

The Walt Street Journal

Fall Edition 2022



CAMP
WALT WHITMAN
EST. 1948

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A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

Seventy-five years ago, many aspects of American life were so different as to be nearly alien. Jackie Robinson became the first African American baseball player. President Truman signed a bill creating the CIA. The Cold War began. The Allies had just won World War II and the global community was picking up the pieces. Israel was established. Joe Biden was 3 years old.

And, in a quiet corner of that globe known as Piermont, New Hampshire, a pair of brothers named Arnie and Chick Soloway founded a little camp in the woods, based on the ideals of a well-known poet from another century. Here, on this 300 acre plot of land, children sang, played, hiked, swam and grew into wonderful young men and women who had a sense of the world beyond themselves.

Seven and a half decades and fourteen US presidents later, our nation has changed in immeasurable ways. And yet, children still sing in the woods of New Hampshire and swim in Lake Armington. Children play on that camp's fields and sing the same songs around the same campfires. That little camp that Arnie and Chick founded so long ago is still going

strong. Children still grow into wonderful young men and women.

This summer, many of these children will return as Camp Walt Whitman's 75th Reunion approaches.

This coming summer on July 29, former campers, counselors, staff and family will descend upon 1000 Cape Moonshine Road to see again the camp they love so dearly. Campers from the 1950s will walk along Lake Armington's beach. Staff members from the 1960s will stand in satisfaction at the top of the lawn and look down at the lake. Whitmanites of all ages and persuasions, the young and old, from 1948 to 2023, will fill camp with their greetings and fill the amphitheater with their songs. Our songs.

We can't wait to welcome everyone home.

With love,

Carolyn & Ted



The Dorfman Family

75th CWW REUNION Saturday, July 29, 2023

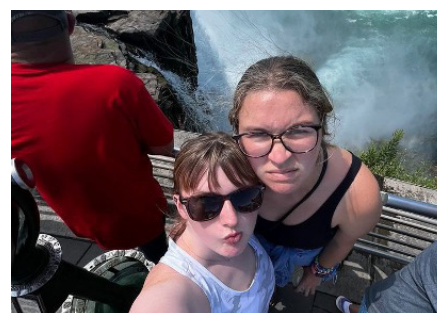
Camp Walt Whitman is so excited to welcome generations of alumni back to camp this summer for a one-day event to celebrate 75 years of CWW fun, growth, and friendships! The reunion will take place on Saturday, July 29th at our favorite place among the purple lilacs. Camp will be in session and alumni will have the chance to see CWW alive and thriving just as they remember it. The reunion is a wonderful opportunity to reignite old friendships, relive past memories of time spent at CWW, catch up on the happenings of life, and of course do a little square dancing. We have been hearing from alumni that span CWW generations who are excited for the event and can't wait to be back at 1000 Cape Moonshine with old friends. We're excited to be able to connect generations of Walt Whitmanites this coming summer. Keep an eye out for additional details soon but for now, please save the date for what promises to be a terrific event!



STAFF UPDATES

Faith Covey road-tripped to Chicago after camp with **Claire Boyer**. Faith is now in Oklahoma nannying for a 2-year-old and is part of Oklahoma's Spirit Program. While at OU, Faith is also the Historian for the RUF/NEK Lil' Sis organization. **Claire Boyer** has now moved to Chicago where she now teaches 5th and 6th-grade science! She is also spending time helping lead the school's S.T.E.A.M Club & Lego Robot Competition team. **Lizzie Lotterer** has made the move to Chicago where she is now working at a boarding school. Lizzie is running the residential life program and teaching theatre which of course she loves! **Bradley Tuomi** is currently coaching a U14 hockey team while also keeping sports and recreation alive while working for UW-Eau Claire's recreation department as well. **Eddie Murphy** has taken some time away from his comedy routine and is playing Rugby for Purdue. He even lost a tooth in a recent game against Wisconsin! **Jon Vanna** is currently training to become a personal trainer while staying active playing Intramural sports at UW-Milwaukee. **Lexi Ballard** is back in Green Bay where she will soon be graduating with her degree in Psychology. Lexi is applying to grad schools and will be making the move to Utah in December. In the meantime, she is spending her time volunteering and hanging

