

The Walt Street Journal

Fall Edition 2017



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

www.campwalt.com

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

Dear Whitmanites,

Seventy years ago, many aspects of American life were so different as to be nearly alien. Jackie Robinson became the first African-American baseball player. The game of Scrabble was first introduced as was the first Polaroid camera. The cold war began. The Allies had just won World War II and the global community was picking up the pieces.

And, in a quiet corner of that globe known as Piermont, New Hampshire, a pair of brothers named Arnie and Chick Soloway founded a little camp in the woods, based on the ideals of a well-known American poet from a different century. Here children sang, ran, swam, played, and grew into wonderful young men and women who had a sense of the world beyond themselves.

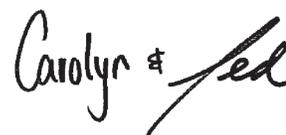
Seven decades and thirteen presidents later, our nation has changed in immeasurable ways. And yet, children still sing in the woods of New Hampshire and swim in Lake Armington. Children still play on that camp's fields and sing many of the same songs around the same campfires. That little camp Arnie and Chick founded so long ago is still going strong. Children who attend still grow into wonderful young men and women.

Jessye Lapen was one of these children. So was Adina Goodman. Both are featured in this newsletter. Our CWW Facebook page is filled with these children, now

men and women, some at the end of their careers, others, just beginning. Every posting remembers camp. From our most recent Senior Campers to the tiny staff of that first summer in 1948, the Walt Whitman family stretches across time and distance.

All of this seems more important this year, as Camp Walt Whitman's 70th Reunion approaches. On July 28th of this coming summer, former campers, counselors, staff, and family will descend upon 1000 Cape Moonshine Road to see again the camp they love and hold so dearly. Campers from the 1950s will walk along Lake Armington's beach. Staff members from the 1960s will stand in satisfaction at the top of the lawn. Whitmanites from all ages, the young and the old from 1948 to 2018 will fill camp with their greetings and fill our amphitheater with their songs. Our songs.

We can't wait to greet these Whitmanites upon their arrival and witness the joy they experience, as they once again feel embraced by the CWW community.



The Dorfman Family

It's Reunion Time!

Join us for our
ANNUAL CAMPER REUNION

Sunday, December 3rd
1:30–3:00 pm at Armonk Indoor

Although the weather is helping us hang onto summer a little bit longer, we are anxiously awaiting our 2017 Winter Reunion. Each year our staff drive and fly from all over the country just to see you, our campers, at our annual CWW reunion. It's an afternoon full of hugs, high-fives, games and sharing stories about what you've been doing since camp ended. Mark your calendars and please make sure you RSVP. We are counting down the days and cannot wait to have many of our incredible staff and campers together again!



Excited to see everyone!



Will you be there?

CITS VOLUNTEER IN HOUSTON

Just days after Hurricane Harvey moved through Texas, we felt strongly that we should contribute to the recovery efforts in some way. Together with David Jacobsen-Fried, the Director of Zeal Adventure and Travel, in just a few short weeks we planned, organized and were ready to depart for a weekend-long service trip to Houston. Six former CWW CITs and three staff members volunteered to spend their weekend helping others. On Friday September 22nd our team met at Newark Airport, excited and full of ambition.

The group flew direct to Houston, grabbed some pizza, and headed straight to the NRG Center to volunteer for a few hours Friday night. The NRG center was the main shelter after Hurricane Harvey and was outfitted to hold 10,000 guests. Saturday called for an early wake up and the team wasted no time arriving at the Red Cross mega shelter, set up in the Greenspoint Mall in North Houston. Upon arrival, they were immediately put to work and completed a multitude of tasks over the course of a very long day. Pete Georges, longtime CWW staff member, was one of the chaperones on the trip. He noticed that "it was a little overwhelming at first for the group to see all of the people waiting in lines for things like bags of chips and water bottles. As our teens noticed that the small containers we were organizing were the entirety of people's remaining belongings, they became more driven and gained energy to accomplish as much as possible with the little time we had." Tasks included taking inventory of supplies, setting up new cots for incoming guests, and carrying supplies off trucks and into storage areas in the shelter.

