

The Walt Street Journal

Fall Edition 2019



CAMP
WALT WHITMAN
EST. 1948

4 New King Street
White Plains, NY 10604

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

Dear Whitmanites,

As you might imagine, the fall is always a major adjustment for us. It's quite different to go from being outside nearly all summer long while surrounded by hundreds of laughing and smiling campers and staff, to sitting in our office space in NY pretty much just speaking to each other (yup, this is as boring as it sounds)! While we can view the outdoors through our windows, it does not quite compare to the elation of walking down the front lawn towards the lake in preparation for a quick swim on a hot summer day!

We're not the only ones who go through this transition, as we know how challenging it is for campers to adjust back to the "real world" at the end of the summer. Campers often describe to us the struggle of leaving the comfort of camp, the place where they feel like they can be the truest version of themselves, to return home to the daily pressure to keep up. At home, campers feel the pressure to constantly keep up with what is being posted on Instagram, Snapchat, and TikTok. They feel the pressure to keep up with today's fashions, with today's celebrities, and with today's hottest gadgets. They feel pressure to be perfect - to look perfect, to act perfect and to get perfect grades. They feel pressure to keep up with their social group. The pressure is constant.

We're not suggesting camp is a utopia without any pressure, however, we know the transition back to the

real world can be a true source of stress. The good news is that campers can call upon the growth and strength they developed at camp this past summer to help them overcome these real world challenges. Our campers can think about moments this past summer when they pushed themselves beyond their comfort zone, when they overcame a fear, when they conquered a goal, or when they righted a wrong to help overcome the challenges faced throughout the year. And, as any adult will tell you, the challenges faced by our campers are a natural and inevitable part of life. Our lives are always punctuated by obstacles. One of the many life skills we aim to ingrain in our campers is how to cope with and accept life's challenges, and determine how to successfully move forward even while struggling along the way.

While we know in our head that the struggles of the real world are a necessary component of growth, in our hearts we can't wait to get everyone back to New Hampshire where life is just a little simpler, easier, and way more fun!

With love,

Carolyn & Ted



The Dorfman Family

It's Reunion Time!

Join us for our
ANNUAL CAMPER REUNION

Sunday, December 15th, 1:30–3:00 pm
at School of the Holy Child in Rye*

We are anxiously awaiting our 2019 Winter Reunion. Each year our staff drive and fly from all over the country just to see you, our campers, at our annual CWW get together. 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**. More details on how to RSVP will be sent via email. We are counting down the days and cannot wait to have many of our incredible staff and campers together again!



*** New
Location**

Happy Halloween!!

The only thing better than celebrating Halloween on October 31st every year is celebrating it in mid-July at CWW. Every summer one of our most popular special events involves creating our own Halloween holiday. During the week leading up to this exciting day, cabins spend time in the Arts Studio making group costumes from scratch with the help of our art staff. Super heroes, CWW celebrities, pirates, emojis, and pickles are just some of the endless costumes that have been brought to life by our creative campers. The night kicks off with a costume parade that begins at the front office and ends with group photos. Campers are so proud to show off the costumes they made to the whole CWW community.

Following the parade is trick or treating all around camp with spectacularly spooky stations run by our specialists. Monster Mash Dance Party, Mummy Tic-Tac-Toe, Zombie Battles, Musical Chairs and Spooky Canoe Rides are just some of the awesome activities that our staff put on for the campers. Our senior campers spend the afternoon turning the staff lounge into a haunted museum with less scares and more thrills for campers to enjoy. It is a great way for our oldest campers to show some leadership and give back to the rest of camp. Our Program and Operations Team goes all out with Halloween decorations around camp to make it festive. And what better way to end the night than getting to enjoy your goodies with a bunk party!



Gladiators



80's exercise class



Lake Armington Lifeguards

Stay Safe This Halloween!

