

The Walt Street Journal

Fall Edition 2021



CAMP
WALT WHITMAN
EST. 1948

CAMP
WALT WHITMAN
EST. 1948

4 New King Street
White Plains, NY 10604

www.campwalt.com • p: (914) 948-9151 • f: (914) 652-2433

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

Dear Whitmanites,

It's been two months since our campers left camp. The kids are back in school, and life has returned to the normal we've come to know, masked and filled with screens. But for a brief period, our campers experienced something that few people, aside from NBA players, have lived; total freedom from Covid-19. Surprisingly, this was not even the greatest gift of camp this summer. We ended on a high note we haven't felt perhaps ever. There were plenty of challenges along the way, as one might expect when running camp in a pandemic, but they helped pave the way for tremendous growth and joy by summer's end.

To help put our 2021 season in perspective, we spoke to a few parents and our camp psychologist to revisit the big takeaways of this summer. Here's what we learned:

1. Covid impacted how kids first experienced camp

Many of our camp parents are still working remotely or only partly in the office, and have not yet experienced life as it was before the pandemic, with a daily commute and a myriad of social interactions outside the home. In other words, most of us have not yet had the same experience as our campers, who arrived at Camp Walt Whitman after over a year of isolation and more time than normal sitting at home. The change was swift—and took some getting used to.

"It felt like everybody's stamina was down when they arrived," said Debbie Neft, who worked this summer as our first-ever camp psychologist. Camp, she points out, is physically demanding. "I think collectively we were all so much more sedentary for the last year and half ... It took time for the kids to get their camp legs back." But kids didn't just arrive at camp out of shape physically. "Their emotional stamina was down, their social stamina was down, their 'dealing with challenges and adversity' stamina was down," she continued.

Kids spent far less time around their peers and friends during the pandemic, and camp was an abrupt shift. "Camp is zero privacy. It is the most social you can get." So to go from remote life "to communal living and being around other people all the time, everyone's stamina was low for that."

The start of camp was an adjustment for all our campers. "But it was fascinating to watch all of that very much shift over the first couple of weeks," said Debbie. "Their

stamina returned to normal, and then exceeded normal and went to 'camp normal,' which is being comfortable in this communal living and doing all these activities and having all the energy for it — and really just getting used to this home-away-from-home."

2-After a year and a half of pandemic life, camp helped kids regain their happy selves

As camp directors, Carolyn and I see a bit of an emotional and physical adjustment at the start of every summer. The shift this year was more pronounced, as Debbie said, but the struggles that campers had early in the summer were not just something to "get over." As campers pushed themselves out of their comfort zones, it allowed them to experience tremendous growth. The second half of camp, in fact, was perhaps the most joyous we had ever seen our campers.

As uncomfortable as it might have felt to them at first, they were never unsafe, and overcoming this discomfort was essential to getting to the joy that they found later in the summer. To put it in perspective, it's like campers arrived at a 5 out of 10 on a happiness scale, then dropped to a 3 or 4 during the first two weeks of camp, and by pushing through, they got up to a 9 or 10.

While we are all anxious to close this pandemic chapter of our lives, this summer was one for the books. What initially felt like a shock to the system — being around so many people, with so much to do after doing so little — quickly transformed into a rare experience: a blissful bubble free from Covid, filled with the kind of fun and friendships that can only be found at camp.

With love,

Carolyn & Ned



The Dorfman Family

Alumni Feature: Emily Cohn (Michael)

Emily Cohn (Michael) vividly remembers her parents sitting her down and watching countless videos with her as they narrowed their choices for which summer camp she would attend. As the list was trimmed down, they paid a visit to the Dorfman household where the family met Bill and Jancy, Jed's parents. Upon meeting them, the Michaels were sold that CWW was the summer home for their family. Emily specifically remembers a one-on-one chat she had with Jancy that gave her the confidence to go to camp for the full 8 weeks. Little did Emily know that that decision would start a journey with CWW that has brought her and her family to present day!

Emily's first summer was in 1992 as a member of Bunk 15. When she thinks back to her time as a camper she has vivid memories of her time on stage. That first summer she was a part of a Dinner Theatre Production of Mary Poppins with a meal and a show in the CWW Dining Hall! Emily went on to play Fozzy Bear in the Muppet Movie while also performing in Fame and Little Shop of Horrors. The crew used an old frame pack from CampCraft to build the Venus Fly Trap! Square Dance on Saturday nights were always special and as she got older she loved pushing herself on traverses and bike trips. Emily's love of singing extended beyond the stage. She loved singing at morning meeting and at camp fires and helped put together one of the "CWW Sings" Albums. When both of her kids were little she loved playing those CD's for them. Emily's camper career culminated with

her CIT summer in 1997. When she thinks back on her time as a camper, she knows that what made CWW so special for her was the people. The counselors who made her feel safe as well as her bunkmates. Emily lived for camp and her friends each summer.