It was the moments spent interacting with people, having conversations and playing with kids where our group truly shined. Upon arrival, the shelter had no area or activities for the nearly 200 children

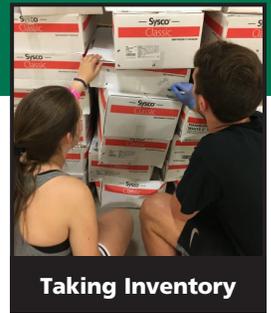
seeking refuge with their parents. It was clear that the children were bored and wearing on their parents' patience. There was no laughter; the place was quiet and solemn. Our teens made it their mission to change this. They moved some barrier fencing to create a play area, made and hung colorful signs delineating the area as the 'kids zone', and walked through the living quarters inviting kids to come and play. David recounted this part of the trip with pride in what our group accomplished. "These young kids were so eager to just be kids and to play – they had an extraordinary amount of energy. They had been through so much, and to see our teens give them a place to just have fun, and play, was incredible. However, the effect it had on the adults, not just parents, but all adults at the shelter, was even more amazing. Person after person walked by and upon hearing and seeing kids playing and laughing, lit up with great smiles that I had not seen all day, and that I imagine many had not felt for weeks. Numerous people stopped and thanked me and our group for making it happen. One man teared up and was at a loss for words, seeming grateful for the positive energy of children at play. It was clear to me in that moment that although our federal, state, and city response to disaster ensures food, water, and shelter – there is something that only people connecting and providing support can do to lift the human spirit."

Josh Ackerman, a 2016 CIT, loved

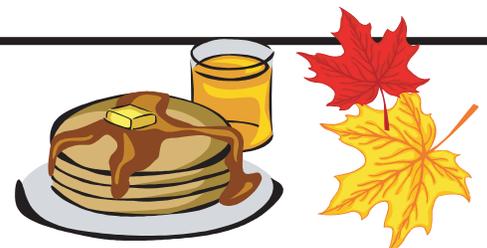
this aspect the most as well.

"I really enjoyed playing with the kids in the kid's zone because they genuinely seemed happy and excited to play with us. Their parents are devastated, which is completely understandable, and do not really feel up to playing with their kids. This could have been the first time in over a month that these kids got to run around, have a good time, and forget about the situation they are in."

Thank you Edge, Josh, Lauren, Stephen, Caroline, Jacob, Jess, Pete & David for representing CWW. We are so proud of your hard work and dedication to helping others.



Did you know? It takes about 40 gallons of sap to make 1 gallon of maple syrup. Each year, New Hampshire produces more than 90,000 gallons of syrup!



FAMILY CAMP IS BACK FOR SUMMER 2018!

Family Camp... It's Baaaaacccckkk

For decades it was customary that after saying goodbye to all of our campers and staff on the final day of camp we would close our gates to symbolize the end of another successful summer at CWW. Anyone who has spent a summer at WW knows there is a magic created during those 50 days at camp that can only be understood by those who experience it first-hand. With this in mind, we wanted to find a way to share CWW not only with our current campers and staff, but with anyone else who wants to experience a piece of the magic. Therefore, in Summer 2015 we introduced CWW Family Camp. Family Camp provides a weeklong taste of camp for CWW alums, families and friends. It was a huge success in 2015 and 2016 as we welcomed roughly 25 families each summer. After a hiatus in Summer 2017, we are excited to announce that Family Camp is back and ready to roll for 2018!

Dan Rosen, CWW's Program Director, Associate Director and Alumnus, is the mastermind and Director of Family Camp. We ask our best and most talented staff members to work this week of camp to ensure our participating families get the true CWW experience. We feature our waterfront, athletic fields, ropes courses, and our tennis program along with countless other activities. And, of course, we make sure our favorite CWW traditions are an integral part of the program. Ann Soloway and Rob Sherry lead square dance and we also have a campfire (complete with songs, skits and s'mores) along with hiking options and a mini-Olympics! In true Whitman style – the Olympics really are one of the highlights of the week.

Each morning a variety of activities are offered for families to participate in together. After lunch, it becomes time for adults and kids to separate. Tennis programs, sailing, paddle board yoga, fitness classes, and some relaxation are great for Moms and Dads while the kids get into groups to enjoy three or four different activities. After snack, everyone is reunited for some family fun at the waterfront. We offer something for everyone (and every age) while also allowing people to relax and enjoy our beautiful lakeside campus.

In addition to classic CWW traditions, there are a number of special events that make this week truly unforgettable. One in particular is the evening Lobster Bake down at our Waterfront. It is so awesome having 140 people down by the lake enjoying lobsters, clams and hot dogs over a campfire, then singing



CWW FAMILY CAMP 2018

Dates:

Monday, August 13th through Friday, August 17th

Accommodations:

Each family may request to stay in their own cabin, or may choose to share with friends.

