

LAURELWOOD LEGEND



Fall/Winter 2018 Issue | The official newsletter of Camp Laurelwood

From Chuppah Hill with Ari

Hello to our Laurelwood community,

Happy New Year! We hope everyone is as excited for 2019 as we are. During this past fall, everytime I looked out my window I watched the leaves change colors and fall to the ground, it reminded me of how much I miss the summer. At night, when I leave the office, I look toward main campus and for a split instant I can hear the sounds of camp. I hear the music and splashing at the pool, basketballs bouncing in the Chuppah and laughter from every direction. Now the time has come to get ready to create new sounds, new memories and enjoy even more fun at camp.



Before we fully move onto 2019, let's reflect back on the 81st summer that has just passed. Who remembers their first jump into the lake off the inflatables, the first time walking across the amazing new docks, and singing a favorite Alma Mater song at our Saturday Night Havdallah service? What about the epic 4th of July carnival and fireworks show and Bryony's unforgettable camp Bat Mitzvah? From the energy of Opening Day, to the sportsmanship displayed during the Big O and Maccabiah and to the way staff encouraged our circus campers to overcome their nerves and fears to be able to deliver such a wonderful performance, it was an amazing journey of traditions and firsts. One of my coolest memories happened during the Staff Talent Show, when Aaron Purver and Aaron Cohen were dressed from head to toe in USA flag onesies as they were catching each other in their arms.

While we work hard throughout the year to keep Laurelwood a wonderful place to spend our summers I want to take this opportunity share some great news that will impact the future of Laurelwood.



- ★ One of our favorite places on campus is the Chuppah. Over the past several years, we have seen the roof (which was originally built in the 70's) start to deteriorate and leak. I am pleased to announce that thanks to a generous donation from the Pite family, we are replacing the roof this off season. This will provide us with the cover we need on those rainy days (though it never rains at Laurelwood).
- ★ We are also excited to add new programs: woodworking and robotics! In woodshop, campers will learn how to read plans, design patterns, measure and cut the needed supplies, and construct projects to both take home and to be used around camp. This past summer we were fortunate enough to have a wonderful friend of camp help upgrade our Digital Media Center to allow us to expand/introduce our photo editing and video production to camp. For 2019 we are continuing to expand offerings in this area by introducing robotics. Campers will learn the basics of robot construction and programming. Working with gears, sensors, and motors, they teach their robots to accomplish a series of smaller challenges. We are excited to continue to bring new and exciting activities to further the development of the campers.

Many of you have heard that we have expanded our year-round team. We are excited to have Jennifer Gelband join us as our Director of Community Outreach and Engagement and Taylor McLeod as our Development Director. Both come with a tremendous amount of knowledge, excitement, and a love for Laurelwood! You can learn more about both on our website.

With our team in place, our facilities and program continuing to grow & improve and dedicated community members helping us to reach our goals, I am so excited about where our future goes from here.



Alumni Spotlight: JENNIFER TRAPNELL

Jennifer Trapnell, originally from CT but now living in Southern California, came to camp in 1980-81 and '84; her brother, Josh Drazen, was a camper 1982-84; both of her parents, Lynne Lazaroff Drazen and Barrie Drazen, also went to Laurelwood during the summers of 1960-62; her uncles and her mom's cousins all attended camp in the '60s, too. Now, both of Jennifer's daughters, Eve and Ali, go to camp! This will be their 5th summer!

We spent a few minutes catching up with Jennifer, talking about her family's connection to Laurelwood.

Why did you decide to send your kids to camp in CT while living in CA?

I decided to send my kids to Laurelwood because I wanted them to experience my camp, as well as summers in Connecticut! It is a visceral part of me that I feel is important to share with them.

Can you recommend any tips for other families who live far away from Camp?

We are lucky that my mom, dad and brother live so close to camp. I feel more comfortable with my family nearby while my husband, Mark, and I are back in California. The photos of the campers Laurelwood posts during the summer reassure us that our kids are having a great time, and the camp in-touch emails allow for quick and easy communication in between snail mail deliveries.

What are your favorite memories of Laurelwood?

My favorite memories of Laurelwood are painting the plaques for Big O, bug juice, throwing up on my best friend from home (Nina Myerson), mail and packages at rest hour, canteen, canoeing, archery, arts & crafts, "Hieme Kadiddlehopper" stories, socials, singing "Teenager in Love," "Leaving on a Jet Plane," and Shabbat songs, meeting a boy who turned out to be my neighbor at home and my first boyfriend a few years later, and being bunk mates with Rebecca Stein, who turned out to be my freshman college roommate by chance and one of my best friends.