out with friends. After camp, Lexi met up with **Gemma Hill** in Chicago and was able to show her the wonders of the Midwest! **Daniella Jacob** is back in school where she is keeping busy with sports! She is playing lots of Softball and running for her school's cross-country team. **Claire Winters** met up with **Jacob Kemp** and **Amy Ritchie** in Florida where they went to see the Tampa Bay Rays play. **Sophia Hein** is spending a semester at sea! She is living on a cruise ship with 450 other college students taking classes and stopping in 11 countries. So far, she has explored Portugal, Morocco, and Spain, rode camels, been to a thousand-year-old castle and walked through the streets of Barcelona! **Dani Brown** was able to meet up with **Lexi Orlinsky** and **Itamar Kofman** in New York after camp. **TJ Young** has transitioned back to life but has kept camp with her as she remains avid about her Rubik's Cube. She is living life in Utah and enjoying the fall setting around her. TJ was even able to meet up with **Stephen DeLong** in Salt Lake City to go hiking! **Joey O'Connell** got to celebrate his brother getting married and had a fantastic weekend with family and friends. Joey also is enjoying as much as he can as a Nebraska Football fan and was even able to be a part of the Big-Noon-Kickoff when the Huskers played Oklahoma. **Gabe Stuart** has been living in Nashville with family and will soon be headed out west to work an amazing ski season.



Faith and Claire at Niagara Falls



Jacob, Claire, and Amy cheering on the Rays



Dani getting to see Itamar and Lexi!



Lizzie enjoying her new job in Chicago



TJ and Stephen meeting up for a hike in Utah

CAMPER UPDATES

We love to keep up with our campers throughout the year, here are some updates from Junior to Senior Camp from this fall!



Nina Rogers & Eliana Kadets



Aiden and Mason Speranzini,
Zachary Rosenblatt,
& Bradley Schmitz

Sarah Horowitz is playing travel softball with the NY Bluebirds! Sarah also celebrated her Bat Mitzvah, and she is also looking forward to the reunion. **Hunter** and **Zara Gill** are both crushing it on their respective Brooklyn league soccer teams by being named MVP high goal scorers! Zara is also participating in Poly Prep's production of Matilda the Musical! **Nina Rogers** is excited to be playing in the New York City Ballet's production of The Nutcracker at Lincoln Center! She is hard working away at rehearsals and can't wait to bring the story to life during the holiday season! **Eliana Kadets** is super proud of her Polar Bear club shirt! She should be, it's a BIG ACCOMPLISHMENT! Eliana was able to meet up with Nina, we love camp friendship! Junior Camp Boys had a rad reunion with **Aiden**, **Mason**, **Zachary**, & **Bradley** having had a sleep over last month!

There's a new addition to **Lazarus** and **Murray's** home, a new puppy:

Pepper Mintz! **Tyler Milano** is loving school! He's playing fall tennis and attends the art club! Tyler is looking forward to the reunion in December! **Jayda Langley** of Middle Camp went all out at her school's mix match day at Jefferson Marine Science School! Looks like it's a good square dance fit! **Alice Whitman Frushtick** is excited to share her baby brother Riley Ferris Frushtick! Alice loves him a lot and is already teaching him square dances!

Jasper Lapenn has been in Seychelles, getting scuba dive certified which is SUPER COOL! You only turn 10 once and **Lyle Chastaine** from Junior Camp just got celebrate! Lyle also went fishing and boating with his mom and dad at Saranac Lake after camp! Lyle got lucky and made a great

catch of the day! **Dylan Farber** was invited to join a gymnastic team; her first meet is coming up on November 21! Good lucky Dylan! **Brody Farber** is trying out for a part in High School Musical Jr. through a local theater! **Zoe Robinson** locked down 1st base for the Scarsdale Raider's this fall, her team did really well coming out of the tournament season with three 1st place tournament wins! **Joshua Ginsberg** has been working on his tailgating games by winning his school's Kan Jam Tournament. **Mackenzie Mao Smith** is currently performing in the ensemble of Broadway Method Academy's production of Footloose! **Josh Herr** and **Tyler Kravitz** went to support **Calder Kropp** at a cross-country race in Kent CT. Walt Whitman kids are doing really great things that are fun, fulfilling, and continuing to help them grow. We love seeing the CWW community thriving!



