alumni under 18 must be accompanied by a parent.



To register for the CWW 70th Reunion, please go to:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/camp-walt-whitmans-70th-reunion-registration-40815988721

Alumni Feature: Jacques Steinberg & Jon Elson

One of the highlights of our upcoming 70th anniversary reunion will be the publication of a special edition of *Walt's Weekly*, the camp's long-time newspaper, led by two prominent alumni from its staff: Jack Steinberg and Jon Elsen.

At many points in the history of CWW, Walt's Weekly has served as a must-read source for camp news, as put out by campers and staff. And all attendees of the 70th will get a chance to bring home a keepsake edition. As in the past, the newspaper will be produced by a collection of current staff and campers. Jon and Jack say their plan is for the paper to be a perfect marriage of present day CWW and its illustrious history.

After the paper was dormant for years, Jack reached out to Jed Dorfman (his former camper, and a fellow resident of Larchmont, N.Y.) just before the summer of 2012 with what he acknowledged was a crazy idea: what if he spent a week at camp mentoring a group of counselors and campers as they readied an edition of *Walt's Weekly* to be distributed on family visiting weekend? Jed said he was game, and the issue was a giant success.

With the 70th anniversary approaching, Jack reached out to Jed again – but this time in partnership with Jon, his former counselor, his first Walt's Weekly editor (in 1979), and a long-time friend. Both Jack and Jon have had long careers in newspapers and their ability to work together once again on this publication brings camp full circle for them. We had a chance to sit down with them to hear about their love for camp and Walt's



Jacques with his brother AJ (also a former camper and staff member)

Weekly, the influence both had on their careers and lives, and what it means for them to be bringing Walt's Weekly back for the 70th Reunion.

This is not the first time Jon and Jack have teamed up to bring Walt's Weekly back into publication. The way Jon recounts the story, it all started with a conversation between him and Steve Cohen, who oversaw CWW programming and other operations in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Jon, then the editor of the Columbia Spectator, Columbia University's student daily, had the idea when he returned to camp in 1979 to revive Walt's Weekly. He decided to have a camper correspondent from each bunk file reports about activities and events from that week. From bunk 7, where Jon was the cabin counselor, he tapped a young Jack Steinberg as its representative.

Jon and Jack would go on to work together at *The Hartford Courant* and *The New York Times*. It is amazing to both that their journey together at those prominent publications started with the camp newspaper. Jack (whose *New York Times* byline was "Jacques," his full first name) credits *Walt's Weekly* with being one of the first activities that helped him feel a connection to camp.

After graduating from Columbia, Jon made his way to Hartford to work for a small paper before eventually moving on to *The Hartford Courant*. He moved back to New York and then took a job in financial journalism. He went to the *New York Post* as a media writer and then was the Post's business editor. He moved to *The New York Times* as media and marketing editor in the business section, and then became the *Times*'s online news editor. Jon now runs his own strategic and financial communications firm and lives in Rye, N.Y. with his wife, Ellen, and their three kids, Maggie, Ben, and Becca.

Jack spent six years as a camper plus one as a CIT before coming back for 3 summers on staff. It was only a required

sophomore summer term at Dartmouth, where he enrolled in 1984, that ended his time at camp.

Jack was a correspondent for Walt's Weekly and when he joined Senior Camp he became a member of the Senior Camp News team, a live broadcast for all of camp put on by senior campers. The team reported newsworthy happenings outside of CWW at weekly Sunday Morning camp meetings (a tradition that continues to this day, albeit on Mondays).

Jack was editor of The



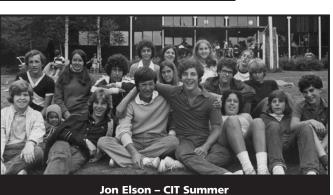
Dartmouth, the college's student daily paper. Upon graduating he became a freelancer for *The Hartford Courant* before starting a clerkship at *The New York Times* where he spent the next 25 years working, spending most of his time writing about education with a specific focus on the college access process.

From 1999-2000, Jack spent a year embedded as an observer in the Wesleyan University Admissions Office, and his findings became the subject of a book, "The Gatekeepers." It was that experience that piqued Jack's interest in joining the not-for-profit world. In 2013, he left *The Times* to join the senior management team of Say Yes to Education, an organization that partners with communities with the goal of helping all public school children not only graduate high school – but do so ready for college, and with the wherewithal to afford it.

