

LAURELWOOD LEGEND



Spring/Summer 2019 Issue | The official newsletter of Camp Laurelwood

SUMMER 2019 IS HERE...GET EXCITED!

Each summer campers come to Laurelwood to connect with friends (both old and new), gain new experiences and build lasting memories. Laurelwood is more than just 140 acres of land. Laurelwood is about the connections that the campers and staff create, it is about the moments that we want to last forever and it is about creating opportunities for campers grow. One of the ways we do this is by continuing to provide campers with new programming. This year we are thrilled to bring two new programs to Laurelwood: **Woodworking and Robotics**.



In our newly renovated woodworking building, campers will learn to use basic hand tools and power tools in a safe and supervised setting, while creatively building objects from wood that can be brought home or be used to leave their legacy at camp. Some example projects are: Birdhouses, pencil cases, and benches. We are excited to welcome Max Holland, from England, to lead the campers in this area. Max comes with a vast amount of experience and is excited to be part of the Laurelwood family.

Robotics at camp will take place in the **Katz' Digital Media Center**, newly renovated in 2018. Through the leadership of Sevede Nur, campers will use Vex Robotics to allow campers to create and program robots with a variety of objectives. Campers will have the opportunity to design, build and code robots. We can't wait to see the campers' creations in action this summer.

Throughout the year, camp has made some significant facilities updates to continue to beautify camp. A favorite place on main campus is the fire pit outside of Canteen. Thanks to Dylan Cancelliere, updates have been made to the fire pit seating. Dylan is a local Eagle Scout and for his project he built permanent seating around the Canteen firepit that will be

enjoyed by all of our campers this summer. Additionally, the inside of the Canteen was remodeled to include new tables, chairs and a beautiful new floor.

Main campus will also feature a new hangout spot this summer, **Hammock Village** which will house a "village" of hammocks for our campers to hang out at. This will be a great spot to read a book, chat with friends, or just rest!

The shower house on Girls' Campus has also received a facelift which features several really important updates and improvements. First, we have added a closet that will house all the campers' shower needs (shampoo, soap, shower-caddy, etc.) which will make it easier for our campers & staff during shower hour while keeping our bunks and fronts steps less cluttered. We also have installed brand new flooring in the shower house.

The mess hall kitchen has been updated as well, with a new walk-in refrigerator and freezer, a new oven, and several other appliances. Along with our new Executive Chef, Abraham, these updates will continue to improve our food quality and make sure that our campers, staff and guests get delicious and nutritious meals.

Lastly, the Chuppah (covered basketball court and indoor stage) roof, which was 40 years old and had several leaks, has been replaced this year. Thanks to Steven Pite and his family, the Chuppah will continue to provide countless memories, be it during Shabbat, talent shows, basketball games, dances, and other important special event, all under a leak-free roof.



As we look beyond 2019, we are excited that improvements and updates in both programming and facilities areas will continue to make camp an exciting place for campers to spend their summers.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE!



Camp Director - Ari Golub

Assistant Camp Director	Louis Lasko	Maintenance Supervisor	Kris Casey
Program Director	Brian Grossbard	Health Center Director	Lila Tullock
Program Coordinator / Music Director	Erin Bellucci	Junior Boys' Division Head	Aaron Cohen
Jewish Programming Coordinator / SIT Director	Rebecca Herz	Junior Girls' Division Head	Breezie Miller
Boys' Head Counselor	Ken Yaffe	Senior Boys' Division Head	Henry Brown
Girls' Head Counselor	Marcie Steinberg	Senior Girls' Division Head	Amanda Thompson
Day Camp Director	Ryan Mullins	Super Senior Boys' Lead Counselor	William Hotch
Bonim Director	Craig Barrows	Super Senior Girls' Division Head	Julia Rubens
Aquatics Director	Adam Elphick	Athletics Supervisor	Jessica Tyler
Office Manager	Heather Golub	Arts Supervisor	Izzy Welton
Executive Chef	Abraham Rey	Outdoor Supervisor	Lewis Daws
Facilities Manager	Ned Linnehan	Pool Supervisor	Leah Teller
		Lake Supervisor	Lauren Jacobs

The NEW Camp Truck

In our fall newsletter we reached out to our Laurelwood community to help find a replacement camp truck. We are so thankful to Erik and Cathy Cooley for generously donating a Chevy Silverado truck to camp.