Here are the top tips for parents to keep in mind while getting kids ready for Halloween according to the **American Red Cross**:

- 1 Make sure trick-or-treaters can see and be seen.
- 2 Use flame-resistant costumes.
- 3 Plan the trick-or-treat route in advance – make sure adults know where their children are going. A parent or responsible adult should accompany young children door-to-door in neighborhoods.
- 4 It's not only vampires and monsters people have to look out for. Be cautious around animals, especially dogs.
- 5 Walk, don't run.
- 6 Only visit homes that have a porch light on. Accept treats at the door – never go inside.
- 7 Walk only on the sidewalks, not in the street.
- 8 Make sure a grown-up checks the goodies before eating
- 9 And finally, for those planning to welcome trick-or-treaters to their homes, follow these safety steps:
- 10 Light the area well so young visitors can see.
- 11 Sweep leaves from your sidewalks and steps. Clear your porch or front yard of obstacles someone could trip over.

ALUMNI FEATURE: Camp Directors

One of CWW's core values is: Continual Personal Growth & Development. We strive to create an environment where this is possible for both our campers and our staff members. We hope that through experiencing the CWW community, people leave camp stronger with a greater sense of independence and self-esteem.

Over the years, there are staff members who move into leadership roles and determine that a career in the camping industry is their goal. We strive to help these staff grow and develop so they can move forward in their career and ultimately direct their own camp. There have been a number of CWW staff who have successfully done so and we thought we'd take a moment to highlight their achievements. We are proud to be a part of the journey of Josh Holland, Jake Javitch, Kristin Quintano & Nick Hercules. They have taken their experiences at CWW and become directors of distinctly different summer camps. One thing remains the same from their years at CWW, they are having an immensely positive impact on both staff and campers.

JOSH HOLLAND: Years at CWW: 10

Jobs held at CWW: Waterfront Director and Upper Camp Area Director.

Current Camp: Director of Camp Cobbossee for Boys - a premiere 3.5-week all-boys sleepaway camp in Maine. Cobbossee's values are brotherhood, community, and sportsmanship - and we emphasize these in our competitive sports, Maine adventure, huge waterfront and creative programs.

What you loved about being a part of the CWW community: I still think about CWW all the time. Walt Whitman has done such an admirable job of updating and evolving as a children's community to match the needs of today's youth . . . while also staying true to what has made it unique since the middle of last century: a focus on children's developmental needs, a community of tolerance and respect, and so much fun in the White Mountains.

Favorite memory: There are so, so many. I was once standing next to Carolyn Dorfman in 2011 as the rope burn wound down to its conclusion. As soon as the rope burst, a thunderstorm sounded over the lake. Literally the moment the rope burnt in half: thunder! Carolyn laughed and said "Welp! let's get the kids off the lawn!" I also think about Aaron Beckerman a lot: the poet laureate of Walt Whitman, if such a thing can be said. He was a man of kindness, mercy, and grace.

Has your experience at Walt Whitman influenced how you direct Cobbossee? I am happy to say that Cobbossee had a whole treasure trove of great things already underway when I took over six years ago. So much camaraderie, boys treating each other well, and great counselors. If anything, I brought CWW's radically intentional approach to residence life to Cobbossee. I think it has helped us create an even healthier boy culture.



NICK HERCULES: Years at CWW: 8

Jobs held at CWW: Cabin Counselor, Assistant Athletic Director and Unit Leader

Camp Currently at: Camp Quinebarrge – a traditional over-night camp for everyone. There are two big differences between Quinebarrge and other camps. The first being that our campers make their own schedules, we do not assign them. The other big difference between us and other camps is that we are really big on the friendship aspect of camp. We want each camper, no matter who they are, where they are from, or what they identify as to make a ton of friends.

What you loved about being a part of the CWW community: I love what everyone loves about CWW and that is the community. Camp Walt Whitman brings the best out of campers and staff.

Favorite Memory: I have a ton of favorite memories including trips and being a unit leader in upper upper. I would have to say winning Olympics as a head captain stands out as the best. That was an unforgettable experience!

Has your experience at Walt Whitman influenced how you direct Quinebarrge? I have only been a director for 2 years and one thing I love doing, which had never been done before at Quinebarrge, was home visits. I love going to the homes of new families in the off season and really connecting with every camper and their parents before they come to Quinebarrge. Jed and Carolyn have been a huge part of my success at as a camp professional.



KRISTIN QUINTANO: Years at CWW: 10



Jobs held at CWW: Camper, CIT, Waterfront Specialist/Lifeguard and Unit Leader.