Jayda Langley



Jasper Lapenn



Lazarus Mintz



Josh Herr, Calder Kropp,
& Tyler Kravitz

CWW'S FUN RUN FOR MORRY'S CAMP

Camp Walt Whitman always has a tremendous focus on community. Waking up on a sunny New Hampshire day and watching campers and staff come together for a quick polar bear plunge is just the start! The CWW community doesn't stop at camp. The love and joy continue in the lives of every camper and staff as they live those 10 months away from the shores of Lake Armington. That value of community shows during our annual Morry's Camp Fun Run for Project Morry.

Project Morry is a year-round youth development organization focused on empowering and providing resources to underserved and underrepresented communities. As a long-time partner with Project Morry, we use our 5K Fun Run to raise funds to help send kids to camp. It is the goal of Project Morry that all kids should be given the opportunity of a summer camp. This is just a small glimpse of the difference we can make as a community as we open our hearts to help those whom we can.

Camp Walt Whitman has been raising money for Morry's Camp every summer for over 10 years. It takes \$7,500 to send a child to participate in the year-long programming. Over the years, CWW has been able to help fund for about two campers every summer. This summer, as our campers ran, walked, skipped and laughed through water gun ambushes, pet-a-pup, and color run stations. It is the joy we see of our community coming together as a whole to do more for others than we could ever do alone. The 2022 Fun Run has raised over \$15,000 so far.

It isn't too late to donate as we will continue accepting donations over the next few months. Let's work to give everyone an opportunity to attend a summer camp!



Rob Sherry & Dan Rosen

50 Summers each at CWW!

A key catchphrase you often hear among campers at Camp Walt Whitman is “living 10 for 2” — shorthand for the two blissful months at summer camp that returning campers spend the rest of the year looking forward to. Few people know this motto better than **Middle Camp Director Rob Sherry** and **Program Director and Associate Camp Director Dan Rosen**. They arrived at CWW as campers 50 years ago and have returned each summer since, graduating from camper, to CIT, to counselor, to part of our longstanding leadership staff. Both have seen many things change over the years but much remains the same as when they first arrived in Piermont, NH half a century ago.

Dan first arrived at camp as a nine-year-old in 1971 following in his family's footsteps. His cousins were campers in the 1950s and his parents got married while on staff as counselors. Dan was the last of his two brothers to go.

Rob arrived in 1973 as an eight-year-old camper also followed after his two older brothers. “One of the family jokes is that my mother thought when I went to camp, she wasn't sure that I would last. I was pretty quiet, and she was like ‘Oh let's see how long he makes it,’ and of course I'm still there.”

The family tradition continues as Dan's children grew up at CWW and as campers and staff and Rob's twins are going to be CITs this summer.

Both Dan and Rob worked with three generations of camp leadership – Chick and Ann Soloway, Bill and Jancy Dorfman, and now Carolyn and I – and have worn multiple hats on staff. After my parents took over camp in 1984, Rob suddenly found himself in a leadership role as an 18 year old, “All of a sudden I was sort of thrust into a senior staff role just because I knew how things worked,” says Rob. My parents had no idea! For instance, just two days before campers were scheduled to arrive, Rob found out that no one had assigned campers into cabins or created a schedule of activities, so he volunteered to do it.

Over the years he worked as a cabin counselor; the CampCraft director leading hikes; the lower camp director; and middle camp director, the role he holds now. But he is perhaps best known among all campers as the namesake of the Rob Sherry band, a collective of camp musicians that lead camp singalongs at morning meetings and campfires.

Today as CWW associate camp director and program director, Dan is the one organizing the activities and



coordinating who does what, when. “Now our roles are completely flipped.”