Why is it important to stay connected?

I feel it is important to stay connected because of the wonderful relationships I made through camp and to ensure that camp traditions continue through time.

We know your family has been involved in Laurelwood for many years (as campers, staff, parents of campers and donors). So what is it about Laurelwood that keeps your family engaged?

Yes, Laurelwood has been a part of my family for years! It is a special place, a place that I hope continues to create memories for generations to come! My girls love camp! My daughter Eve calls camp her second home! I love that my girls came home from camp singing Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'."

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Laurelwood Retreats: So much more than a summer camp!

In November, we closed out a successful 2018 retreat season and we could not be more pleased with the direction of this endeavor. Camp Laurelwood has made significant strides in the operations of our Retreat Center business, and we are thrilled to be able to provide the outstanding Laurelwood experience to more people outside of our summer camp program.

Over the past two seasons, Laurelwood has been the site to weddings, b'nai mitzvahs, anniversaries, high school and college retreats/gatherings, as well as the host site for specialized camps. This year we welcomed 12 happy couples, with their family and friends, and watched as they said "I do" on our campus. While we can not stress enough how wonderful it is to be part of their special moment, we are thrilled to get the chance to provide them with little taste of what Laurelwood is all about. With the addition of our Executive Chef, Jarrod Levy, we have been able to provide fabulous high-quality kosher meals that are a focal point of the celebrations.

Another highlight from this past retreat year was hosting a current Camp Laurelwood camper's Bat Mitzvah in the Zach's Rec Hall. It was awesome to see so many of our campers enjoy their second home from this perspective, before the summer began. Finally, after a few years on hiatus, we were pleased to welcome back Birch Camp, which hosts kids with families impacted by HIV or AIDS. We continue to open camp up to families and friends who wish to make Camp Laurelwood a part of their lives, for many different occasions.

If you or someone you know is interested in having an event at Laurelwood, contact Craig (craig@camplaurelwood.org or 203-710-1129) ASAP. Space is limited and opportunities fill up quickly.



Photo: Ashley McCann and Joe McKenna



Photo: The Mess Hall

Alumni spotlight, continued from page 2

What does Laurelwood mean to you specifically?

To me, Laurelwood means everlasting friendships and memories, a place to grow and experience new things. A beautiful place in the woods of Connecticut (even with the mosquitoes and humidity)! A place where being Jewish is fun (unlike my experience at Sunday/Hebrew school)!



Photo: Jennifer Trapnell and her family, Eve, Mark and Ali, at Eve's Bat Mitzvah in September



Photo: Jennifer Trapnell's bunk picture from 1981. Jennifer is in the middle, holding the banner. The bunk picture also includes her friends Rebecca Stein, standing upper left, and Nina Myerson, front row second from right.

Donor Spotlight: Why I give?

Laurelwood has amazing alumni and friends who have helped us throughout the years. This past year was no different and in fact we had several major donations that have made and will continue to make significant improvements to our campsite.

We are so thankful to our wonderful donors and wanted to give them a chance to share why they choose to make Laurelwood a priority in their philanthropic endeavors. **Steven Pite, Stu Katz, John Levy & Scott Hurwitz** tell us a bit about their connection to camp and why they give.

Stu Katz

"As a camper at Laurelwood in the early 1970s, though I was one of those campers that would have played softball or basketball all day if they let us, I also became interested in photography. In a tiny wooden closet tucked into part of the Nature & Pioneering building, I learned how to take pictures, develop film, and print finished photographs under the tutelage of Photo Specialist Peter Hvizdak. It didn't take long before I was wearing a camera around my neck every waking moment and becoming more fascinated by the possibilities of capturing and sharing images.



Photo: Stu Katz and campers

Right after the 2017 Camp Laurelwood season ended, I reached out to Ari to say that I wanted to design and fund the creation of a Digital Media Center, where campers would be able to learn digital photography and video production and potentially spark the same type of passion for creativity that I experienced over 45 years ago.