Current camp: A BroaderWay Foundation (ABW) was created in 2010 by Idina Menzel and a passionate group of artists, activists and social workers with a basic goal — amplifying the power of young women through the arts. Our participants sharpen their tools to understand and appreciate themselves as individuals and as members of a community. These young women will use their leadership skills to address the social imbalances due to race, class, and gender that exist throughout the world today.

What you loved about being a part of the CWW community: What I loved and continue to love about CWW is that it is and was my second family. As a camper it was the way in which the staff always felt like my older siblings and sometimes parents. While on staff it was the bond that was built between one another and campers. And now, it is the long history that I have with so many people from the CWW family.

Favorite memory: It is hard to pin point a favorite! Rope burn as a Senior Camper, nights spent with staff laying on the front lawn decompressing after a long day and staring up at the stars. Definitely my years as a unit leader because I felt the impact I had on staff helped catapult me towards my future career as a Social Worker and Camp Director.

Has your experience at Walt Whitman influenced how you direct ABW? All of the training that I do at camp I took from CWW. It has been changed or modified to fit our needs, but it is the foundation for all that is important to talk about prior to campers arriving.

JAKE JAVITCH: Years at CWW: 20!



Jobs held at CWW: Counselor, CIT Director, Unit Leader, Camp Craft Assistant Director, Area Director.

Current Camp: Dream Day On Cape Cod Camp is a free, one-week camp experience for children facing serious medical conditions and their families. Our goal is to get kids out of the hospital, into the woods and provide a respite through positive camp fun for both them and their whole family!

What you loved about being a part of the CWW community: As a camper, it was square dance without a doubt! Ann had to tell me to calm down a few times growing up. As a staff member, every summer I met new and wonderful people that helped me become my best self and shaped me into the person I am today. I loved being a part of such a committed and passionate team that wanted to provide amazing memories and friendships for kids every summer.

Favorite memory: Tough to pick! I think that I will have to go with the many hikes and traverses over the years. Watching campers work hard to get to the top of a mountain every week was truly special and being a part of that was such a gift. Watching the campers develop a relationship with the outdoors is something I take with me everywhere I go. Growing up hiking every week instilled in me a love of the outdoors that has taken me all over the world and even to the top of Mt Kilimanjaro!

Has your experience at Walt Whitman influenced how you direct Dream Day On Cape Cod? Among the many things that CWW does so well, one that stands out to me is the way camp empowers people at all levels. CWW wants everyone to feel as though they can come to camp and be their best selves and that they have a voice in their experience. I value this very much and have found that giving campers the opportunity to provide feedback is a key practice. I believe it allows us to better serve their needs and helps our camp become the best version of itself. CWW has been doing this for years and has been instrumental helping me become the best camp director I can be!

STAFF UPDATES

Our 2019 staff are driven leaders and passionate individuals who genuinely want to make our world better. That's why they chose to work at CWW! After a summer filled with laughter, challenges, accomplishments and sun-filled days on the front lawn, our staff returned home and took off on their next adventures. Here are some of the inspiring things they've been up to since the buses pulled away from camp over 2 months ago.

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Lexi Orlinsky returned to Columbia for her junior year and has re-immersed herself in classes and a variety of on-campus organizations. She is part of the school's Jewish acapella group and just participated in a music video for the organization 929, which has already gotten over 30k views! Entering her senior year, **Kaitlyn Parra** helped welcome in all of the new freshman as an orientation leader. She is excited to wrap up school so she can finally get into the classroom as a full-time elementary school teacher, something she is incredibly passionate about and we're sure will be extremely successful with. Also returning to the academic grind, **Louis Petitjean** spends his days studying, playing the piano and working out. He is working on finding a job after graduation in pharmaceutical sales. A marriage was in order for **Trevor Wintermantel** after camp. No, not his own, but his father's! Trevor was the best man and was ecstatic to spend this special day by his dad's side. He gave a successful speech and even lit up the dance floor! Traveling the world is a common passion for our staff. Whether they live abroad or spend time exploring the world, our staff have truly been all over the map! **Henk Oelofse** is back in Thailand and spending his

