

The Walt Street Journal

Spring Edition 2019



A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

Dear Whitmanites,

Every year in late May, as we prepare for our annual transition from New York to New Hampshire, we are barraged by questions from our friends:

"Do you still get excited for the start of each summer?"

"Of course!"

"Are you going to miss us?"

"A little."

"What's your favorite thing about camp?"

This one we can never answer in just one sentence. We love cultivating a warm and supportive community where campers have more fun in a few short weeks than they do the rest of the year. We take tremendous joy in fostering an environment where children form friendships that last a lifetime. It puts giant smiles on our faces when we see our campers overcome challenges and obstacles, raising their level of self-confidence right before our eyes.

This year in particular, we are looking forward to celebrating the little moments that make camp so great. In Brene Brown's recent Netflix special, *The Call to Courage*—which we highly recommend to all camp parents and senior campers—she discusses how

she sometimes gets so busy chasing the exceptional moments that she forgets to pay attention to the ordinary ones.

While there are numerous special events at camp that are extraordinary, if we (and our campers)

spend our time looking forward to just these events, we miss the little things that actually make camp magical. Things like enjoying s'mores around a campfire, late night conversations with friends, star gazing and discussing the scale of the universe, singing silly songs while waiting to enter the dining hall, somersaulting down the front lawn, dressing up in crazy costumes and creating a skit for no particular reason, or a hundred other little things that happen every day at camp. Focusing our attention on these moments, and helping others do the same, is what we are most looking forward to this summer.

We can't wait to see everyone in a few short weeks.



The Dorfman Family

Carolyn & Ted

FAMILY CAMP: *The Best Week of the Summer!*

For decades we said goodbye to all of our campers and staff on the final day of camp, and closed our gates to symbolize the end of another successful summer at CWW. Anyone who has spent a summer at CWW knows there is a magic created during those 50 days 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 others who want to experience a piece of the magic. With that idea, in Summer 2015 we introduced CWW Family Camp, which provides a weeklong taste of camp for CWW alums, families and friends. It was a huge success the past few summers and we are excited to announce that Family Camp is back and ready to roll for 2019!

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

While the past few years of Family Camp were a huge success, you can be sure we have a few tricks up our sleeves to make 2019 even more special.

CWW FAMILY CAMP 2019

Saturday, August 17th - Wednesday, August 21st

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.

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

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



STAFF FEATURE: Niall Clarke

Maeve O'Brien was a staff member for 4 summers (2012-2015). As many staff do, she would often post pictures of the incredible experiences she was having at camp. A young Niall Clarke, a good friend of Maeve's from back home in Ireland, kept seeing these photos pop up, and that was all it took to peak his interest. He called Maeve to ask a few questions and just like that Niall's awesomely successful tenure at Camp Walt Whitman began. Through his years he has emerged as not just our rock solid Waterfront Director, but also one of the leaders of camp. CWW's waterfront is the hub for all things swimming and boating. Every camper spends at least one and sometimes two activity periods a day down by the lake, making it one of camp's busiest locations, especially on hot summer days!

Niall joined the Walt Whitman staff as a swim instructor in Summer 2013 after completing his second year of University studying science. He instantly fell in love with the waterfront and knew it was the place for him. Niall quickly became an integral part of the team and spent the next two summers as the Waterfront Assistant Director before taking on the Director role in 2016. As he enters his 4th summer leading the team he is quick to acknowledge how much he relishes the opportunity to build on the great legacy built by CWW greats like Josh Holland and

Steve Lamb. The past two summers Niall has seen our waterfront specialists take tremendous strides when it comes to the quality of instruction for both swimming and boating. We know that one of Niall's true strengths is his ability to lead a safe waterfront while also making it a fun place to be. When we asked Niall about a highlight of his time leading the Waterfront he was quick to point out Summer 2018, when he had the chance to work with his brother Graham who was the Assistant Waterfront Director. To share the gift of helping to lead something they both care so much about was truly impactful.

Niall's love and passion for CWW is evident to anyone who comes in contact with him. The past few summers he has been one of the first people to arrive to camp, helping out with pre-camp duties, and one of the last to leave after working family camp! What is it that drives Niall to find a way to return summer after summer? The people. He describes Walt Whitman as a place with down-to-earth people who support one another and help each other become the best versions of themselves. The friendships formed with the staff he has worked with are ones he knows will last a lifetime. It was camp that helped him decide to take his undergraduate major in science and apply it to a Physical Therapy degree. Niall decided that he would much rather work with people than cells. This past year he graduated with a



Masters in Science in Physical Therapy and hopes to one day have his own practice and relish in the opportunity to help people. We know he will be fantastic in that role, but are hopeful he will keep returning to camp every summer!