After we got the facility up and running this summer, I wanted to see first-hand how it was working out, so I spent two days as the guest photography specialist, working with campers of all ages on their photo and video projects. It was great to see that the activity was very popular and there were some very talented campers who were able to fully take advantage of the resources we have. I'm optimistic that some of the campers I worked with during the summer will catch the "photography bug" and continue to enhance their skills next summer." -Stu Katz

John Levy & Scott Hurwitz

John Levy and Scott Hurwitz both attended Camp Laurelwood for several years and both believe their experiences influenced their decisions to become active members of the Jewish Community. John was Chairman of the Board of the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven and Chairman of the Board of the Jewish Home - New Haven. Scott is currently the President of the JCC of Greater New Haven. Both believe that their experiences at Laurelwood not only provided great memories

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Donor spotlight, continued from page 3

but also helped them feel part of the Jewish Community. Here are a few words from John and Scott about their commitment to Camp Laurelwood:

"The values, ethics, compassion and empathy that both Scott and I continually display are very much of our childhood experiences. Family, friends and our early, and still maintained, Jewish camping relationships define who we are today. 'We care' and that quality is exemplified every day for Scott and me.

We believe that Initiatives with Jewish children 'NOW' indeed affect the future of our Jewish community. Giving children the appropriate tools of empathy, caring, compassion and Jewish values are the product of the Camp Laurelwood experience."

John and Scott were proud to be a part of the rededication of bunk G1. "Hopefully others will join us and rededicate a bunk. We are lucky that Laurelwood continues to provide great camping experiences and helps our children learn Jewish values."



Photo: Scott Hurwitz, John Levy, Lynne Franford, Judy Alperin, and Ari Golub

Steven Pite

Steven Pite spent his first summer at Camp Laurelwood in 1974 at the age of 9. Camp was a family affair for the Pites. His father attended camp when it was still tents and all of his cousins spent their summers at Laurelwood as well.

"As a camper and then as a waiter, dishwasher and cook I loved the sense of community at Camp Laurelwood. The camaraderie, the games, the new and returning friends, and the cherished memories have meant so much to me over the years. Since attending camp my family and I have remained very involved and active supporters. The "Pite Family Club" even dedicated a bunk in honor of our great grandparents years ago."

This year he and his wife Lisa decided to make an even larger donation to camp than usual and thanks to their generosity we will be able to replace the Chuppah roof. After almost 40 years of creating memories for thousands of campers and staff the roof has started leaking in several areas making it challenging at times to use as program space.

When asked about why he continues to support camp Steven said, "As you get older you reflect on what is important and what was a positive force in your life. As a child, Camp Laurelwood was that positive force."

Because Laurelwood has remained in Steven and Lisa's hearts for so many years, the heart of Laurelwood will get a much needed update!



Photo: Steven Pite with his parents Mickey and Nancy Pite

Your Donations at Work

Thanks to the outpouring of support we received from donors like you, we have been able to make significant improvements to camp!

The softball field received a complete facelift, including a resurfaced infield with brand new clay, an outfield fence and foul poles. Camp Laurelwood developed a new softball program with lots of enthusiasm from everyone! Over the summer, camp held games between the campers as well as between staff members.

Our older boys were quite pleased to see the new and improved Boys Plex! With a major renovation including a fresh look and brand new bathrooms, the 8th and 9th grade boys were definitely the envy of camp! With continued support from our Laurelwood family, we are hoping to continue the renovations throughout Camp.

Another very exciting addition was our slingshot range. It was a big hit and a smashing success (pun intended)! It brought back a lot of fun memories for our older staffers, and our campers had a ton of fun taking aim at a variety of targets!

Of all the improvements made around camp, the most popular by far were the updates at the lake. The new docks and the addition of several inflatables had campers and staff running to jump into the fun! It was definitely the crowning jewel of camp, and everyone wanted to spend as much time in the water as possible. Seeing everyone have so much fun jumping, swimming, racing, and splashing truly made it a very special summer!



Todah Rabah!

**A very special "Todah Rabah" to all of our most recent
Camp Laurelwood donors! You are truly CAMP CHAMPS!**

We are honored to recognize the families, individuals and groups who have chosen to make a thoughtful and generous contribution to Camp Laurelwood over the past year. Please let us know if your name was inadvertently left out.