Our cabins are spacious and clean and each has its own bathroom with hot water and shower inside.

Rates:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Adults..... | \$700 |
| Children ages 4-17..... | \$500 |
| Children 3 and younger..... | FREE |

For more information or to enroll call us at 1-800-657-8282 or email jed@campwalt.com

songs and enjoying s'mores together. Other special events include a top-chef cook off, pool parties, luaus and more!

Although Family Camp 2015 and 2016 was a huge success, you can be sure we have a few tricks up our sleeves to make 2018 even more special. With so many happy families raving about their experience and how grateful they were to have been able to take advantage of this opportunity, we can't wait to bring back Family Camp. We expect demand to be high, so sign up early!



Family Camp Olympics will be better than ever!



We can't wait to dance on the front lawn!

STAFF FEATURE: Adina Goodman

In late June of 2000, Adina Goodman was stepping off a bus at CWW for the first time. As a bright-eyed, energetic, happy 8-year-old she never could have predicted the ways in which Camp Walt Whitman would be woven into her life for years to come.

Adina has spent 7 years as a camper, one year as a CIT, and 8 years on staff. Each year is layered by common experiences, and unique in its own right. She has spent more summers on the shores of Lake Armington and the trails of the White Mountains, than anywhere else in the world.

As a camper, she experienced unforgettable moments of magic at camp. She found herself rolling on the wooded cabin floors in fits of laughter, admired her counselors, ran down the front lawn hand-in-hand with her best friends, leaned on others' strength when she missed home, and cried when things were hard. Adina was a kid who simply loved every aspect of camp life. "I loved being with my friends and doing activities with my bunk, but I also loved times when I could pick my favorites. I have the clearest memory of going to SIGs when I was in Junior Camp. It was right after rest hour, and I had this fleeting feeling of independence when I got to walk from juice call to my activity on my own, it just felt SO cool." One of her favorite camper memories was as a 15-year-old, she did the Pemigewasset traverse and it was her first time on Franconia Ridge. It is also the first time she can remember being completely blown away by the beauty of nature

and the White Mountains. "To this day, when I go up on that ridge it feels like the truest form of my happy place."

Returning to CWW as a camper is often an easier decision than as an adult, when the pressures of the 'real world' can weigh heavily on staff members trying to find some direction in life. So, what drew Adina back to Cape Moonshine Road year after year? She loves that she can have similar experiences every summer, no matter her age or years at camp. As a counselor, she enjoyed seeing her campers return, growing up more and more. The immense pride she felt in the incredible people they were becoming was also one of the most fulfilling feelings. "Once I joined the leadership team, a lot of what kept me coming back, in addition to the children, was seeing staff growth. Of course, we are all at camp for the kids, but I sense that often kids grow and learn at camp without always realizing it in the moment. Staff members on the other hand, are much more aware of personal growth and are more capable of reflection – I absolutely love facilitating, witnessing, and reflecting alongside them." Adina adores the experiences that camp provides kids and staff members, and she thrives in helping others realize their full potential at sleepaway camp.

As the Middle Camp Area Director for the past two summers, Adina has mentored staff and helped campers do exactly that, reach their full potential. She adores Middle Camp, and believes that being 10 or 11 years old is the PERFECT age to be at sleepaway camp. "They are seeking independence that they really aren't given anywhere else. At the same time, they still find fun and joy in essentially everything."



Even as an Area Director – hike day is Adina's favorite



Adina and her counselor in Middle Camp – Anna O'Brien

In 2014, Adina graduated from Cornell University with a major in Near Eastern Studies. She worked at Blue Apron for a year before realizing that she desperately wanted a career focused on working with children. She shifted to teaching 1st grade at Horace Mann School in the Bronx for two years, and has now moved on to pursue a Doctorate in Child Psychology at Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology. "Camp inspired me to get into teaching as a means of working with kids. However, I discovered throughout my two years as a teacher that I really wanted to help kids in a different capacity than a teacher would. I was always more invested in the kids' social/emotional development than their academic development. This interest absolutely came from my time at camp."

Adina has, and will continue to touch the lives of both campers and staff members through her commitment and passion for helping others. We are excited about Adina's new endeavors, and are hopeful she will return to camp for years to come.



CIT summer is THE BEST!



Adina's Unit Leader summer with her entire age group

POINT/COUNTERPOINT

Which Age Group is the Best in Camp?

