

# The Walt Street Journal

Winter Edition 2020



CAMP  
WALT WHITMAN  
EST. 1948

## A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

Dear Whitmanites,

One way in which the world has changed over the past decade is how connected parents and children have become to each other via their electronic devices. Over the past few years, we have increasingly fielded requests from camp parents to allow campers to utilize electronics at camp in order to provide parents greater comfort while their child away. While we empathize with these parents, we know the benefits of a screen free summer for children far outweigh the comfort a rule change might provide a few parents. A summer break from electronics for children has never been more valuable. Here are just a few of the benefits of a screen free summer:

**Improved face to face communication skills leads to improved social skills:** Children learn to speak up to communicate their needs, handle difficult conversations, learn to disagree respectfully, listen to others, and converse face-to-face rather than over text.

**Deep human connections:** While connections in the digital world may be important, they are no replacement for real face to face relationships. When campers unplug, they open themselves up to new friendships and socialize at a deeper level. These are the types of friendships that last a lifetime.

**Focus on the present:** Once the pervasiveness of social media is removed from their lives, campers live and experience the present moment rather than thinking about how it might look later on Instagram. Campers live in the here and now at camp and see the world through their

own eyes, not through the lens of their camera. This allows kids to connect to the real world and create true lasting memories, not just photos.

**Age appropriate experiences:**

A technology free summer experience helps ensure a PG summer. While we have really good kids at camp, we know that when kids are away from home they often want to push boundaries that they might not otherwise cross.

**Ability to be alone with their thoughts and reflect:** While camp shows campers what it is like to be with one another, it also provides the opportunity to be by themselves in real uninterrupted time. Camp is made up of thousands of quiet moments that allow children to pause and reflect, without instinctively reaching for their phones, to solve problems independently and understand things on their own. This ultimately provides them with increased self confidence.

Don't get us wrong, we are not luddites who view technology as the cause of all of the world's ills. Technology can be great and a tremendous asset at school and at work. But, a break from technology is one of the many great benefits of sleepaway camp. In fact, we can't wait for the summer to start so that we too can drastically reduce our own screen time!

It's just 140 days until camp and we can't wait!



The Dorfman Family

Carolyn & Ted

# STAFF UPDATES

*We love this time of year at CWW, certainly not because of the weather, but because this is when we begin to hear from staff about who will be returning to camp for another unforgettable summer. Check out some of the incredibly inspiring & adventurous things our staff have been up to this winter.*

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**Alaena Klages** has spent the past few months teaching her own preschool class and teaching 5 dance classes each week. If that wasn't enough, she is also going to school for a certificate in Early Childhood Education. Oh, and also thinking about camp on the daily! **Jordan Davis** graduated from Lehigh University a semester early and has started a full time job at the United Nations in the Department of Global Communications. She works on different UN outreach initiatives like youth engagement, sustainable development, and NGO relations. Her parents recently moved to London and in December she had the opportunity to catch up with **Joe Paxinos**, **Josh** and **Gemma Dunlevey** who were all in London at the same time. We love a good mini CWW reunion! **Trevor Wintermantel** switched his major to Early Childhood Education, was promoted to a Shift Lead at Marco's Pizza and was sworn in as Vice President of Sigma Nu (his fraternity). He also participated in his school's winter Volleyball League, where his team went 3-2 overall after losing in the Quarterfinals of the playoffs. **Christian Vogler** recently traveled to Mexico to visit **Helena Gonzalez** and celebrate her

recent graduation from culinary school. Both Helena and **Roger Montesinos** graduated from culinary school and we can't wait to see what they whip up in the kitchen this summer at CWW! **Fernando Utrilla** and **Ana Solana** joined in on the fun too. Also recently visiting Mexico, **Bri Dressel** spent over a week with **Rebeca Romo**, **Dany Aguilera**, **Isaac Camacho** and **Angel Fernandez** visiting volcanoes, local historic sites and eating plenty of delicious food. Adding to the long list of staff who are traveling abroad, **Laura Mills** has spent the last few months traveling around Australia and is currently living in Tasmania on an Olive Farm. **Kaitlyn Para** moved to Thailand to teach English and while it's pretty hot, she is loving every minute of her new adventure. Also starting a new teaching job, **Matt Lyons** has moved to New Hampshire and is teaching 7th grade science full time. Speaking of science, **Sarah Gaffan** has been spending a lot of time in the stem cell research lab and wearing the lab coat that she brought with her to camp and had campers sign. She is working on some exciting research projects, writing her honors thesis, and is also assisting in teaching a new biology course in addition to the one she regularly aids in lecturing. Sarah can't wait to be back to camp with