Jack credits camp with teaching him the need to pay it forward and give to those who did not have the same opportunities he had. It is no surprise to Jack that so many Whitman alums choose to give back. Jack lives in Mamaroneck, N.Y., with his wife, Sharon, and their two kids, Ali and Jordan.

The common theme throughout our talks with Jack and Jon was the impact that camp had on them – primarily because of the people they shared their camp experience with. Jon learned a lot from many of his counselors and mentors – in particular Stebo Cohen, Stan Soloway, and Mike Feldberg. And he credits being a camper and counselor with helping to teach him how to live and work well with others, and be a better colleague, boss, and parent. To this day Jon is in touch with former campers and staff.

Considering the impact that CWW has had on Jon Elsen and Jack Steinberg, it is no wonder that they are excited to give back by helping put out the 70th Anniversary edition of the Walt's Weekly. Neither can wait to reconnect with friends from years gone by.



Look who is Returning Home for Summer 2018!

Each year we anxiously wait throughout the fall and into January to hear from former staff members. The office is abuzz with excitement as contracts return and our amazing staff members commit to spend another incredible summer with our CWW family. This year we have over 100 staff members who will be spending their 2nd, 3rd, 4th, all the way up to 45th summer at camp! We are so grateful to have such extraordinary staff members, and even more fortunate that they continue to commit their summers to our campers and to making each summer better than the last.



Everyone works hard at camp, but there are few that can match the work ethic of our housekeeping, maintenance, and kitchen staff. The fearless and unfaltering Sandor "Zsa Zsa" **Szechenyi** has returned for his 11th summer as the head of housekeeping. Along with the dedicated help of **Andy** Medina and Jana Sanchez, they are working day in and day out to remove all signs of the winter months from camp. Head chef Tony Menard will be serving over 600 people, 3 times a day. Thanks to Tony and his dedicated staff including Heather Menard, Rogerio Montesinos, Angel Fernandez, Axel Sanchez, Mark Adami, James Nicholas, David Hughes, Andy Galicia, Alex Garcia, Dany Lopez, Bety Acoltzi, and Fabiola Hernandez, we will have clean dishes to eat from, chicken nugget night, and a warm, welcoming place to rest and refuel our weary bodies.

Lew Chase has spent the past 9 months alongside Andy Chase, caring for camp during the frigid winter months. They've torn down and built new cabins, plowed snow, and made sure that camp remained in good condition. Lew and Andy have now been joined by Bryan Frank and Hanoch Lan to pick up the pace and make final additions and improvements.

Geoff Ashworth, longtime Campcraft Director, is unthawing from the cold New Hampshire winter and has now laced up his hiking boots. He is once again teaming up with Laura Mills, Matt Lyons and Maggie Gent, to plan the best bike trips and day hikes New England has to offer. Returning

after more than ten years away from camp. Amanda and David Havixbeck will be returning to the Campcraft team as well! They're re-acclimating to camp life by spending their days preparing the ropes course, making tubs full of GORP and sitting on the Campcraft porch with John Hood, **Troy Harrington-Woodard, Mitchell** Kanak and Anthony 'Percy' Lu. Isaac 'Faed' Camacho will be moving from the kitchen to Campcraft as the trusty guarter-master. He has the demanding task of organizing all of the logistical aspects of our Campcraft trips. They've all picked out their Saturday Night Barbeque outfits and are ready to grill!

When the summer heat gets to be too much and we need to cool off after those hikes, we saunter down the hill to the waterfront. Niall Clarke will be there to run our waterfront again with a big hat and a smile to match it as he and Kat Scott, Graham Clarke, Emma Vallo, Robyn Drumm, Sam Biggs, Callie Pokorski, Whitney Holder, and Justin Duchene make waterfront the best place to cool off and relax on those hot summer days. They are working hard to put the docks into the lake and pull the boats out of storage. They've



started making buddy tags and can't wait to see how many campers will have blue-red tags this summer.

Our beloved wakesports staff, led by **Baine Parker**, is looking forward to spending their days zipping around the lake and soaking up the sun. This will be Baine's 3rd summer at camp on the wakesports crew. **Madi Wheeler** and **Tyler Protsman** are practicing techniques and learning the best new tricks to teach our campers before they arrive. Returning after a summer away, **Mairead Cleary** can't wait to be back on Tarleton and enjoying the sunshine.