Throughout these seven summers at CWW Niall has proven himself to be a valuable leader both at the waterfront and across camp. We are so proud to have him anchoring such an important program area. What has resulted is a fantastic swim and boating program that serves all of our campers and continues to grow summer after summer. It is clear that Niall has more than continued the legacy of all the great Waterfront Directors that have come before him, and we are grateful to have him on our team.



SUMMER 2019 RETURNERS!

On the verge of Camp Walt Whitman's 71st summer, we are reminded of the importance of the traditions we carry on over the years. The commitment of staff members to return year after year enables us to build on and continue traditions. We couldn't be more grateful and excited to be reunited with everyone, and to welcome new staff into our family.

The weather is finally nice enough to take a dip in Lake Armington; it's been a long winter in Piermont. **Niall Clarke**, our Waterfront Director, has spent months perfecting his cannon ball. He's been training all year for the end of summer cannonball contest – challengers wanted! Waterfront returners **Harry Holland**, **Alannah Drumm**, and **Matt Hodgson** are helping to put in the dock. **Georgia Cohen** is stepping up as the head of Wakesports and with **Tyler 'Country' Protsman** also returning to the crew, it's bound to be an incredible summer. Alongside the new staff, these two are cleaning the boats and spending each day on Lake Tarleton practicing their rooster tails, jumps, and switches. The waterfront isn't the same without the sound of our campers' laughter echoing across the lake... get here soon!

Our Arts staff are ordering supplies and organizing their studios. **Judy Kapner** has dusted off the kiln and is ecstatic that **Andy Salzman** will once again head up the Woodshop. They are prepping some awesome ceramics, woodshop & arts projects, but we're not allowed to share what they are!

Tennis is a year-round sport, and our tennis staff have spent the year training and competing all over the country. **Dave Porter** has **Charlie Yang**, **Jamie Wei**, **Johnny Wang**, **Michelle Khoo**, **Georje Row**,

and **Vinda Teally** putting down lines on the tennis courts right at this very moment. The courts are clean and look incredible. Our staff can't wait to pass on the new skills and training tips they've learned over the last 10 months.

This spring it's taken a bit of extra elbow grease to get camp back into shape. **Lew Chase** has been working alongside our year-round maintenance crew to put all of the finishing touches on our new buildings and winter projects.

Hanoch Lan will once again be helping with all aspects of our facility maintenance alongside Lew. Now that the buildings are completed our Housekeeping crew, **Andy Medina Ortiz** and **Sandor "Sza Sza" Szechenyi**, are adding extra coats of paint and cleaning cobwebs from every inch of camp.

This summer, we are fortunate enough to have many kitchen staff returning. Led once again by the fearless **Tony Menard**, we have



Mark Adami, **Angel Fernandez**, **Rogerio Montesinos**, **Axel Sanchez** and **Heather Menard** all helping prep and create delicious meals. **David Hughes** and **Fabiola Hernandez** bring strong leadership and are excited to once again work alongside **Bety Acoltzi**, **Isaac Camacho**, **Fernando Llano Utrilla**, **Oscar Dominguez Tovilla**, **Martha Mora Vazquez**, **Ana Solana**, **Jose Luis Abadia** and **Alex Garcia**.

Our Athletics staff is carefully manicuring all of the fields and courts. **Brook Stephens** is raking the baseball infield, **Alex Dooley** is lining the Lacrosse field and **Raph Adeyemi** is making sure all of the soccer balls are inflated and is helping Dooley ready the fields. **Jess Mellen** is returning after a summer away and can't wait to reveal the creative archery targets she's designed for this summer! **Alaena Klages** is also returning after a short hiatus, and is excited to work alongside **Chloe Horsbrough** to create some awesome dance routines! The fitness center is warming up and **Seth Cobb** is excited to help everyone take their fitness training to the next level. Longtime Whitmanite **Matt Karner**, who is in his 7th year at CWW, will be our Athletic Director this summer. **Rhys Cairns** will be stepping up as the



Continued...

Assistant Director, and together, Rhys & Matt are looking forward to making our athletics coaches better and building on an already awesome program!