Erik and Cathy met at Camp in the 70's, sent their kids to Camp, and with this milestone donation, their legacy will continue to benefit the staff and campers for years to come. The Cooleys own several car dealerships, including a truck dealership in the Albany, NY area and were able to find a pick-up truck that works perfectly for our needs.



Again, a big THANK YOU to Erik and Cathy Cooley and their family from all of us at Camp Laurelwood!

Staff Spotlight:

LEAH TELLER AND LAUREN JACOBS

Every year campers attend Laurelwood in anticipation of being able to take part in so many wonderful activities. While there are countless activities at Laurelwood, our Aquatics program is still at the top of the charts. Our pools are filled with campers daily, and our beach is one of the favorite places on campus (which has increased even more with the addition of Inflatables at the lake in 2018).

For two of our staff members, these two areas of camp have been a significant part of their experience at Laurelwood. Leah Teller and Lauren Jacobs have both been at camp for years and we are so excited that they are coming back to camp in new positions in the Aquatics Department. Lauren is going to be the Lake Supervisor and Leah will oversee the two pools. Lauren and Leah will work closely with the Aquatics Director to provide the campers with a safe, friendly environment that focuses on improving the camper's abilities in swimming and at the lake.

We asked Leah and Lauren a few questions to learn more about them and their connection to Laurelwood:

How many years have you been coming to Laurelwood?

Leah: This summer will be my tenth year at Laurelwood!

Lauren: This summer marks my tenth at Laurelwood.

In what capacity?

Leah: I was a camper for six years and a counselor and lifeguard for three years. This summer I am super excited to return to Laurelwood as the Pool Supervisor.

Lauren: I spent six as a camper, one as a counselor, two as a lifeguard and this year I will be the Lake Supervisor.

What is your favorite thing about summers at Laurelwood?

Leah: My favorite thing about Laurelwood is honestly the friendships. There is nowhere else that I can connect to people in such a special way. Even though I live far away from most of my camp friends for the majority of the year, I know that they will always be waiting for me at Laurelwood.

Lauren: Seeing all my friends who I don't see often for most of the year. Laurelwood is a special place, one where I have made connections that I know will last for the rest of my life.



Left: Lauren Jacobs, Right: Leah Teller

From Chuppah Hill

With Ari



The countdown is on!

After all of my years leading summer camps I am still amazed that the springtime has such an effect on me. The leaves are back on the trees. The flowers are in bloom and the sounds of springtime are in full effect. Listening to the trucks coming in and out of camp, the sounds of work being done around campus and the conversations being had in the office add to the excitement and anticipation. This is one of my favorite times of the year!

This has been a busy year for us as we continue to add new programs, new year round events, and new places to promote camp while also continuing to make improvements to our facilities. We love every minute of it! The year-round staff have been working hard all year to provide the best experience to everyone who steps onto campus at our favorite place. We have also spent many hours working with our summer staff on new programs and new ways to connect with the campers and each other and I am very encouraged by the staff who will be at camp this summer. With many returning faces and new staff members, we know that the energy they come with will be electrifying. Many of our staff have been working on camp projects for months now. Our specialists are putting their final touches on their CAPS (click [here](#) to learn more about our CAPS) and can't wait to lead the campers in the instruction. The leadership team has been working on some programming curriculum as well as providing our campers with an environment that fosters positive social and emotional growth. The staff are taking on new ways & concepts to connect with the campers and to ensure that all of our staff members encourage these connections.

I am very excited to reconnect with returning campers and staff while building new relationships with our first year campers and staff.

See you at camp!

continued on page 4

Staff spotlight, continued from page 3

What is your favorite memory of camp growing up?

Leah: One of my favorite memories at camp was the swim meet we had last summer. Often times it is hard to get campers really motivated to do something, but when it was time for "The Fisher Cats" to compete they truly blew me away. They not only swam their fastest, but also showed great team spirit and sportsmanship. It was very rewarding to watch the campers do so well after coaching them all summer.

Lauren: My favorite memory is from my Bonim year, when we went to Costa Rica for three weeks with all my friends. I became so much closer with everyone!

How do you spend your time away from camp?

Leah: When I am not at camp, I am either at home in Milford, CT or at school at Barnard College of Columbia University, where I am studying Mathematical Sciences. I absolutely love school and living in New York City! My favorite things to do there are going shopping in SoHo, finding cool new places to eat, and seeing special exhibits wherever they pop up. City life is definitely great for me, but I am looking forward to reuniting with nature this summer!