Emily and her family – Visiting Day '95. Her brother Max (left) spent his first summer at CWW in the same cabin that her son Bryce did!



CITs 1997

Emily attended Colgate University as a Psychology major. She continued her love of singing by joining the all-female Acapella group. Upon graduating, she moved to Manhattan and took a job as a Sales Assistant at Sports Illustrated. She would go on to work her way up the ladder at multiple magazines before eventually becoming the Fashion Director at Marie Claire. It was during that time that she met her future husband, Ben. They lived in the same apartment building and met in the elevator... of all places. After 7 years at Marie Claire, Emily took a step back from her full time role to raise her children, Bryce and eventually Rae. Fast forward to present day, Emily, Ben, Bryce and Rae live in Scarsdale. Bryce is in third grade and Rae is in 1st grade. This past summer, Emily and Ben made the decision to send Bryce to CWW for his first summer.

The decision was easy for Emily and Ben on where to send Bryce not only because of how much Emily loved her time at CWW, although that certainly didn't hurt. Emily talked about the trust she had in CWW. Not only trust in the Dorfman family, but also in people like Rob, Dan and Geoff all still being part of the community. There was also the comfort of knowing that in a summer where we were in the middle of a pandemic CWW would take care of her son. In talking to Carolyn and Jed, she was confident that while there have been changes to the facility and an expansion of the program through the years that the philosophy had remained the same. Camp still places value on being kind to others and being a good person. Camp is still set in a beautiful, rustic setting and gives her kids experiences that she and Ben would not be able to give them. CWW also allowed Bryce, and hopefully one day soon Rae, to experience an intentionally co-ed community like the one she benefited from. Not only was Emily extremely close to her bunkmates, but some of the closest relationships she formed at camp were with the boys in her brother bunk. Emily and Ben were so glad to see Bryce have a fantastic summer and come home with a pep in his step and his own love for CWW. To her, the gift of not just camp, but CWW, was the best gift they as parents could give to her kids.



The Cohn Family on the beach after camp



Bryce heading off to CWW this summer!

CAMPER UPDATES

Catch up on what everyone has been up to!

Livy Seff from bunk 15A competed in her first figure skating competition and won a medal. She has also been texting and FaceTiming with her bunkmates and is hoping to come East for a reunion sometime this year! Also spending the fall focusing on athletics, **Eva Scharf** ran her fastest 5K yet and is ready for Morry's Run 2022! **Isaac Scharf** pitched two scoreless innings for his town baseball team and can't wait to try his luck on the CWW pitching mound next summer. Speaking of baseball, **Josh Herr** participated in a baseball tournament at Dreams Park in Cooperstown, NY where he hit his first home run! Congrats Josh! He will also become a Bar Mitzvah this Fall. **Daniella Jacob** celebrated her 16th birthday with some of the CITs at Yankee Stadium. What a great way to celebrate! Officially in 7th grade, **Jasper Lapenn** is back in Ethiopia and is enjoying lots of creative writing, drawing classes and staying in touch with his bunkmates and friends from camp and is really missing his summer home! **Noa Steinberg** visited **Eliana Kadets** at her home on Candlewood Lake and the girls spent the afternoon waterskiing, tubing and sharing funny memories from the summer. **Evan Cohn** is thriving in 3rd grade. He is playing soccer, baseball and even started a newspaper at school. Keep up the great work Evan! **Becca** and **Josh Pinsky** started this year at a new school. Becca really enjoyed reconnecting with her 12A bunkmates before school started and loved seeing many of them at her birthday earlier this month. **Hunter Gill** was invited as a member of Poly Prep lower school,

to participate in his upper school's homecoming football game by playing in a soccer scrimmage on the football field during the ten minutes of halftime. It was an exciting night for Hunter and the grade 4 athletes! **Leah Ravin** has had the chance to see so many of her camp friends post-camp!! She turned 11 in September, is enjoying the start of 6th grade at Quogue School, her little league softball team, playing her saxophone, and rehearsing for her role in High School Musical 2 at Westhampton Beach Performing Arts Center. **Zoe** and **Leo Roth** were excited to start high school this year at Rye Country Day School. School started just 2 days after **Abby** and **Ben Haney** arrived home from camp – wow! They've done a great job adjusting and are both enjoying fall sports. Abby has been playing lots of tennis and hanging out with her friends. Ben is playing soccer and flag football after school and although he is happy to be back in Austin, he thinks it's "way too hot here". **Rowan Lewis** had an exciting adjustment to home after camp. His family decided last minute to cancel their flight home to Los Angeles and drive cross country. Highlights included Niagara Falls, The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Tina Turner Museum, National Civil Rights Museum, Graceland and hanging by the pool in Sedona. What an adventure and an awesome way to end the summer! Speaking of adventures, the Tanbay family had their own. **Sloan** and **Dylan Tanbay** went on an epic 16 day road trip with a camper trailer in tow. The family drove from NYC to Yellowstone, Wyoming. They saw bears, bison and elk up close, took in some beautiful scenery and went horseback-riding. There was also a lot of