Geoff Ashworth, our Director of Outdoor Program and Education, is gearing up to organize and manage all logistics for over 50 day hikes and traverses this summer. He can't do it all alone and is excited to have **Laura Mills** (head of hiking) and **John Hood** (head of biking) to help lead this extensive program. **Carla Farchaus** will be stepping into a new role as the Assistant head of hiking and alongside **Sarah Elson, Mitchel Kanak** and **Luke Gribbin** they are all cleaning out water bottles and plotting new trip routes. Bring on the adventures!

Camp wouldn't be complete without our tireless Health Center staff. **Denise Janecke, Lynn Kemna, Judy Lan** and **Allie Lopez** are so happy to once again be helping our campers feel healthy and at home at CWW. They have stocked the shelves of the Health Center with Gatorade, band-aids and ointments. They are relaxing in the Adirondack chairs and patiently waiting for our campers to arrive.

The excitement our office staff exudes as they answer calls and welcome staff is contagious. Led once again by our Office Manager and Tour Director **Matt 'Jacko' Jackowitz**, staff member **Abi Pitre**, is diligently working to make



sure supplies and phone calls are all in order. **Hannah Danziger** is returning after 4 summers away to assist **Dan Rosen** in the program office. They are prepping the summer calendar and beginning to schedule everyone into their favorite activities! **Cat Bendall** is across the hall, ordering supplies and organizing logistics in her new role as our Operations Director. Also stepping into a new role, we are excited to have **Dylan Lyons** as our videographer this summer. **Helena Gonzalez** and **Dany Aguilera** are scouring the internet for creative cooking class ideas and projects. They've been passing out samples and the staff can't get enough!

On the residential side of camp, our returning counselors are a strong bunch who are anxiously awaiting the arrival of the new staff. On girls' side we are welcoming back **Lexi Orlinsky, Alex Spadacenta, Gemma Dunlevey, Lake McElroy, Lauren Wilson, Missy Young, Miranda Snead, M'Lee Newton,** and **Rianna Rabinowitz**. On boys' side we have **Itamar Kofman, James Alduenda, Lloyd Mqalo, Henk Oelofse, Lewis Johnstone, Matt Kelly, Nick Lentz, Joe Paxinos,** and **Matt Peterson**.

These awesome counselors are anchored by a strong residential leadership team. **Rob Sherry**, who is the head of residential life, has started his morning routine of jumping in the lake to 'polar bear' at 7:15 every morning. Our Area Directors including **Lynn Roy, Chad Forslin,** and **Ashleigh Jackowitz** have yet to be convinced to join Rob in his chilly wake-up call. They are choosing to drink coffee and hot chocolate on the porch of the



dining hall each morning while planning exciting evening activities with Unit Leaders **Chris Riordan** and **Hadley Hill** (Junior Camp), **Jordan Davis, Kyla Gargiulo, Peter Sawers** (Middle Camp), **Stef Spiegel, Shelby Mosello, Baxter Riggs, Austin Ping** (Upper Camp), **Sam Brown** and **Lisa Johnson** (Senior Camp). **Madi Wheeler** will be making the leap from the Wakesports crew to Camp Mom and is so excited to spend extra time getting to know our younger campers. **Nathan Tilkes** and **Robyn Drumm**, who are both making the transition to CIT leadership, are developing a top-notch leadership training so that each of our Counselors-in-Training reach their full potential. We are lucky to have **Megan Ziolkowski** joining the CIT team for the 10-day Hawaii trip!

Pioneer Camp is one of our favorite weeks at camp as we get to invite in prospective campers for a full week of camp fun. Our all-star Pioneer Staff this summer will include **Sarah Robinson, Sophie Dizengoff, Caitlin Hewitt,** and **Dan Hall**.

Not too long now until the buses pull onto Cape Moonshine Road! We're so excited to see you!

The Unique View of a CWW Doctor

We want our Health Center to be an awesome place with awesome people that nobody has to visit. When they do visit we are lucky to have 6 talented doctors who spend their summer vacation time to ensure that we have an MD at camp at all times during the summer. We always hear from our doctors how much they love their week at camp, so we wanted to give you the unique view, a peek behind the curtain, that only our Doctors get! For this task we checked in with 3 of our doctors, all of them also camp parents, to get their perspective about what they get to see during their time at camp when they are not taking care of our campers and staff!