**Savannah Nocera doing what she loves the most**

tons of new fun projects!! Yay Science! **Peter Sawers** spent a few months traveling throughout Colorado with the Warren Miller movie crew and had the opportunity to meet pro skiers like Glen Plakeis! He is now working as a substitute teacher in Boulder while he counts down the days until he can get back to camp. **Jimmy Rowe** is back in New Zealand working on his family vineyard/orchard doing odd jobs like ground maintenance, building repair and designing garden boxes. He can't wait to see his cabin from last summer (#4A!)!! Starting her second semester of Junior year, **Savannah Novera** is so excited for softball season to kick off. Her team has been honored with the opportunity to play the Olympic Softball Team at the end of the season on May 30th. What an incredible honor, congrats Savannah! **Jess Mellen's** family recently got a new German Shephard puppy and she has started writing a science fiction graphic novel. She should be at the drawing

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**Bri, Angel, Isaac & Dany in Puebla**



**Kaitlyn teaching English in Thailand**



## STAFF UPDATES continued

stages this summer so you might find her sketching pages throughout camp! Taking on his last semester at Ashland University, **Nick Klingbeil** has found some time amidst hunting for post-grad



**Sarah wearing her lab coat signed by CWW campers**



**Trevor with his IM volleyball team**

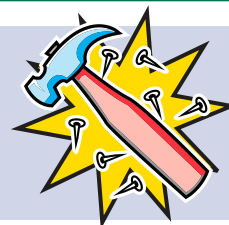
jobs to meet up with **Andrew Jackson** and **Sam Long**. **Harry Watt** has been traveling around Scotland attending soccer matches, visiting family and attending university. He was able to find time to make it to London to visit **Mike O'Callaghan**, **Lewis Johnstone**,



**At Helena's graduation from culinary school**

**Rianna Rabinowitz** and is now in Oman spending down time with his family and relaxing before heading back to school. **Callen McDonough** recently produced a 10 minute drama in her studio production class at Bath University. She started a new part time job at a Doc Martens store in Bath and is having a blast. She is planning trips to Finland, Spain and London to see Lana Del Rey perform.

**Did you know?** According to Amazon, the highest selling hammer in the US is made by the company Estwing. You could say they have hammers ALL OVER THIS LAND... L-A-N-D!



## Reunion Recap

In early December, as Winter is starting to kick into full gear, it begins to feel like forever since you've seen your camp friends. You find yourself daydreaming about Square Dances, the comforting warmth of the sun on your face and splashes of laughter echoing across Lake Armington. Thankfully, each year, this is when CWW campers and staff reunite in Westchester to relive the summer that was, and to start getting excited for next summer!

This year, over 250 campers and 50 staff members reconnected for a few hours of camp bliss. We shared hugs, played games, gave high-fives, designed t-shirts, warmed up our gaga skills, shared more hugs, ate pizza, and smiled fondly on the memories made during the Summer of 2019. In-between it all, last summer's CIT's proudly presented a check to Dawn Ewing, Director of Project Morry. Last summer, we raised nearly \$20,000 for Morry's Camp, an accomplishment our entire community can be proud of. We are looking forward to next summer and continuing to support this incredible organization.