JUNIOR CAMP:

(campers finishing 2nd & 3rd grade)

Lynn Roy – Junior Camp Area Director

There are so many reasons Junior Camp Rocks. We have the best views in all of camp from our bunks, more shaving cream fights, and it's cool in Junior Camp to sing loudly and off-key. We often get to eat breakfast or ice cream at Jed and Carolyn's, sometimes BOTH! At the end of each day, we're the only age group who has bed-time stories in the Birds Nest. Dressing up in costume for no reason is totally acceptable in Junior Camp. Each morning, we gather at the best spot in camp, Karye's Korner, and get to sing the infamous Good Morning song. We get LOTS of visits from the tooth fairy, have camp-outs at Baker River and every bunk has a CIT! Not to mention our bright orange CWW t-shirts as first-year campers, Monday Fun Day, and sooo much mail. It's simply the best being the youngest campers in all of camp! No summer can compare to your Junior Camp years!



Lynn Roy

MIDDLE CAMP:

(campers finishing 4th & 5th grade)

Adina Goodman – Middle Camp Area Director

Why Middle Camp, you ask? Well, if you actually polled all of the current campers which age group is best, MC would absolutely get the most votes because fun fact: Middle Camp is the largest age group! That isn't what makes us the best, however. Combine campers with 1-2 years of CWW experience with a whole lot of silliness, energy, goosewolves, ice cream, friendly competition and kindness...top it off with CWW's only annual graduation ceremony and you've got our Middle Campers. We are the loudest and proudest at morning announcements, dance the hardest at breakfast and sing the sweetest goodnight song. Go Middle Camp!



Adina Goodman

VS

UPPER CAMP:

(campers finishing 6th & 7th grade)

Griffin Weiss – Upper Camp Area Director

Wishing for a summer that still feels like camp but also feels different? How about a summer where you can go bobsledding in Lake Placid or fly down a white water river in a raft you're your bunkmates? What about the annual baseball and softball classic games? How about multiday hikes? All of these incredible experiences are unique to Upper Camp, and it is where you belong! It is an age group that you look forward to and one everyone looks back upon and smiles. Finding that perfect balance of growth and imagination, Upper camp creates some of the most amazing memories. Longer trips, more exhilarating activities, lots of laughter and summers you will never forget. If you haven't been through Upper Camp yet, we look forward to having you and if you have been through already, thank you for making Upper Camp the greatest age group around!



Griffin Weiss

SENIOR CAMP:

(campers finishing 8th & 9th grade)

Ashleigh Jackowitz – Senior Camp Area Director

Senior Camp is full of adventure. A place set apart, where you create new friendships and strengthen bonds with old friends. It's a place of nostalgia, where you begin to grasp that your magical camp years are coming to an end, so we make each day count. There's no time to waste, we've got to do it all! Bike Trips, 3-5 day traverses, volunteering at David's House, 5-day bus trips to Maine and Canada, endless card games in the corral, late-night bunk chats, extra sleep-ins, grilling with Jed, the best square dances, endless inside jokes, an entirely elective schedule, did we mention the corral? What could be better than hanging outside in the sunshine, in a place set aside just for us, with your best friends? Individual bunks meld together in Senior Camp and we create our own unique family, setting the example for younger campers. In Senior Camp we live by our creed: You Before Me, Together We. A CWW experience simply isn't complete without living the SC life.



Ashleigh Jackowitz

Did you know?

The largest chicken nugget in the world weighs over 45 pounds.



70th CWW REUNION

Saturday, July 28th • 10 am – 4pm

Has it been 10 years already since our last alumni reunion?! Where does the time go? Camp Walt Whitman is so excited to welcome generations of alumni back to camp this summer for a one-day event to celebrate our 70th Reunion! The reunion will take place on **Saturday, July 28th from 10 am – 4pm**. Camp will be in session and alumni will have the chance to see CWW thriving as they remember it. The reunion is a great opportunity to reignite old friendships, find out what everyone has been up to over the years, relive past memories of time spent at CWW, and of course do a little square dancing. We have been hearing from alumni from all CWW generations who are excited for the event and we can't wait to see everyone. We will share more exciting details soon, but for now please save the date for what promises to be a terrific event!