DR. MICHAEL “BERNIE” BERNSTEIN started at CWW as a camper in 1989 and continued his journey as a staff member from 1995-97. Bernie attended Duke University for both undergrad and medical school before doing his residency in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at Mount Sinai in New York. While he was a fellow in Pulmonary and Critical Care at Mount Sinai, Bernie convinced his wife Alyssa they should come back to CWW as the camp doctor in 2009. Bernie currently practices pulmonary and critical care medicine at Stamford Hospital in Stamford, Connecticut. Bernie and his wife Alyssa have since been coming back for his week as Camp Doctor while only taking a couple of summers off for the birth of their two daughters, Emma (9) and Lucy (7). Bernie is amazed how similar camp still is all these years later while still continuing to evolve--the courts are nicer, the buildings are bigger but it is still kids learning and playing together. They have loved seeing both of their daughters become campers and fall in love with CWW on their own. But Bernie's favorite part of being at camp is getting to see what he terms the “in-between times” that few get to see. Sitting on the green chairs, he loves watching the jokes kids share while walking to the next activity or the casual chats kids can have walking back to the cabin.



DR. DEBRA MACK joined us last summer as a first time camp doctor. Her daughter Eliza was a first time camper and her husband Bill and son Charlie joined them for their week on camp. Debra studied General Internal Medicine at Columbia University and has run her own practice on the Upper East Side for the last 11 years. When we asked her what she loves about getting a firsthand look at CWW she talked about how seeing it behind the scenes confirmed every instinct she had when they chose Walt Whitman. It is very apparent to her how much independence campers develop. While you see evidence of that post summer, it is even cooler to see it in action. She loves seeing how campers and staff interact in such a genuine way and how much the staff care about the kids. Seeing camp up close allows her to fill in the blanks when her kids share stories about camp. She and Bill also love getting to experience camp as adults!

DR. SABRINA VINEBERG joined us as a camp doctor in 2016. She graduated from Harvard Medical School in 2004 and did her Pediatrics rotation at Johns Hopkins University. She is currently a Pediatric Hospitalist at Winchester Hospital after working for 12 years in the Emergency Department at Boston Children's Hospital. Her husband Eric joins her every summer and 2019 will mark the first time that their 3 children will all be campers together. This will be Jonah's fourth summer and Ezra and Sophie's first. Eric and Sabrina were both lifelong campers growing up and truly love their time at Walt Whitman each summer. To them there is no better place than camp. Sabrina mentioned getting to see the joy, smiles and spirit on full display. She loves watching the genuine interactions between campers and staff and sees CWW as a fantastic collection of truly down to earth people. Her favorite things to experience are Monday Morning Meetings, Campfires and time on Lake Armington.



PROGRAM FEATURE: Outdoor Adventure

Anyone who has spent a summer at CWW undoubtedly has a memory of conquering a fear, or accomplishing something they at first were doubtful they could do. This might include a challenging hike, flying through the trees on the zipline for the first time, or spending a week biking through Vermont. Camp Walt Whitman's Outdoor Adventure Program is unparalleled, and for many, is one of the most challenging and rewarding programs we offer.

CWW's Outdoor Program consists of 3 main categories: Hiking, biking & climbing. While many camps offer similar programs, few have the dimension and depth to the program like CWW has. Our hiking program consists of required weekly day hikes for every camper, overnight camping trips, and 3-5 day backpacking excursions for our oldest campers. Our climbing and ropes program includes both low and high ropes course elements, climbing tower and a 2-tiered aerial adventure course. The biking program leads Senior Campers on 4 & 5 day bike trips through Maine, Vermont & New Hampshire. Year after year we hear from campers and parents about the incredible impact this program has in building self-confidence and helping campers challenge themselves to do things they never thought possible.

We recently sat down with Geoff Ashworth, the Director of Outdoor Programming & Education and Laura Mills, the head of hiking, to talk about this incredible program. Geoff has been working at camp for over 40 years, and as acting Director of the program since 1989. This will be Laura's 5th summer at CWW.

Why do you love and continue to build this program? Geoff:

Someone once asked "what do you make teaching?". The answer, "I make a difference". Changing lives one step at a time. Getting campers outside their comfort zone (in a safe yet challenging

environment) is a process that can and does lead to life-changing moments. The warm, tingling feeling of the summer sun on your shoulders as you stride along a ridge, cool rain on tents with the grumbling of distant thunder echoing off mountain sides. A good meal washed down by water from THAT spring at Guyot. Ghost stories around camp fires. A comfy sleeping-bag. And a nice warm shower followed by putting on clean clothes when a trip is over, with the memories still sharp but an increasing feeling of regret at the passing of time.