Josef and Cecle Adler	Kim Formica	Sam Kantrow	Adrienne and Jon Palley
Ian and Rachel Alderman	Rachel Fortune	Stuart Katz	Karly and Seth Pasakarnis
Jon Alfini	David Frey	Gail Kerwin	Laura Patchkofsky
Fred Allen	Greg and Tanya Frey	Elliott and Sandra Kerzner	Jeremy and Ann Pava
Sameer Amatyia	Michelle Friedman	Silvina Skverer and Jonas Knoll	Steve and Lisa Pite
Catherine Anderson	Jennifer Frimere	Amy Konowitz	Jody Podell Damsky
Atlantic Restoration and Remodeling LLC	Future Global Enterprises, LLC	Justin Koplin	Alan and Francine Ponchick
John Baick	Amy Gallent	Stefanie and Howard Kreiger	Rachel Portal
Craig Barrows	Rachel and Aaron Gary	Jerome Krevit	Maddy Portoff
George Bartko	Laura Gebhardt	Mark Krohse	Qwik Wash Laundromat
Stan Bennett	Kevin Gelardi	Jason Kronstat	Gregory Radin
Marci Berger	Andrea Geller	Jack Kuhr	Charles Raynolds
Eldon and Judith Bernstein	Jay Gershman	Allyson Lalumiere	Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc
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Jessica Black	Christine Ginsberg	Mara Lasko	David Rievman
Lynn Blueweiss	Richard and Miriam Goldberg	Phillip Lasko	Daniel Romanow
Sarah Bochet	Evan Goldfine	Sharon Lasko	Charles Rosenay
Jill Boussy	Emily Goldschmid	Lisa Lebowitz	Samuel Roskin Trust
David Boyarsky	Joseph Goldschmid	Leibo Brothers Management	Rachel Rosten
Kim Braun	Leslie and Michael Goldschmid	Fiona Leonard	Alan Roth
Phyllis Brodoff	Mary Goldschmid	Chloe Lerman	Mark Rothbart
Richard Brogadir	Paul Goldschmid	Robert Lerman	Nicole and Doug Rubens
Betsy Brown	Brianne and Sandy Goldstein	Susan Lerman	Jeffrey, Menchu and David Rubin
Ross Brownstein	Heather and Ari Golub	Jan and Mark Lerman Erlanger-Davis	Deborah Rubin Lerman
Gary Bykoff	Ruben Gonzalez	Arthur and Gloria Levin	Lisa Sadinsky
Thomas Caldara	Robert Goodman	Jeff Levin	Melissa Samuels
Capital Group Charitable Foundation	Stacey Goodwin Podell	Jenny Levin	Marge Sandler
Hyla Chasnoff	Adam Gorelick	Judi and Mike Levin	Laura Schaffer
Bertie Chuong	Michele and Dan Gottfried	Marc, David, Alex and Lily Levin	Estelle Schmones
Tasha Clark	Gottfried Law, PLLC	Rebecca, Josh, Leah and Isabelle Levin	Melanie Schuman Rattigan
Jacalyn Cohen	Adam Gottlieb	Michele Levine	Michael Scoppa
Jason and Rachel Cohen	Green and Sklarz LLC	Eli and Carolyn Levy	Michelle Serlin
Congregation Olam Tikvah	Gary Greenberg	John Levy	Sidney and Elinor Shanbrom
Emily Cooper	Harold Grinspoon Found.	Carol A LeWitt	Justin Shepard
Scott and Joanna Cooper	Aaron and Erica Gross	Robert Liberman	Bethany and Garet Shiner
Cooper New England Sales, Inc	Linda and Phil Gross	Leslie Phillips and Mike Liebowitz	Shelley Silverman
Jane Coppa	Brian and Staci Grossbard	Ryan Loss	Jeffrey and Karen Sklarz
Neile and Arthur Davis	Guilford Publications	Sarah Lubeley	Emily Sonnenblick
Andrew DeLoach	Judith Hahn	Bonnie and Roy Lukacs	Tom Speight
Elizabeth DeRosa Linsley	Amy, Jim and Ben Hampe	Susan Lustig	Jake Steinberg
David Doran	Lee and Phil Harper	Peter Magid	Gregory and Marcie Steinberg
Leah Doran	Kenneth and Reyna Harrison	Jonathan Malkin	Isabel Strisand
Ben Dragunoff	Eric Hendlin	Jason and Diane Malkin	Jennifer Szondy
Barrie Drazen	Jonathan Horowitz	Laurie Marcus	Pamela and David Teitelman
Dream Makerz	Dana Horowitz and Peter Wolly	Amy Margolis	William Thomas
Debra Drossner	Stephen and Molli Hourihan	David Margolis	Jonathan and Laurie Tow Carin
Elvira Drourr	Dorothy Hoyt-Rehm	James Mastroianni	Tripodina
Daniel Dver	Robert and Barbara Hurwit	Tom and Marge McKnight	Bonnie Unger
Michael and Laurie Elston	Isaac Hurwitz	Peggy and Alan Mendelson Fund	Jeremy Vishno
Andrew Erlanger	Hurwitz Family Fund	Charlie Mendlestein	Pam and Mark Warner
Josh Erlanger	Melissa Hussey	Sheila Mendlestein	Ed Weinberg
Les and Arlene Faiman	Howard Ignal	Deborah and Erwin Meslin	Dr. Robert Weinstein
Thomas Farrell	Barbara and Robert Jacobs	Beth Milles	Leslie White
Lisa Faulkner	Randy Jacobs	Sandra Milles	Brett and Sara Wiener Winnick Family
Gregg and Lynn Feldman	Jaczynski and Parker Charitable Fund	Chante Moreno	Yankee Courier Services LLC
Harvey and Susan Feinberg	Jeremy and Ann Pava Family Fund	Jared M. Needelman	Zachs Family Foundation Leisa
Victoria Feltman	Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven	Katharine O'Flaherty	Zadrick
Susan Ferraro	Joseph and Rae Gann	Kevin Oliver	Jeffrey Ziplow
Claudia Fine	Charitable Foundation	James Orenstein	Robert and Iris Zuk
Susan Fink	Harvey and Helene Kaminski	Esther Ozeck	
David Fleischman	Philip Kaminski	P'ZAZZ	