Matt 'Jacko' Jackowitz, our all-star summer Office Manager and Tours Director, is excited to work with Geneva Jackson who will once again keep mail routed to the right place, make sure birthdays are celebrated on the right day, and juggle about one million missions, messages, and boxes of supplies. Assisting them in this massive task are **Cat Bendall**, who is shifting from a counselor role to the office, and **Anna O'Brien** who is returning to CWW with the entire O'Brien clan after a one summer hiatus. Together they will make the office the most efficient and welcoming place at camp. Moving down the hallway, Dane Colvin will be handling much of CWW's summer financials as the accountant. Right now, our program office is humming with productivity. Our program team, led by **Dan Rosen**, **Jessica DiFranco** and **Molly Rosen,** is working to enhance our programming and schedule for the summer and the ideas they've come up with are sure to make 2018 a year to remember!

Continued...

Tennis has always been one of the favorite activities of our campers, and we're so fortunate to have **Dave Porter** returning for his 23rd summer as the Director of our Tennis Program. **Kyle Shimabokuro** will be returning to assist him, alongside **Albie Huang**. Who is ready to beat this crew in candy crunch this summer? They're practicing on the courts right now!

Bill Chapelle will be keeping camp safe again this summer during the daytime hours as our security guard. During the evenings, **Bill Peluso** will be roaming camp grounds to maintain this same level of safety at night.

Our Health Center is the crux of safety and wellness at camp. **Denise Janecke**, **Carrisa Carrier**, **Judy Abrams Lan** and **Morgan Schoenthal** have taken inventory and stocked the medicine cabinets, prepared the 1st aid kits and are relaxing on the porch, anxiously awaiting the arrival of our campers. The health center is so quiet when there are no kids!

The grass has been mowed, but now the Athletic staff is spending their days making sure the fields are perfect, the equipment is cleaned and set out, and their lesson plans are top notch. Longtime CWW staff member Matt Karner will be returning as our Assistant Athletic Director. He is working with each staff member to fine tune lesson plans and is excited to make this the best summer yet. Alisa Eaton is pulling out the hockey equipment and sweeping out the rink while Rhys Cairns is doing push-ups and painting lines on the soccer field. Fran Perry has laid out the gymnastics mats and **Jodie Pearce** is already putting together the best fitness routines you've ever seen. Get ready to pump some iron in the fitness studio!

Judy Kapner will once again lead our arts program, with her primary focus being the ceramics studio. The kilns are fired up and so is Judes! **Heather Maiorano** will return to the arts & crafts studio and has a whole



book of new ideas for this summer to inspire creativity. Right near the arts studio, **Justin Beckerman** will once again assemble the 'tech tent'. He's bringing back some of our campers' favorite projects from last year, but has a whole notebook of new projects and ideas he can't wait to get started. He's ironing out all of the kinks and testing out the new gadgets. Our arts staff is rounded out by Caroline Scott, who will once again spend long hours in the Dorfman Center working with all our campers to produce the funniest, most dramatic and thrilling plays CWW has ever seen!

Our residential side of camp is stronger than ever, with years of experience to help lead our new counselors. Rob **Sherry** will once again be the Head of Residence Life, as he oversees bunk life. Lynn Roy is packing for camp and can't stop smiling at the thought of getting to know this group of Junior campers! Both Chilton Birdwhistell and Hadley Hill are thoughtfully planning and preparing as they step into their new roles as Junior Camp Unit Leaders. **Dylan Waickman** can barely contain himself, he can't wait to lead Middle Camp as the Area Director. Izzy **Hattem & Jared Rocco** are teaming up again in Middle Camp and welcome Caitlin Hewitt and Evan McCollum to the leadership staff. Returning to lead our 12 and 13 year olds, Mike O'Brien will be the Upper Camp Area Director, with Nathan Tilkes and Matt Brown creating quite the dynamic duo on boys' side. On girls' side, Sadhbh Clancy and Izzy Alley will bring the thunder, and we're certain, lots of laughs. Senior Camp will once again be unstoppable, led by Lisa Johnson, Sam Brown, and Ashleigh Jackowitz. Lisa has packed her ping pong paddles and high socks, Sam is bringing the swag, and Shleigh will bring the dance moves. Returning to CWW as the CIT Director, Pete **Georges** is especially looking forward to the 2-week trip to Costa Rica with Stef Spiegel and this dynamic group of 2018 CITs. So many adventures await!