Laura: I love campcraft because it allows campers and staff members alike to go out into the mountains together and push ourselves. We stretch our legs, our lungs and our minds as we take on the peaks, the rocks or the bike paths and it allows campers to physically and mentally challenge themselves in a safe and controlled environment. That is such a rarity these days, as is uninterrupted time spent out in nature; away from technology, the stress of our everyday lives and pressures of the outside world.

How frequently do campers participate in this program? Geoff:

We have on average three hikes per day for about 50-days per summer. Each individual staff member will lead about 20 hikes over the course of 7 weeks. Campers will participate in 5-6 hike days (depending on the calendar and weather). They will also generally spend about 10-15 hours on our ropes/challenge course. Our Senior Campers participate most heavily in this program, as they can do optional 3-5 day overnight hiking and biking trips.

What do you see as the benefits (to campers and staff) of us having such an extensive outdoor program as part of our overall CWW ethos?

Geoff: About 15 years ago I had the honor of chatting with Arnie Soloway (camp co-founder and Jed's Great Uncle), and he and I concluded that our outdoor program is a continuation of the great traditions of CWW. Finding a closer connection to the spirit that lives in us all, having an epiphany on a mountain top with friends that will stay with you over a lifetime. **Laura:** An outdoor program as extensive as ours is such a rarity within the traditional camping world and I think it's such



an incredible gift to our campers to have so many adventurous opportunities available to them, from backpacking trips to honing their climbing skills to taking in the countryside of the Northeast by bicycle. The program nurtures friendships and teaches campers to respect one another as well as our planet, whilst learning about environmental stewardship. Campers and staff alike bond over their shared experiences, create memories and develop bonds that last a lifetime.

What is one of your favorite memories of traverses or hikes? Geoff:

My favorite traverse is Twins and Bonds. Seeing a vertical rainbow over Mount Cardigan from West Bond was memorable, with the best group of campers you could wish for. Also watching a sunset from Mt Liberty on a five-day Franconia to Washington trip was stunning. For day hikes, my favorite must be the middle-camp Franconia Ridge hike. Especially the time I convinced a rather slow hiker I had magic Cub-Scout shorts that when worn, would allow him to hike much faster. It worked!

Laura: Last year I took out a Twins & Bonds traverse with four incredible Upper Campers and my co-counselor on the trip had actually been a CIT back in my first summer on staff in 2015, which was a very cool, full-circle experience for both of us. The campers were phenomenal and despite some rain, the six of us conversed and convulsed with laughter the entire time. One night, we were all sitting between our tents, looking at the stars and taking a quiet moment to reflect when one of the girls quietly remarked that she was pretty sure this had been the best day of her life. I don't think I'll ever quite forget how I felt in that moment.



Outdoor Adventure is a huge piece to the CWW experience. At the end of every summer, we receive emails, calls and college essays describing the immense impact camp, and this program, had on the lives of those who committed to pushing themselves to do more than they thought possible. We are grateful to Geoff and Laura's commitment to our Outdoor Adventure Program and look forward to many successful adventures this summer.

NEW SIBLINGS AT CAMP 2019

It's All in the Family!

Charles Bodell, Brother of **Wesley**
Andrew Brodsky, Brother of **Elizabeth & Alexandra**
Asher Desai, Brother of **Ella**
Ellie Esposito, Sister of **Auden**
Nate Fisch, Brother of **Zoe**
Aviva Jacob, Sister of **Daniella & Mia**
Ari Kanter, Brother of **Lilly**
Sophie Kaswan, Sister of **Lauren & Rachel**
Emma Koch, Sister of **Yali**
Sophie Kravetz, Sister of **Beckett & Eva**
Murray Mintz, Brother of **Lazarus**
Layla Morris, Sister of **Sydney**

Ezra & Sophie Nathanson, Siblings of **Jonah**
Clara Ozerkis, Sister of **Davis**
Guy Podell, Brother of **Oren**
Leah Ravin, Sister of **Ben**
Caroline Royce, Sister of **Lily**
Ryan Shames, Brother of **Rachel**
Julia Tarnow, Sister of **Lucien**
Anna Wizel, Sister of **Henry & Grace**
Jack Wolfson, Brother of **Lila**
George Wrubel, Brother of **Olivia**

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

CAMP
WALT WHITMAN
EST. 1948

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