year there before starting law school in the Spring. **Cami Janicot** has returned to her job as a photographer at BCIS, an international and French school in Phuket, Thailand. She loves living there and makes sure she finds time to enjoy the incredible beaches and non-stop sunshine. Another staff member living in South East Asia, **Madison Gray** is studying abroad in Cambodia and is learning a lot about conservation and threats to global biodiversity. Also taking her studies to another country, **Erin Larkin** is spending the next 6 months in Bath, England. This is where **Callen McDonough** attends university! The two met up to visit the ancient site of the Roman Baths, and are looking forward to having more adventures together. Also studying in the UK, **Lizzie Lotterer** is taking a semester away from the National Theatre Institute to study in London. **Laura Mills** has started a new adventure of her own. She recently made a stop in Hawaii where she worked on a ranch for a few weeks and spent plenty of time on the beach relaxing, writing, and enjoying the sunshine. She is now in Australia where she has reconnected with **Georgia Cohen** and past staff members **Baine Parker, Bronte Mills, Maggie Gent, Jamie Burchall** and **Victoria Carrier**. Before returning home down under, **Amy Cooper** spent a month traveling



Heather Fettke & Amy Cooper at the National Air & Space Museum

around the U.S., and what a trip it was! She traveled from Boston to DC with stops in NYC and Philadelphia before heading to California for a few weeks. Since being back home she has spent plenty of time at the beach with her dog. **Sez Elson** spent 2 weeks traveling around Alaska where she went on many outdoors excursions including fishing and hiking trips. She also made a pit stop in Hawaii before heading home to Australia where she has restarted her job as a wildland firefighter.

Ana Solana has been elected as the President of Vértice, the Excellence Program of Anáhuac Puebla University in Puebla, Mexico. This program focuses on bringing together students of high performance and greater intellectual capacity who show the ability and potential to occupy key positions in society and will transform society with their service. We are proud of you Ana, what an incredible honor! In her junior year of college at Johns Hopkins University, **Andrea Schmidt** is looking forward to studying abroad next semester in London, gives campus tours, is a Bystander Intervention Trainer, and tutors local elementary school students. She loves living in Baltimore but misses the beautiful woods and mountains

Continued on next page.



Ana Solana after presenting at the annual Vértice Gala



Callen McDonough & Erin Larkin at the Roman Baths

STAFF UPDATES continued

at camp. **Carla Farchaus** has taken advantage of the fall in the northeast and hiked Mt. Katahdin in Maine for the first time. **John Hood** had similar intentions after camp, and decided to hike the Long Trail which is 273 miles and runs the length of the state of Vermont. John completed the trek and is enjoying some down time and planning his next adventure. Working on her degree in Environmental Conservation and Ecology, **Lake McElroy** is excited to transfer to a new school, hopefully in New England, later this year. Until then, she spends her time studying, taking care of cool animals and researching different kinds of algae. Also pursuing a degree in the environmental realm, **Nick Klingbeil** is looking forward to graduating from Ashland University and is applying for grad schools in hopes of pursuing a master's degree in Environmental Education. After camp, Nick's co-counselor, **Jimmy**

Rowe visited him in Ohio for a few days and the two had a blast reminiscing about their bunk and all the good times they had at camp. In addition to Ohio, Jimmy visited NYC, Chicago and D.C. with **Harry Watt** before returning home to New Zealand. **Sam Long** is president of the Blank Student Union, is tutoring on campus and enjoying architecture school. He is currently dreaming of a future trip to Japan!

Hadley Hill is excited to have started her senior year of college and returned to her job where she gets to work and laugh with silly toddlers all day. She also started a seasonal job as an actress/haunter at 13th Floor Haunted House in Chicago. Winnie the Hedgehog (a JC celebrity) is happy to be home in Illinois but does continue to miss camp, especially her adventures exploring the front lawn. Fall sports are in full swing and **Owen Keleher** is loving being on the soccer team at Bates College and is excited for a very successful season. He has made time for a few visits with camp friends including **Pete Georges** and the Rosenthal family. **Bri Dressel** recently adopted a



Owen Rosenthal visits Owen Keleher at Bates College

cat, is finishing her final year at Drake University, and is working at Youth Emergency Shelter in Des Moines. Recently, **Gaby Urias** visited Bri for a weekend and the two went to a Chance the Rapper concert. Coincidentally, another CWW reunion happened at Chance's concert in Chicago when **Matt Peterson, Hannah Nodus, and Miranda Snead** all went to see the show together.