Lauren: I go to school at the University of Michigan. This summer I traveled to London to visit Demi, one of our past Camp America staff members. It was amazing and loved getting a chance to catch up with her. I currently have an internship with Congressman John Larson and work at the Mandell JCC as a lifeguard.

What is the number 1 thing you are looking forward to most about summer 2019?

Leah: I am most looking forward to the fresh, new energy every summer brings. Between the new programs, facilities, and people that are added to Laurelwood each summer it just keeps getting better! I am especially looking forward to free swim Friday's too!

Lauren: Seeing everyone who I haven't seen in a while! The first day back is so exciting and I cannot wait to be back at Laurelwood.

CAMP365:

Laurelwood in the community

Laurelwood is proud to be a member of a Jewish community that fosters connections amongst its agencies and organizations. Camp Laurelwood continues to maintain and create connections through running and participating in programs at local JCCs and synagogues, partnering with BBYO and other agencies for events and attending camp fairs.

In February, we co-sponsored Hockey & Havdallah with BBYO for the second year! It was a well-attended event with a ton of hugs and smiles! Campers, parents, family and friends of Laurelwood along with BBYO gathered for a touching Havdallah service prior to watching the Hartford Wolf Pack take the ice! Our campers were dancing, laughing, singing and doing a lot of catching up! Many members of BBYO are also Laurelwood campers, staff and alum - it's always fun seeing them in their BBYO environment.

Laurelwood was proud to take a larger role during New Haven Jewish Federation's 3rd annual Mitzvah Day hosting a volunteer opportunity at camp. Local community members joined Laurelwood campers, parents, alum and staff to beautify our communities. Volunteers painted kindness rocks for the Towers gardens and painted benches and cleared leaves and branches to beautify camp. Donations of cereal and children's books were also collected for Jewish Family Services.



Members of our community clean up camp
Louis Lasko, Jordan Golub, David and Lisa Harding and Al Golub

JCCs in our community provide engagement opportunities throughout the year. We proudly represented Laurelwood at The New Haven JCC's Hanukkah and Purim events as well as the One Happy Camper camp fair. We also attended camp fairs throughout the year in various locations throughout the Northeast including at Mandell JCC in West Hartford. In December, we co-sponsored "Pajamas and Pancakes" with PJ Library at the Stamford JCC.

The highlight of engagement with our community is our time with children at Hebrew schools, synagogues and other programs. We enjoy hearing their ideas, stories and outlook on life. While visiting with several Hebrew schools this year we focused on connections at camp as well as with Israel. Students were given an opportunity to write messages that were carried to and placed in the Western Wall during Louis' visit to Israel. We also spent time on MLK Jr Day talking and connecting with elementary students at the New Haven JCC while also making shrinky dinks.



Louis Lasko at the Western Wall

Laurelwood is grateful to be the home every year for our community's Schlichim (Israeli Emissaries). Every August, a new group of shlichim arrive at Camp Laurelwood to begin their orientation and development before going to their assigned agency throughout CT and MA.

While many of our campers and staff have a saying - 10 for 2! Meaning you live 10 months a year for the two months of camp. Well, we believe everyone should live Laurelwood 365!

Cornerstone Fellows and Senior Fellows

It has been almost a decade now that Laurelwood has taken part in a North America camp staff fellowship program known as Cornerstone. Sponsored by the Foundation of Jewish Camp (FJC), the Cornerstone Fellowship offers returning staff a way to; connect with others (from more than 60 Jewish Camps) who are passionate about Jewish camp, develop skills to make a positive, innovative impact on our community, exchange ideas, attend workshops, trainings and immersive experiences while creating programs and activities for campers at their respective camps. Over the last 16 years, 3,600+ fellows have participated in this transformative leadership experience.



Receiving their plaque at the end of the seminar.

Pictured clockwise left to right: Louis, Aaron, Henry, Seth (Cornerstone Advisor), Amanda, Isabel, Breezie, Diana

Our Cornerstone Fellows attended a 5-day seminar of leadership and Jewish Content learning, in collaboration with participants from 62 other Jewish camps from around North America. At the seminar, 400 staff members from Jewish camps across North America came together for workshops, song sessions, and campfires, learning from seasoned camp staff and from each other. Cornerstone Fellows share “magic” and ideas among their camps, creating a new type of camp community. Through their learning and collaboration they have created a variety of projects to implement and supervise at camp this summer.