CAMP STAFF GIVE BACK

Every summer Laurelwood hires amazing staff to provide life-changing experiences for so many campers. Campers come from all over the country. Since the beginning of its existence, Laurelwood has provided financial assistance to families in need through the generous support of our donors. However, we feel part of our staff development includes learning about philanthropy and we try to provide opportunities for both our campers and staff to learn the importance of giving.

Over the past two summers, counselors have been asked to participate in the annual staff auction. During staff week, those participating provide a service to auction off during the summer. This year, their donations included: a trip to the local ice cream shop; stacking a coworkers table; providing morning tea for a week; doing a photo shoot for a group of friends and, yes, even shaving Louis's head. During the live auction, each of these items, and many more, are auctioned off to other staff members. This fun tradition for our staff, which allows them to participate in the philanthropy of camp, has raised over \$1,500 since 2017.

A HUGE thank you goes out to all the staff who make this such a wonderful event!



Photo: Jay, camp photographer, collecting on his auction win of shaving Louis's head!



From Israel to Laurelwood: How Camp Laurelwood creates a connection to Israel



Each summer, The Jewish Agency sends Israelis to Jewish summer camps to bring an Israeli experience and provide a human connection to the Jewish State. Camp Shlichim participate in and are integrated into all aspects of programming in their assigned camp settings. In 2017, after a hiatus of several years, Laurelwood and the Jewish Agency reunited to bring Israeli staff back to camp. In 2018, Laurelwood had eight Israelis at camp who put together a fantastic Israel Day and helped to bring Israel closer to camp and campers in a really personal and meaningful way.

Among our Israeli staff, we had a song leader from Israel, a martial arts expert and a counselor. Having Israelis at camp has two purposes: authentic Israeli programming and a personal connection to Israel. Each of these was accomplished at camp over the past two summers, and we are excited to expand our Israeli staff delegation for the 2019 season.

This past summer we welcomed Jewish National Fund and Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael Summer Camp Caravan. During their time at camp they brought an interactive program, **Positively Israel**, which focused on water, ecological conservation,

Israel's history and more. JNF-USA's incredible work in Israel was brought to life via **Personalitrees**, a fun program giving native trees in Israel distinct personality types, a treasure hunt illustrating the value of water, and one of the most exciting history lessons you've seen with a giant carpet-sized Megilat Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Declaration of Independence. Our campers had a wonderful experience and learned so much about Israel! After the summer JNF informed us that they were planting a tree for each 2018 Camp Laurelwood camper! *Planting a tree in Israel is a time-honored way to honor the memory of a loved one. Trees are a meaningful way to show you care, memorialize your loved one, and green the land of Israel. In fact, we've been planting trees in Israel for over a century. It connects us to the land, it celebrates our joys and it literally plants a stake of hope and optimism in the future of Israel. -JNF*



JCAMP 180 Annual Conference

At Camp Laurelwood our staff and board are always looking for ways to learn even more about cultivating a culture of inclusivity, philanthropy and personal growth where campers can explore and enhance their Jewish identity and values. To help us achieve these goals, we are always excited to have the opportunity to attend the annual JCAMP 180 conference each November in Springfield, MA.