**2019 CITs present a check to Dawn Ewing - Executive Director of Project Morry**



**Boston Reunion Fun**



# CWW Word Search

*Do you have all of the CWW knowledge to complete this word search?*

L U B P Y R R E H S B O R O  
I O U U Y R N Y L O R A C W  
Y C D R E O D H E S N T G A  
K S D P O A E E C N F O S L  
C U Y L J E D I S A O O M T  
O D T E L B P O R S Y S O W  
R C A L P M L C E S N O R H  
Y A G I Y O P W U O W O E I  
A M U L W M O M O O R L S T  
D P O A A L M L F M N A L M  
E F Y C F E E S N O L B C A  
K I U S R T H E T A J B O N  
I R R S Q U A R E D A N C E  
H E Y U L N R U B E P O S N

SQUARE DANCE  
OLYMPICS  
BUDDY TAG  
WALT WHITMAN

JED  
CAMPFIRE  
PURPLE LILACS  
LOONS

ANN SOLOWAY  
ROPE BURN  
HIKE DAY  
GOOSEWOLF

CAROLYN  
ROB SHERRY  
BALOO  
SUMMER

THE TAJ  
ROCKY  
SMORES  
CAMPCRAFT



***Did you know?*** The National Barbeque & Grilling Association is hosting its annual conference in Louisville, Kentucky on April 1 – 4. Rumor has it CampCraft, the Kitchen Staff and Jed are all planning to attend to show off their skills!



# ALUMNI FEATURE: CHRIS 'BUNKIE' ROY

*Chris "Bunkie" Roy has a long history at CWW that has spanned over 30 years! It all started in 1989 when Bunkie left West Point and was seeking an adventurous way to spend his summer. Inspired by the ABC Monday Night Movie "Poison Ivy", he decided to look into spending his summer in the great outdoors. What followed was a journey at Walt Whitman that extends to present day and has influenced every important aspect of his life. We sat down with Bunkie to hear his journey and learn about the influence CWW has had on him.*



Bunkie, in search of a summer camp job, went to the job placement center at a local college near his hometown of Bunkie, Louisiana and read through a copy of the American Camp Association's newsletter. He picked his top ten camps based off the small blurbs each had submitted and decided to start calling each one. The first camp he called was Walt Whitman and what proceeded was a 2 hour phone conversation with Jancy Dorfman (Jed's mom). Bunkie was instantly hooked and decided he had found the camp for him. He figured if every interview was going to be 2 hours, he might as well quit while he was ahead. Just like that, Bunkie was hired and ready for his first summer.

Without the assistance of a packing list, Bunkie showed up at Logan Airport dressed in a coat and tie. He would spend that summer as an Upper Camp Counselor and that coat and tie came in handy at many bunk and group nights. Over Bunkie's 11 summers as a staff member, he served as CIT Director, Waterfront Director, Special Events Director, Senior Counselor and Senior Camp Area Director before eventually becoming Associate Director of camp. In 1993, Bunkie moved up to NY to live with Bill and Jancy and work for camp full-time as the Staffing Director. In 1997, he hired cabin counselor Lynn Peterson, who eventually would become Lynn Roy! A true camp love story if there ever was one! Their oldest daughter and recent CIT Gracie, started at camp when she was just 1 month old. Bunkie and Lynn would eventually leave CWW after being offered the opportunity to run their own camp, Camp WellSpring, an all-girls wellness camp. Following that summer, they became Directors of Camp Mah-Kee-Nac, a boy's sports camp in the Berkshires. They spent 6 summers running Mah-Kee-Nac before moving to Bunkie, LA with their 3 daughters.

Upon his return to his hometown, Bunkie would become COO of an outdoor recreation and media company and Executive Director of a statewide law firm before devoting his full attention to CampStaff.com, a website he runs with Lynn to help people find summer camp jobs. CampStaff was also cofounded by CWW alum and current camp parent Eric Sasson. In 2015, Lynn made her return to camp as Junior Camp Area Director and Bunkie took on his latest, and perhaps favorite role at CWW, as a camp parent! He loves watching his girls fall in love with camp the way he did and seeing them make friends and have shared memories. It is crazy to him that his girls are friends with campers whose parents he was at camp with. Bunkie is always jealous when Lynn and the girls head up to Piermont each summer and relishes his chance to spend a week at camp every July.

When Bunkie talks about CWW, he reflects on the connections he has made through the years. To him it's like being a part of the greatest club there is! Not only have they met many fantastic people at CWW, but they have also introduced a lot of people to the place they love so much. Bunkie and Lynn recently figured out that they have brought over 30 people to work at camp over the years! When you factor in that Bunkie Louisiana is willingly referred to as a small town, that makes that number even more impressive.