MORRY'S FUN RUN 2019

This summer we held our 2nd annual 5k fun run as a fundraising effort within the CWW community. We watched proudly as both campers and staff rallied together to run, walk, hop, skip and dance their way through camp. All proceeds from the 5k go to Project Morry, a year-round youth development organization focused on empowering and providing resources for youth from underserved and underrepresented communities. While this was only the 2nd fun run, CWW has supported Project Morry through fundraisers for over 20 years.

We found a lot of ways to put the fun in fun run! Between the color run station, the pumping music, squirt gun ambushes, silly string attacks, high-fives and laughter our campers and staff had a blast. There was a spirit of encouragement and support that really embodies what CWW is all about. Waiting at the finish line were a mob of campers and staff, including Jed and Carolyn, to congratulate participants before they sprinted down the front lawn for a jump in Lake Armington while still fully clothed. This activity, referred to as "Laking" is a tradition at CWW reserved for campers who want to celebrate a big accomplishment.



Our camp community also learned an invaluable lesson that day. When we come together as a whole, we are able to do more for others than we could ever do alone. We are grateful to our incredible campers for giving of their time and energy each summer to improve the lives of others, and to our camp families for their gracious donations. Congratulations on a job well done again this summer, with more than \$20,000 donated (and counting)!

We will continue accepting donations over the next few months, so there is still time to contribute! Donations can be made online or by mailing a check written to Project Morry to our New York office. To donate online, go to: projectmorry.org/who-we-are/camps-that-give/camp-walt-whitman

Senior Camp Life Skills

At Walt Whitman, our legacy is deeply rooted in our values and traditions. However, we also believe in the importance of adapting to the needs of our campers and families of today. With these intentions in mind, last year we began to look at our senior camp program and decided to add in new activities while ensuring they were purposeful. It was then the idea of offering 'life skills' was born. With the aim to offer different types of activities to our oldest campers, we brainstormed a list of practical, useful skills that would be helpful for anyone to know. From car and bike maintenance to laundry and cooking, senior camp life skills were a hit!



Each week we offered a different opportunity to learn a new skill. One week, a group learned about general car maintenance and practiced changing a tire. They started with the basics; where exactly can you find a spare tire? Next, the group moved onto the entire process of jacking up the car, removing lug nuts, utilizing tools to take off and then replace the tire properly. The group of campers practiced on Shleigh's car and the tire hasn't flown off yet! In addition to changing a tire, we also went over how to know which side your gas tank is on without getting out of your car, how to check the oil manually and determine if the oil life is still good, how and where to add windshield wiper fluid, as well as how to check the air pressure in your tires.

Cooking is one of the most beloved activities at CWW and in senior camp, we take it to the next level! Campers learned how to marinate, season and grill steak, how to cook in a cast-iron skillet and how to make waffles from scratch (check out our SC recipe)! Next on the list of useful skills to learn, laundry! Kids learned how to sort clothes, use the washer & dryer (ensuring cleaning of the lint trap after each use!) and properly fold items. We added in an extra challenge when we had a friendly competition to see who could fold the best fitted sheet. We would miss an opportunity if we didn't give a shout-out to Louis Brassard who won!

Over the course of the summer, senior campers also learned and practiced how to fix a clogged toilet, sew a button onto a shirt, how to build a fire and tie a tie/bowtie. These new practical elective opportunities empowered our campers with useful knowledge we hope they will use for years to come. We look forward to adding new skills next year; let us know if you have any suggestions.



Waffle Recipe

Ingredients

- 2 eggs
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 3/4 cups milk
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1 tablespoon white sugar
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

*optional toppings: whipped cream, fresh berries of any variety, banana, nut butter, chia seeds, sprinkles, butter, maple syrup

Directions

1. Preheat waffle iron. Beat eggs in large bowl with hand beater until fluffy. Beat in flour, milk, vegetable oil, sugar, baking powder, salt and vanilla, just until smooth. Do not over-mix.
2. Spray preheated waffle iron with non-stick cooking spray. Pour mix onto hot waffle iron.
3. Cook until golden brown.
4. Add any toppings your heart desires!
5. Serve hot.