**“ Keep your face always towards
the sunshine and shadows
will fall behind you. ”**

– Walt Whitman

**November 17th
is National
Take A Hike Day!
Will you get
outside?**



Annual Swim-A-Thon for Project Morry

At CWW we take great pride in creating a strong community each summer. One where campers and staff alike feel supported, both in their success' and failures. We also recognize that not every child has this same privilege, which is why we emphatically support Project Morry. A youth development organization based out of Westchester; Project Morry “empowers youth from under-resourced communities to envision and establish a positive future.” In addition to year-round mentorship and academic support, Project Morry has given thousands of kids the experience of camp. At CWW each July, when excitement for the Swim-A-Thon becomes the topic of conversation at most meals, we can't help but smile. Watching campers encourage one another to do one more lap, seeing counselors jump into the lake to swim alongside them and observing CITs meticulously count laps to ensure that the correct numbers are recorded for donations are just a few of the moments which make this fundraiser so inspiring. Our campers are not just swimming laps, they are learning valuable lessons. Cooperation, hard work, and the fulfillment of being genuinely championed by those around you are just a few. We are grateful to our incredible campers for giving of their time and energy in order to improve the lives of others, and to our camp families for their gracious donations. The Swim-A-Thon to benefit Project Morry reminds us of the true sense of community that we work to instill in each of our campers and staff members. Congratulations on a job well done! This summer, we had over 25,000 laps swam and more than \$15,000 donated (and counting)!

We will continue collecting donations throughout the Fall; there is still time to contribute! All donations can be made out to Project Morry and mailed to our winter office.



ALUMNI FEATURE: Jessye Lapenn

As a 23-year career diplomat for the US State Department, Jessye Lapenn has traveled all over the world. Yet it is clear when speaking with her that our community in Piermont, NH holds a special place in her heart. Jessye was a camper at CWW from 1979 – 1985, which she fondly remembers as 7 of the best summers of her life. This summer she will add another title to her CWW resume: camp parent! Her 8-year old son, Jasper, will join us in Junior Camp for Summer 2018. We recently had a chance to check in with Jessye to find out more about what she has been up to since leaving the shores of Lake Armington over 3 decades ago.

Upon graduating from Harvard University, Jessye went on to receive her Masters in Philosophy in International Development from Cambridge University in the UK. She credits the sense of adventure she gained from her experience at camp as one of the things that pushed her to attend graduate school overseas and ultimately choose the career path she did. Upon graduating from Cambridge in 1994 Jessye joined the US State Department's Foreign Service Institute as a trainee. She has spent the last two plus decades working for the US State Department in a variety of roles that have stationed her in destinations across the globe. The early years of her career were spent working in various US embassies from Saudi Arabia, to Paris to the



Jessye & Jasper in South Africa



U.S. Mission to South Africa with participants of the Grassroot Soccer program

Republic of Georgia. As Desk Officer for Libya, working in Washington DC, she was part of the US-British initiative to bring Pan Am 103 suspects to trial. She also has helped establish Disaster Assistance Relief teams in both Cyprus and Iraq. Much of Jessye's recent work has involved helping with refugee issues and humanitarian crises in such places as Jerusalem, Rwanda, and Iraq. Her time as a diplomat has presented an opportunity for her to give back and serve those less fortunate. Her roles in the State Department have given her a chance to serve her country. In her current role she serves as the acting US Ambassador for South Africa, making her the senior most diplomat.

And yet, with all of these career highlights that we discussed, Jessye's level of enthusiasm turned up a notch when we moved the conversation to her time at CWW. When asked for some of her favorite memories a loud "BUG JUICE!" was the first thing out of her mouth. She talked nostalgically about writing letters, playing jacks and hanging out with friends on the Front Lawn. Her favorite activity at camp was swimming, as she just loved spending afternoons



Good ol' days at CWW



Jessye Lapenn with a doctor from the KT Motubatse Clinic in Soshanguve in Pretoria

in Lake Armington. Traditions like movie nights and square dancing were nights she always looked forward to. Even if at that time they watched the same movies every summer. As she reflected on her time at camp she made it clear that all her best memories are connected to the people she shared them with, both campers and staff. She continues to count her camp friends as some of her closest friends. In fact, when Jasper was born in Jerusalem, it was bunkmate Emily Berkman-Harris who flew out to help Jessye those first few months of his life.

When discussing the impact camp has had on her life, Jessye described CWW as the place that helped her develop a sense of community. Additionally, she credits the experience as one that helped her realize her passion for service and country, two things that are at the core of her day to day life. Camp also helped show her the importance of routines and traditions and the role they play in building a culture. Jessye reflects that perhaps the biggest impact of camp upon her was showing her the pivotal role of people and how living and working together is the best way to accomplish truly great things. Talking about the impact of camp got Jessye really excited for Jasper to join us this upcoming summer. Camp has had such a positive impact on Jessye's life as both a mom, a friend and a diplomat and she can't wait for her son to have his own CWW experience.