Perhaps the best way to capture Bunkie's journey at CWW is to visit the front lawn around lunch time on Visiting Day. There you will see a collection of CWW members past, present and future spanning 7 or 8 picnic blankets. As veterans of CWW, they know to get their early to snag a spot in the shade! Bunkie's daughters will be there with their bunkmates, while Bunkie and Lynn share stories and reminisce with friends who are now CWW parents themselves. It is remarkable to see so much CWW love span the generations and it reminds us all that camp is nothing without the people you get to share it with.



**Bunkie as CIT Director 1992**



**Bunkie during his tenure as Waterfront Director**

# **“Why I Come Back to CWW Every Summer”**

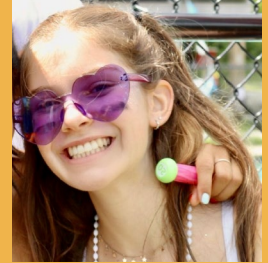
**MATT LYONS,** Old Saybrook, CT – Staff

*Watching kids take in the view at the end of a difficult hike is something I'll never get tired of. As a teacher, I don't always get to blend my extracurricular interests with my job. Camp is different. I come back summer after summer to see campers challenge themselves and ultimately grow from those challenges. It's incredibly rewarding. CWW is a place that always feels like home regardless of how much time has gone by. The people, the setting, and the experiences are all incomparable. I'm looking forward to getting back to Piermont!*



**DANI BRINBERG,** Scarsdale, NY – CIT

*The main reason I come back to camp each summer is because camp has become like a second home. To me, home is a place where you feel safe and comfortable being completely yourself. Not only do I feel comfortable being myself at camp, I feel like I am my best self. There's also an amazing sense of community at camp. The people I have met and the friends I have made there have become a huge part of my life. I couldn't be more thankful for all of the amazing experiences and memories camp has given me.*



**HUNTER MILLER,** Scarsdale, NY – CIT

*I come back to camp every summer because of the relationships I have formed with my fellow campers and the staff. Camp has allowed me to form some of the best friendships that I have. These friendships have created some of the best memories of my life. Camp also means a lot to me because it allows me to challenge myself in a safe environment. Camp allows me to be my best self by forcing me out of my comfort zone, and conquering things that I never thought I could achieve.*



**RAPH ADEYEMI,** Kogi, Nigeria – Staff

*The summer of 2020 will be my 3rd summer at camp. I often come into it thinking it will be my last summer, but every time I leave I find myself itching to come back. It's a place where I'm with my best friends from all around the world, it's a place where I disconnect from the outside world, it's a place where I love seeing everyone again and seeing how much they've grown in the space of 10 short months. Camp feels like a home away from home for me and that is why I will continue to come back every summer that it is possible.*



**HARRIS HOROWITZ,** New York, NY – Camper

*I come back to camp for the people. Camp allows you to form such close bonds with your friends, and I wouldn't trade that for anything. Though I get to see my camp friends a few times throughout the year, the feeling of seeing everyone before boarding the bus to camp is unparalleled.*



**MOLLY ROY,** Bunkie, LA – Camper

*Although there are many reasons I go back to camp every summer, the adventure of it is number one for me. I love the experience of the adventures of the hiking and biking trips. I love the adventure of a normal day; you never know when someone may show up in a prom dress or dinosaur costume. And I love the adventure of making new friends and meeting people from around the world!*





# Aloha CWW Campers...

## Tennis Tips From Coach Porter

Many of you are aware of the fires in Australia that have devastated millions of acres of land and killed, by one estimate, over one billion animals (not including insects). BUT, did you also know that the Australian Open Tennis Tournament is going on RIGHT NOW. Many players who were required to qualify for the tournament were asked to play in conditions that were unsafe due to the air quality. You (we) are so blessed to be able to play tennis at Camp Walt Whitman where the air is clean and fresh, the animals healthy, friendly and plentiful, and the tennis staff ready to improve your game.