NEW THIS SUMMER: In addition to the Cornerstone Fellowship, the FJC has added a second group of individuals - Senior Fellows. The Senior Fellowship program is designed to allow past Cornerstone Fellows opportunities to expand on their learning and development. Each Sr. Fellow applicant must apply and be interviewed with FJC. We are excited to announce our two applicants have been accepted into the Senior Cornerstone Fellowship pilot program for 2019.

We are proud of Laurelwood’s 2019 Cornerstone Fellows!

- * **Diana Wallet:** General Counselor
- * **Isabel Braverman:** Dance Specialist
- * **Aaron Cohen:** Junior Boys Division Head
- * **Henry Brown:** Senior Boys Division Head

2019 Senior Fellows:

- * **Amanda Thompson:** Senior Girls Division Head
- * **Breezie Miller:** Junior Girls Division Head

Some of the fellows have shared a little about each of their experiences:

“My top takeaway was a sense of larger purpose. We as staff members really are changing the lives of our campers, and it’s the same all around the country. We are having a profound impact on the Jewish youth in America.” —Aaron

“The highlight of Cornerstone was getting to know people who are just as passionate about camp as I am.” —Breezie

“My top takeaway was the sense of community that dance can bring. I look forward to teaching new Israeli folk dances at camp this summer because not only are they incredibly fun to do, but they allow us to connect through music and movement!” —Isabel

“My top takeaway from Cornerstone is that Judaism comes in all forms and there is no one “right” way to be Jewish. I hope to bring that back to camp to encourage others to start exploring what Judaism looks like to them.” —Amanda

2019 Annual Campaign



In March we kicked off our 2019 “Be the Connection” campaign.

The goal was to create a massive, inter-generational web of connection, supporting future generations who will themselves become part of Camp’s history. Summer camp is all about connections: connecting with new and old friends, connecting with nature, connecting with Judaism. We wanted this campaign to celebrate those connections and bring people together to support our camp.

We had three amazing teams reaching out to alumni, parents and Camp Laurelwood supporters asking them to make a connection. We are so grateful to our team captains: Jay Cohen (chair of the Philanthropy Committee), Lisa Harding (former board president) & Dana Horowitz (current board member) for stepping up and leading our super volunteers during the campaign. Thanks to their hard work and the generous contributions of so many we were able to exceed our goal of \$45,000 and raise just over \$50,000!

Dana Horowitz said it best when asked what motivated her to volunteer to captain a team: “I want to make sure camp thrives and is a place where my children’s children can grow during the summer and make connections just like I did.”

Thank you to all of our dedicated and hardworking team members for taking the time to reach out to so many thoughtful and generous supporters. Camp Laurelwood has depended on the support of the community for 82 years. We can’t do it without you and we are so grateful for you!

If you would still like to donate to Laurelwood, please visit <https://www.camplaurelwood.org/connections>



CAMP LAURELWOOD'S NEW ONLINE CAMP STORE

T-shirts, blankets, leggings, oh my! We have a new online camp store! You want it, we got it - it is full of new products and designs to keep CL spirit strong! We have partnered with Bunkline Outfitter, a top provider of summer camp products to offer a fully new line of gear with OVER 60 ITEMS TO CHOOSE FROM! Plus our friends at Bunkline have many additional items to buy, everything you'll need for a wonderful summer camp experience including duffle bags, laundry bags, water bottles, and many more items. Camp Laurelwood receives a small portion of EVERY purchase which is given to our campership assistance program.

We love Camp Laurelwood and we are proud to represent, especially with the cool new products. Work with family and friends to create an order over \$300 and it ships for free!

Click here to be connected to the online store: <https://www.camplaurelwood.org/current-families/visit-the-camp-store/>



Need clothing labels for your camper? Owners can easily be found when their items are labeled! We have partnered with Best Name Tape to offer customizable labels. They offer a variety of options to meet your labeling needs. To order your labels now: <http://www.bestnametape.com/CAMP-LAURELWOOD-s/1097.htm>

Specialty Camps



Specialty camps offer campers an additional opportunity to explore new things or expand their skill set within a given specialty. Last summer proved they are popular as more than 60 campers took part in at least one specialty camp. This summer,

we are expanding our offerings to include Robotics and Acro Gymnastics while continuing a Circus and Basketball camp.

Robotics specialty camp will involve hands on, team oriented tasks that will lead campers through the steps of building a robot. No experience is necessary for campers to enjoy the excitement of hands-on STEM learning and experience how creating something with technology can help shape a better future. Robotics camp is available to Senior and Super Seniors. Campers not involved in our specialty camp will have opportunities in their regular schedules to dabble in robotics.