Unable to return for a full 8-week summer, Chad Forslin and Adina Goodman will be leading Pioneer Camp. With the help of Dan Hall, Allie Doyle, Leah Cramer Gibbs and John Coats, the best of the best will give our Pioneers an experience that will make it impossible for them not to return for 7 weeks in 2019! We're so ecstatic that all of these staff continue to return to camp, even if for a short period of time!

Our returning cabin counselors are unpacking their tie-dye shirts and lining up their shoes on the racks in anticipation of this summer. Jordan Davis, Julia Cohen, Kate Gouran, **Shelby Mosello, Matt Peterson,** Jared Bunder, and Stephen **Rothman** will add another year to their collection as return counselors who were also campers. Expanding our list of returning female counselors are **Amanda Schad, Caroline** Fenelon, Hannah Mullen, Lau Sanchez, Sarah Hollow and Tara **Deschaine.** On boys side, **Baxter** Riggs, Dylan Lyons, Joe Paxinos, Josh Hendrickcs, Lloyd Mgalo, Peter Sawers, Thomas Little, and Mac Olson are returning to Cape Moonshine Road. Making the jump from the office/program team to the residential side of camp, Cassidy **Spencer** can't wait to experience the day-to-day life of being a counselor. **Kyla Gargiulo** is joining Cassidy in this endeavor, as she transitions from the nature specialist to counselor.

All-in-all, an amazing crop of returning staff that is missing only one thing to make their summer complete: a camp full of campers!

STAFF FEATURE: Justin Beckerman

The sound of Junior Campers sprinting from Karye's Korner and rounding the fitness center at the end of announcements can only mean one thing, that it's time for their Tech Tent SIG. Led by long time camper and current staff member Justin Beckerman, the Tech area has become one of the most popular activities at camp. We had a chance recently to sit down with Justin as he preps for another summer in Piermont. He was able to look back on his CWW journey that started in 2004 as well as update us on what keeps him busy present day.

His first visit to CWW was a dark and rainy one. Even with the gray skies Bill and Jancy did a masterful job painting the picture of camp and the Beckermans' were sold. That next summer Justin and his brother Russell started at camp. He remembers immediately feeling welcomed into the CWW community and some of his favorite times were at Monday Morning Meetings. That first summer Bill brought him a broken laserjet printer so he could take it apart and try to put it back together. The Dorfman's knew he had a curiosity for how things worked and made an effort to help him pursue that interest during his free time. He was also appreciative of the fact that he had a chance to work on different projects while still able to get a very full and diverse camp experience. Through the years at camp Justin built robots, a go-kart and a fifteen-foot wind turbine. Justin made it through his senior camp years and skipped his CIT year to spend his only summer away from camp. He did an Outward Bound program and while he enjoyed it he quickly realized how much he missed CWW.

During that following winter Justin gained some local notoriety across the NY/NJ area for building his own

submarine, including some features on the local news. Jed and Carolyn, knowing how talented he was, proposed that he come to camp and pilot a technology program. It was the chance for him to take something he was passionate about and share it with campers. Justin always remembers from his camper years looking up to different specialists who were so committed to their area. This was his chance to give back to all of the specialist that impacted him. That first summer Justin came up for a week to run a handful of electives including remote control mini-submarines and circuit boards. The positive response from campers and staff alike was tremendous. So much so that Justin came back the following summer to do 3 weeks and it has since grown into a full season program.

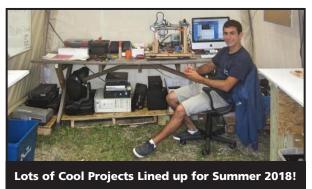
This summer will mark the 6th summer of the Technology Program. Even though Justin has had other opportunities presented to him through the years, being in college has always given him a window to make his return to Piermont. It has always been his goal to create a program that not only provides great content, but also fosters those "lightbulb moments of awe" as he puts it. Like all of our other specialists it is his goal to spark interest so campers can pursue that further throughout the winter months. Gauging campers' excitement during different projects and activities has allowed Justin to grow the program. Their excitement motivates him to create new and exciting ideas each summer. One of the most popular additions to the program through the years has been the 3D printer that Justin built. He has since built two more printers using his original model to create some of the parts. Some of the other projects that have been introduced to the Tech Tent include wind



turbines, solar bugs, LED signs, electro magnets, electric motors and drones. Taking different technology apart and exploring all of the components has also always been a big part of any activity.