If you have been able to watch the Australian Open over the past few weeks, or can re-watch these matches, pay close attention to two things. First, the footwork of the players. All of the players move well but those that are the most successful tend to move better and more consistently than their opponents. Second, the stances of the players. If you watch closely you will see open stances, semi-open stances, square or neutral stances, and in some emergency situations closed stances. One common thread among these, the best players in the world, is that when they move toward the outside of the court they ALL open up their stances.

There are a number of reasons for this. The most important is the enhanced ability to recover. Good players can hit the ball well using any stance but the ability to reposition themselves in preparation for the next incoming ball is the difference, in many cases, between winning and losing. Because of that ALL players hit with a more open stance the wider they go on the court. A second reason for hitting more open stance balls is the ability to rotate when you hit a groundstroke using angular momentum rather than with linear momentum used with a square or neutral stance. Serena Williams, hits open stance on all groundstrokes regardless of her position on the court. She benefits from both power and movement by doing this and that is one reason she has won 23 Grand Slam singles titles.

If you are currently taking tennis lessons, or playing with your family or friends, try hitting more open stance groundstrokes as you move closer to the singles sidelines on the baseline. You may not hit the ball better but you will certainly recover more quickly and this will help you play longer points and improve the overall quality of your game.

If you are busy with school and/or do not have the opportunity to play tennis now you can shadow swing, with or without a racquet, varying your stances while using a more open stance as you go wider. Jed, Carolyn, Ashleigh and Jacko are putting together a very high quality tennis staff to assist me in bringing your games to a new level this summer.

Spend some time now getting ready for the best tennis summer of your life. As Charles A. Lindbergh said, "Preparation precedes power."

*Coach Dave Porter has been the Tennis Director at CWW for 22 years. He received his B.S. & M.S. degrees from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah where he also played collegiate tennis and basketball. He then went on to receive his doctorate degree from the University of Hawaii. He has coached tennis at BYU-Hawaii since 1984, starting the program and making him the only coach BYUH has ever had. Coach Porter's combined career record of 1,410-188 is the most combined wins all-time in four-year collegiate tennis. He has achieved 1,000 collegiate coaching victories in fewer contests than any coach, in any sport, in any division in NCAA history. He is also the first coach in NCAA tennis history to coach both men's and women's teams to national championships in consecutive years (2002 and 2003). He has been the president of the 15,000-member United States Professional Tennis Association and is currently the Chairman of International Testing and the Player Development Committees. In 2012, Coach was named the USPTA Alex Gordon Professional of the Year. He is a member of the Tennis Hall of Fame as a recipient of the Educational Merit Award and the USOC "Doc" Councilman Award for Sports Science in Tennis. Adding to these accolades, he has the highest winning percentage of any NCAA women's tennis coach in history (732 wins, 25 losses, .967 winning percentage). He has been named the ITA/Wilson National Coach of the Year seven times. He is a Full Professor at BYU-Hawaii where he is the Chairman of the Exercise & Sports Science Department. Coach has four children and thirteen grandchildren, and enjoys reading, listening to music, and spending time with his family.*



# FAMILY CAMP: There's Nothing Like It!

Building on last summer's incredibly successful Family Camp – we are so excited to announce that this summer Camp Walt Whitman will run Family Camp Season 5!

Come to CWW with your family and spend the week waterskiing, swimming, playing tennis, hiking mountains, creating art projects, sailing and zip lining (just to name a few of the available activities). Each day is filled with family activities as well as adult only and child only activities. Each family may request to stay in their own cabin or to share with friends for the week and we provide food, fun and camp spirit!

Our families from last summer couldn't say enough positive things about their experience. One family said: "Getting to spend the day waterskiing and zip lining with my kids and then having time at night around the campfire with my husband and our friends was perfect. I can't imagine a better way to spend a family week."

## CWW FAMILY CAMP 2020

**Monday, August 17th - Friday, August 21st**

Adults..... \$700

Children ages 4-17..... \$500

Children 3 and younger..... FREE



***We can't wait for Family Camp 2020 to kick off! To learn more about this unforgettable week and to submit an enrollment application visit our website at <http://www.campwalt.com/family-camp>***

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