Campers will spring into fun during our Acrobatic Gymnastics week. Laurelwood is teaming up with The Spot, a local acrobatics and dance Company and its owner Danielle Scarpellino for this camp. With a focus on flexibility, strength, balancing, limbering, tumbling, partnering, and contortion, this program builds confidence and is open to everyone, regardless of experience!

Basketball camp is reorganizing to better serve its participants. We are offering a morning session for 5th -9th grade campers and an afternoon session for K-4th grade campers. Dividing into two grade based groups allows campers to expand their development even further. Each session will be focusing on shooting, passing, dribbling, rebounding and defense.



The Big Top is returning to Laurelwood. Last year's circus performers were outstanding and every bit of effort and work they put in shined during their acts. This summer, circus camp will be run by Wunderle's Big Top Adventures. Campers will learn multiple acts: aerial acts including trapeze, fabric, and lyra; balancing acts including juggling, plate spinning, devil sticks, diabolos, feather balancing, hula hoops, jump ropes, lassos/hand stilts, unicycles, pedalos, rola bolas; and clowning and comedy transitions.

Register for a specialty camp now through your camper's Camp-In-Touch account. **Want more information?** Please email heather@camplaurelwood.org or call the office at 203-421-3736 and she is happy to help.

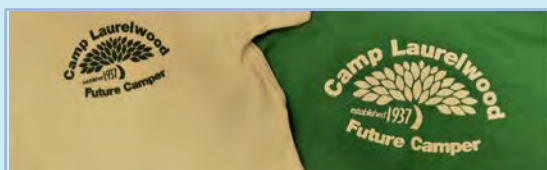
STAY IN TOUCH

Register as a proud
Laurelwood alum!



Did you know that you can easily stay in touch with your Laurelwood Family by registering as an alumnus on-line?

All you have to do is click on <https://www.camplaurelwood.org/alumni-1/> to sign up today! (You can also e-mail info@camplaurelwood.org and we will gladly assist you). The whole process takes three minutes and will ensure that you have exclusive access to Laurelwood pictures, videos and news. Let's stay in touch!



C.I.T.S (Campers-in-Training)

We are always so excited to learn when our alumni, friends and family welcome a new baby. **Know a CL alumnus who recently had a baby? Please let us know so we can send them a Future Camper onesie. Contact info@camplaurelwood.org**

CL Alumni	Years at Camp	Future Camper
Rosie Riordan	2013-2016	Phoebe Hazel Ocsko February 12, 2019
Sam Kantrow	1996-2010	Benjamin Martin Kantrow April 22, 2019

Did we miss you?



Just let us know (info@camplaurelwood.org) and we will make sure to include you/your family in the next newsletter.

LET'S Celebrate! Your Milestones

When someone at camp celebrates a big day, we all stand on our benches and cheer!

Because we want to share in your joys all year long, please send us your milestones by emailing info@camplaurelwood.org. We want to hear about your B'nai Mitzvot, weddings, births, moves, jobs, college acceptances, graduations, and other life events.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

- ★ Incredible things are happening for some Laurelwood campers in BBYO.
Hilary Rappaport was elected as Manhattan Region's 3rd N'siah - President of B'nai B'rith Girls. Sadie Karp was elected as Manhattan Region's 2nd Aym Cha Chaverot - Vice President of Membership. Mazel Tov!
- ★ Congratulations to all of our graduates this year, be it HighSchool, College, Law School, etc. We are proud of all you and can't wait to hear what comes next!

A huge MAZEL TOV to our campers who recently had their bar & bat mitzvahs!



Grey and Gunnar Small
December 24, 2018
It was a very special and meaningful ceremony with their family at a Kotel in Jerusalem



Arielle Levine
April 6, 2019



Jacqui Weinberg
June 1, 2019



Janessa White
June 1, 2019



Marli Oshins
May 11, 2019



Emily Koplin
June 8, 2019



Brooke Serlin
June 15, 2019



Important
dates!

JUNE 21

Luggage Pick Up in Stamford, Bridgeport, New Haven, West Hartford

JUNE 23

First Day of Camp

JULY 21

Visiting Day

JULY 21

Session 2, Mini-Session 2 Begins

AUGUST 11

Trunk Pickup! Last Day of Camp

AUGUST 11

2020 Summer Registration Opens
(Stay Tuned for further details)

AUGUST 18

Laurelwood's Summer Social; featuring Norman Feitelson's
95th Birthday Celebration -2:00-6:00 pm



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