Justin's love for CWW is clear but it is also his joy in sharing his passion for technology that has allowed the program to grow and has kept him coming back. Ever since he could remember he has had the ability to pick up technical processes really quickly. Things that moved always fascinated him. He remembers when they were renovating their house his dad gave him an old garage door opener and asked him to open it up and explain to him what made it work. His parents always joked that his first words were garage door. Justin currently attends Stevens University in Hoboken, NJ. He spent his first three semesters as a Mechanical Engineer major before deciding to switch to Marketing. Marketing represented something he was not familiar with and he also felt that if he could learn how to sell it would give him a leg up in whatever he decided to pursue. As Justin looks towards his future and post-college pursuits, he is still hesitant to pin himself down, but is confident that his desire to keep learning will

> help position him to stay on the cutting edge of the latest trends. It all makes us feel very fortunate to have such a talented and passionate person running our technology program and hopefully inspiring the next generation of Justin Beckermans' at CWW.





NEW AT CAMP FOR SUMMER 2018!

While you've been busy getting your supplies together for this summer, we've been hard at work getting Camp Walt Whitman physically in ship shape. Here are a few of the improvements you'll see on the shores of Lake Armington come June!

The second level of our Aerial Adventure **Course is now complete!**

Some of our campers like to compare our aerial adventure course to the kinds of challenges you see on the NBC series, American Ninja Warrior. We like to think it delivers the same sense of exhilaration (minus the TV crews!). With the help of our staff, campers safely push themselves out of their comfort zones and gain a sense of accomplishment by completing the circuit – not to mention bragging rights for being able to take on the 10 different challenges of the first level, 15 feet high in the air.

Our second level adds 10 new challenges to the circuit, at 30 feet in the air! We know our campers will enjoy exiting this upper level as they can jump off and free-fall until the self-belay system catches them at 10 feet and and lowers them to the ground.

Expect a whole new level of excitement and adventure this year!



course is ready





Camp Walt Whitman goes farm-to-table

We've built raised beds to grow vegetables and herbs this summer that'll we'll use in our camp kitchen and cooking classes. Campers who choose to will be able to help our staff grow herbs, tomatoes, summer squash, cucumbers and more. The beds will be in the middle of camp at Keys Corner, just another way for us to emphasize the importance of living green and taking care of the environment.

Two new cabins open their doors on **Boy's Side this summer**

Every year since 2007, we have rebuilt one to three cabins at camp as part of our continued commitment to keep our facilities up-to-date. In time for this summer, we replaced two of the oldest cabins on boy's side with new cabins, each featuring a large deck for campers to gather, as well as showers, pine paneling, and ceiling fans. Campers are going to love these new cabins.



We can't wait for everyone to see what's new this summer!

NEW SIBLINGS AT CAMP 2018

It's All in the Family!

Talia Cort, Sister of Asher Chloe Archibald, Sister of Jacob Zach Fisher, Brother of Marly Emily Fishkin, Sister of Nate Lily Greenberg, Sister of Kate & Emma Sarah Horowitz, Sister of Harris Parker Kravitz, Brother of Tyler & Sam Scout Jenks, Sister of Patrick Sasha Geller, Sister of Noah Justin Lotke, Brother of Julian Robert Malin, Brother of Marina Juliette Neuwirth, Sister of Bennett Arianna Odinec, Sister of Ella Levi & Max Rosenberg, Brothers of Julian Rachel Steiner, Sister of Sam Hannah Wolfson, Sister of Brian Cole Dorfman, Brother of Addison Paige Evans, Sister of Tess Ethan Robinson, Brother of Sam

Levin Benerofe, Brother of Noa Felix Feinbloom, Brother of Tessa Leah Fragin, Sister of Jacob Alexa Greenblatt, Sister of Abigail Lizzie Harris, Sister of Noah Luke Norkin, Brother of Theo Hayley Reiser, Sister of Jacob Rachel Rosenberg, Sister of Jenna **Harper Saletan, Brother of Jack** Anna Schlesinger, Sister of Caroline & Olivia Zachary Schwartz, Brother of Alex **Alexandra Snyder, Sister of Zachary** Dahlia Winter, Sister of Lindsey Julia Massot, Sister of Claudia & Martina Natalie Nannizzi, Sister of Sasha Heath Gressin, Brother of Max Ethan Penzner, Brother of Rachel Evie Mamikunian, Sister of Izzy & Magnus

We are so Excited to Welcome these New Siblings of Returning Campers to our Camp Family!



4 New King Street White Plains, NY 10604 p: (914) 948-9151 f: (914) 652-2433