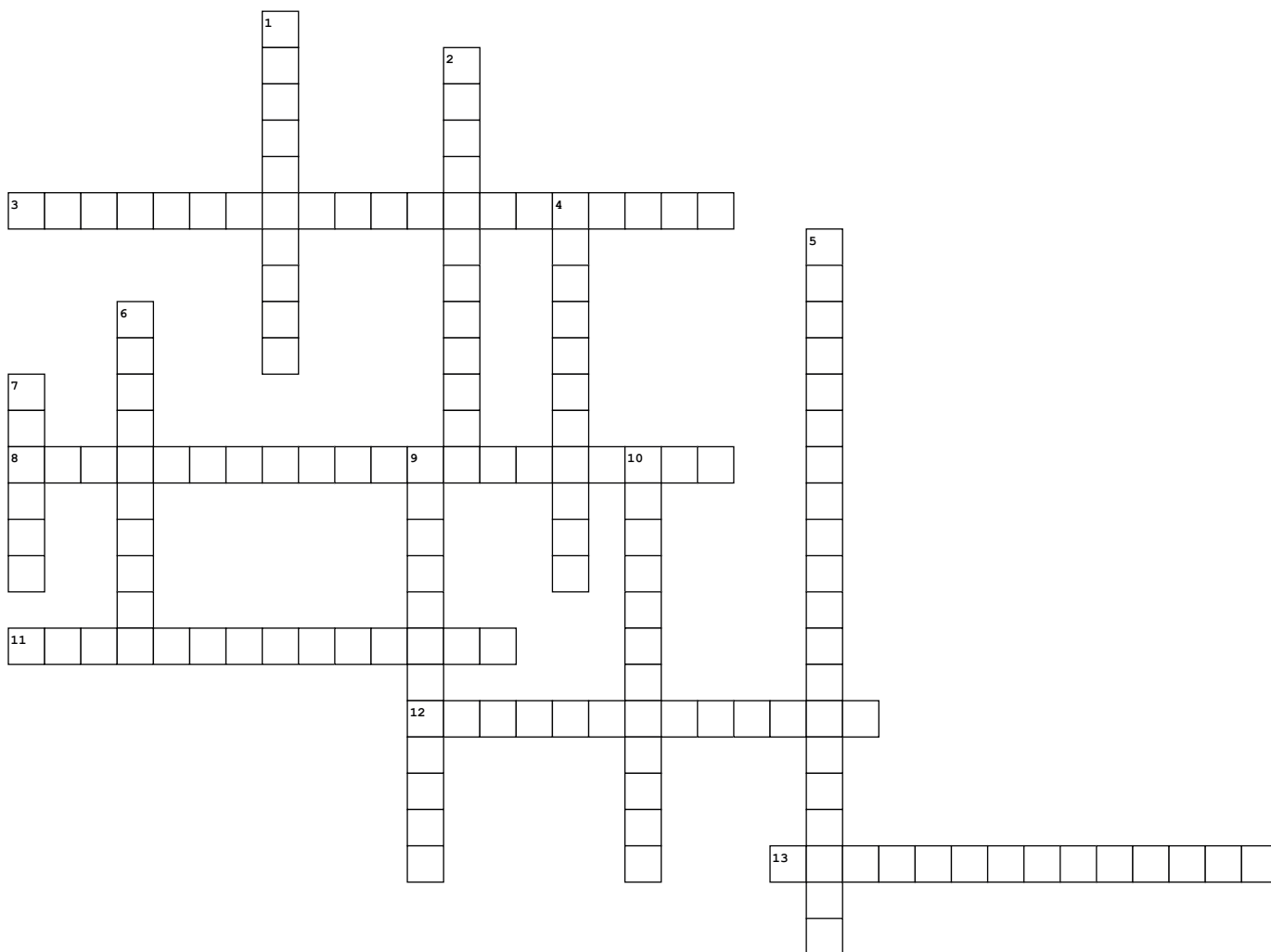
What keeps them both coming back are the kids. Both Dan and Rob pursued careers in education and coaching that have allowed them to return each summer. “I liked being a camper, but I love being on staff,” said Dan. “I have found camp to be a place where I have a clear purpose, helping kids grow.”