Some of Bunk 12A hanging out this fall.

cookouts and s'more making. **Zoe Lefcourt** has been playing on a Westchester travel softball team this fall and loving it! **Nolan Greenstein** tried out for



Rowan Lewis enjoying a Nashville Sounds game.

and made the 8U Westport travel baseball team. It's been very exciting to be on the team and a lot of fun! **Olivia Greenstein** has taken on a new sport - field hockey! She has been having a great time learning the game competing with her teammates. **Payton** and **Leo Pillsbury** went camping on the Oregon Coast with their family after camp. Payton spent the rest of the summer playing tennis and she's now on a soccer team and is working really hard. Leo Pillsbury went to a rocket and robotics day camp after CWW ended. He is now playing flag football and enjoying the weekly practices and early Saturday morning games. The O'Briens have settled back into life in California, although it was a quick turnaround as school started almost immediately after they got home from camp!

Taryn O'Brien is starting 2nd grade, **Morgan** started 7th grade, **Kaitlin** entered High School and Sean started his Sophomore year of HS. Kaitlin and Sean attend opposing High Schools in their town and while Kaitlin is a cheerleader, her brother is playing football for the opposing team. Guess that means there is always a winner in the family when the two schools compete!



Daniella Jacob enjoys her 16th birthday with some camp friends at a Yankees game!



Enjoying time together after camp.

Olympic Captain Characters

Challenge your memory and try to find the character names of all 21 of the 2021 Olympic Captains!

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

KING TUT

KING ARTHUR

QUEEN ELIZABETH

POSEIDON

MEDUSA

THE LAKETAPUS

SANTA CLAUS

MRS. CLAUS

TOOTH FAIRY

BELLE

DUMBLEDORE

GHOSTBUSTER

SUPERMAN

WONDER WOMAN

BATMAN

FIREFIGHTERS

THE MANDALORIAN

HERCULES

MEG

WANDA

VISION

STAFF UPDATES

We take great pride in hiring awesome people to work at CWW each summer. Their lists of accomplishments and accolades could go on and on. We've taken a moment to gather some updates on what everyone has been up to this fall after we returned to the 'real world'.

A few weeks after camp ended, **Izzy Handy** moved to Dublin, Ireland to attend University College Dublin's Masters program in Political Theory! She has been studying, exploring, making new friends, and of course, talking about camp to anyone who will listen! Speaking of big life moves, **Lizzie Lotterer** moved to DC where she is working at Studio Theatre, a non-profit theatre production company that produces contemporary plays in a four-stage complex. **Grace Roy** didn't even last a month after camp without seeing her camp friends. She was temporarily evacuated from Tulane due to Hurricane Ida but took advantage of the opportunity and flew to Chicago. She met up with **Annie Reller** and the two embarked on a midwestern college tour, visiting **Raph Adeyemi, KG, Calvin Baker, Luis Leperveche** and **Claudio Kaempfen** at Knox College. Claudio was on a whirlwind trip of his own across country and enjoyed reuniting with so many people. They then visited **Connor Larkin** at Augusta College before **Erin Larkin** picked them up to return to Chicago and then onwards back to school. Claudio



Harrison Kahme summited Mt. Kilimanjaro!