Much has changed at CWW over the last 50 years- for one, we no longer hire 16 year old counselors like Rob and Dan were when they first joined the staff. Our program and activities, along with our facilities, have grown significantly since Rob and Dan were campers. But the personal growth and development that takes place amongst our campers, as we watch children grow from young boys and girls into incredibly capable young men and women, has remained consistent over five decades.

While the world has changed, “the kids have changed less than people think they have and that comes through at camp,” says Dan. Just like Dan and Rob fifty summers ago, today's campers want to challenge themselves to accomplish things they never could have imagined. Dan says, “We see this in lots of ways at camp. Watching the majority of campers take part in a musical year after year is one sign of the transformational power of camp. It just speaks to what camp does for kids.. The jockey boys are willing to sing on stage, the kids who aren't great athletes will go play on an intercamp sports team or those who aren't as physically fit, will challenge themselves on a multiday hike or a bike trip. And I don't think you get to see that everywhere. That's sort of unique to camp and I think particularly unique to our camp.”

Camp Walt Whitman intentionally helps spur campers to take these leaps. When given a safe environment and the opportunity to know they'll still be loved and valued if they fail, because failure is a part of life and a part of learning, campers are amazed at all they can accomplish. That's the type of magic that has been happening at camp for all 50 of Dan and Rob's years.

CWW SONGS



Across

3. This three-part song led by the CIT's has a few names.
8. Jungle Song with two parts almost every Monday meeting
11. Another closing campfire tear-jerker, not Sour & Together
12. Peter Paul & Mary have always loved bells, songs, and these.
13. A Jed Dorfman Favorite as he takes the spotlight

Down

1. Igneous, Sedimentary, and Metamorphic could also be chanted
2. West Virginia doesn't have many city streets it has these!
4. Cherry, Apple, and Pumpkin to name a few.
5. The tears start flowing at this closing campfire song
6. round and round and round
7. Thanksgiving dinner wouldn't be the same without them.
9. The Pride and Joy of CWW's Foliage
10. Be careful sailing on the Lowland Sea

Junior Camp Highlight

Brandon Poltarak



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Your first full summer at CWW is a special summer, our campers to get to experience so many new things with their cabin mates while growing, laughing, and being part of a larger supportive community. From arrival day excitement, to overnights at Baker River, to Square Dance, and Olympics, there's so much to learn and do your first summer! We love to chat with first year campers to hear why they loved Walt Whitman.

Brandon Poltarak is 9 years old, he's from Newton Mass. This was Brandon's first full summer at Walt Whitman. He spent his summer with Junior Camp and the boys of 2A. Check out what Brandon had to say!

Favorite memory of camp? During electives, playing flag football with some middle campers. One boy tried to pull my flag but I was able to get away and tip toe down the line...I scored! Also, hiking Piermont. I liked that I got to see that the lake looks like a swordfish and how close we are to Kingswood from the top of the mountain.

Favorite Activity? "Oh, that's hard!" Seeing my friends, both four weekers and 7 weekers. They all got to try new things all summer and it's cool to see them get better at activities during the summer."

Favorite Special Event? "I really liked my first Olympics! At baseball, Ben hit a bomber in front of the Queen" For context, during Olympics both teams have Captains that represent different age groups at camp, the Queen was a captain this summer. It's a big deal!

Favorite meal: Sloppy Joes! Or BBQ, I got to drink my favorite soda, original Coke!

Is there something that you're proud of doing the summer? I didn't know I could hike Piermont; I was scared and worried. Scared that my legs would get tired but that's what breaks are for. I found out that steep climbing is my favorite part! The last little bit of Piermont is cool because it's steep and you get to use your hands to help get up there.

What are you excited about for next summer? New Electives! I can go sailing with Diego!

Was there anyone that helped make you feel comfortable at camp? Sometimes my friends, sometimes my counselors, sometimes Tom, my Unit Leader or Lisa. I had a lot of good people to help me.

Favorite Moosescoops: Strawberry

Anything special you want people to know about camp? My parents went there, it's a family tradition. Jed was my dad's counselor and I got to be in the same bunk as my uncle lived in – the Junior Lodge.