has continued his adventures, traveling to Puerto Rico for some surfing and relaxing and he is now in Switzerland visiting some family, doing lots of hiking and has even gone paragliding. **Paige Lammers** got married after camp and is loving life. She started a new job working as a Behavior Technician with children who have Autism. She misses her Junior Camp family every day! **Nick Klingbeil** made a trip to South Carolina after camp and has recently started a new job at Great Lakes Science Center in Cleveland. **Anna** and **Mike O'Brien** have settled back into their routine at home in California, Anna teaching with California Virtual Academy and Mike as a principal at a local Middle School. They enjoyed having **Pete Georges** and the entire Dorfman family visit San Francisco for the day! **Andrew Jackson** landed an awesome position this fall and is teaching 6th grade English and Social Studies. Life seems to get very hectic when we all leave our little camp bubble, and **Lexi Ballard** definitely experienced that this year! After traveling to Boston with some camp friends, she returned to Wisconsin and has been swept up in her classes and sorority involvement. **Itamar Kofman** and **Lexi Orlinsky** had the opportunity to volunteer at the 2021 BMW championship, one of the largest professional golf tournaments in the world, and hung out with some of the best professional golfers out there. What a cool experience. Itamar wants to remind everyone that every day is a good day to have a great day! **Trevor Wintermantel** purchased a new bow and some arrows so he can improve his accuracy on the archer range. **Harrison Kahme** trekked up to the Uhuru Peak of Mt. Kilimanjaro via the Machame route and summited at 19,341 feet! Congrats Harrison, what an incredible accomplishment! He enjoyed sharing stories of his trip with **Nick Lentz** when they met up in for dinner in Pittsburgh. Back on the West Coast in San Diego, **Marie Bast** is enjoying snuggling with her cat Jasper and has started a new job as a Scare Actor for Howl-O-Scream at SeaWorld. **Caroline Dixon** has two new kitty additions to her family as well, Sunshine and Midnight. She has spent some time visiting Maine



CWW Reunion in Boston!



Grace Roy & Annie Reller in Chicago

and camping in the Georgia mountains since camp ended. Studying for his real estate license, **Nghia Nguyen** is also taking some online courses this fall, building up his photography portfolio and working as an after-school counselor for the YMCA. **Owen Keleher** is enjoying his final soccer season at Bates College. His team recently played Tufts, where **Thomas Levy** goes to school, and this spurred an awesome weekend reunion! **Pete Georges, Molly Rosen, Kylie Woolwine, Sophie Claman, Josh Ackerman** and even one of our camp doctors **Marc Rosenthal** and his wife **Amy** all met up during a perfect New England fall day to watch the soccer game and spend time together. We're jealous we missed it!

While everyone we have spoken with mentions that they are enjoying 'real life', not a day goes by that we're not all thinking about camp and the relationships we all created over the course of the summer. Take care CWW, keep being awesome and we hope to see you all soon!



Lexi Orlinsky & Itamar Kofman

FAMILY CAMP 2022!

Anyone who has spent a summer at CWW knows there is a magic created during those 48 days that can only be understood by those who experience it first-hand. With this in mind, in 2015 we introduced CWW Family Camp, which provides a week-long taste of camp for CWW alums, families and friends. It has been a huge success for a number of years now! Although we were unable to run Family Camp in 2021, we are excited to announce that Family Camp will be back and ready to roll for 2022!



CWW's Family Camp is always a highlight of the summer. It is a 5-day vacation hosted on camp during the third week of August, after our regular 7-week camper program comes to a close. It is never just a standard vacation. It is unique in its ability to provide shared and individual experiences through the magic of camp that helps families create memories to last a lifetime.

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 and special events are an integral part of the program. Rob Sherry leads 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. We offer something for everyone (and every age) while also allowing people to relax and enjoy our beautiful lakeside campus.

You can be sure we have a few tricks up our sleeves to make 2022 the best week of Family Camp yet!

CWW FAMILY CAMP 2022

Monday, August 15th - Friday, August 19th

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

Call us at 1-800-657-8282, email jed@campwalt.com or to learn more about this unforgettable week and to submit an enrollment application visit our website: <https://www.campwalt.com/family-camp>

Project Morry: Giving The Gift of Camp

This summer we held our 3rd 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 the course laid out 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. As a long-time partner with Project Morry, we are proud that our camp families and entire community have chosen to so generously support such an impactful organization each year. While this was only the 3rd 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. There were people throughout camp cheering on the runners as they passed by. Staff members were running with campers encouraging them to push themselves. Groups of campers were willing to take a break from running

to all walk together before gearing up for another push. Waiting at the finish line were a mob of campers and staff to congratulate participants before they made their right turn to go sprinting 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. It is in moments like these that we so clearly see the lessons our campers are learning, while simultaneously raising money for other youth to have similar experiences. 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 \$15,000 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 at projectmorry.org/who-we-are/camps-that-give/camp-walt-whitman or by mailing a check written to Project Morry to our New York office.

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. Haunted Pontoon boat rides, potion making, pumpkin decorating, and zombie relay are just some of the awesome activities that our staff put on for the campers. Our senior campers spend the afternoon turning the Dorfman Center into a haunted house 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!



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

And finally, for those planning to welcome trick-or-treaters to their homes, follow these safety steps:

- 9 Light the area well so young visitors can see.
- 10 Sweep leaves from your sidewalks and steps. Clear your porch or front yard of obstacles someone could trip over.