JCamp 180 significantly enhances the long-term effectiveness of nonprofit overnight camps and other organizations that engage young people in meaningful Jewish cultural and educational experiences.

They provide incentives and consulting services that foster Jewish philanthropy and create a culture of abundance within these groups by:

- Developing and implementing visionary strategic plans.
- Creating and sustaining vibrant leadership.
- Focusing and strengthening fundraising activities.
- Utilizing the power of technology to support their mission.

Here are a few highlights from those of us who were able to attend the annual conference:

Board member and chair of the Philanthropy Committee, Jay Cohen said, "The conference was such a valuable opportunity to not only learn from experts in their fields, but also meet and learn from our camp colleagues from across the country. This year's focus on philanthropy as an integral part of camp's overall culture was inspiring and motivational."

Our Camp Director Ari really enjoyed reconnecting with friends and colleagues as well as his session on Capital Campaigns. He also attended a session that focused on the importance of breaking down retention in ways that can identify certain trends as well as how to continue to boost camper recruitment.

Like Ari, Assistant Camp Director Louis really enjoyed connecting with new colleagues and reconnecting with others. He also gained a lot of insight while attending a training session on camper and counselor safety.

Our new Director of Community Engagement and Outreach, Jennifer Gelband gained a lot of pertinent information at a breakout session focussed on new social media tools. She was also excited to connect with the folks from the PJ Library, specifically the Digital Content Lead Alli Thresher.

Our other new staffer, Development Director Taylor McLeod enjoyed meeting development professionals from all over the country. She attended multiple sessions on Legacy programs, donor stewardship and much more and is looking forward to implementing these tools in Camp Laurelwood's philanthropy program. "It was amazing to learn so much about philanthropic endeavors other camps are doing. I gained a vast amount of knowledge that I am excited to bring back to our camp."

Staff Spotlight: HEATHER GOLUB

How many years have you worked at Laurelwood? I am completing my third year as a full-time staff member. 2019 will be my 5th summer overall.

In what capacity? In 2004, Ari and I thought, "Why not move from Virginia to Connecticut for the summer?" We had been married less than a year, had the ability to take the summer off from our current jobs and we never shy away from an adventure! I was Girls' Head Counselor and although challenging at times, it was an amazing experience and increased my love for working with children. We never could have imagined we'd be moving back on campus 12 years later...with two campers of our own!

In March of 2016, I started assisting with camp prep in the office and then transitioned to the photographer role for summer of '16. I transitioned into the Registrar and Office Manager role in the fall of 2016. I love that my position enables me to connect with the entire family. On Opening Day, I look forward to seeing the parents just as much as the campers!

What is your favorite thing about summers at Laurelwood? Havdalah! I get emotional just thinking about it. I can't get through the songs and prayers without shedding a few tears. The entire camp stops, joins together as one, and for a brief moment I forget that anything outside of our camp bubble exists. We wrap our arms around each other, hold hands and sway together as SSGL leads us in prayer. We're thankful for the week that has just passed and grateful to start another. We sing "Imagine" and are hopeful for a better future. We sing a camp Alma Mater and feel even more connected to our camp family. It's a beautiful experience for me!

Why is camp so special? It is a place where differences and creativity are celebrated and embraced. I love that every camper and staff member brings their uniqueness to camp and we adapt to each other. We try to enjoy each moment to its fullest, be more patient and laugh a little more...even at ourselves sometimes.

How do spend your time away from camp? I LOVE TV...probably a little too much as I am always a few episodes behind on every show! During many summer nights, while my children are tucked in bed in their bunks, I binge watch. I enjoy being outside and as a family we love hiking, taking trips to parks, beaches and playgrounds. Although I don't make near enough time for these, I enjoy reading and practicing yoga too! Currently, I am listening to the Harry Potter audio book series with the family. During the school year, I am a proud parent chauffeur for swim practice and meets, Girl Scouts, Taekwondo, Cub Scouts and numerous school activities. Never a dull (or free moment) with young children!

What is something that many people may not know of the work that goes into the off-season? It takes 10 months to plan for 2. Seriously!



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 <http://www.camplaulwood.org/alumni/> to sign up today! (You can also e-mail info@camplaulwood.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@camplaulwood.org



Photo: Oliver Harding -son of Brian Harding born in 2018

CL Alumni	Years at Camp	Future Camper
Ali (Ashford) Herman	1997, 2005-2009, 2013-16	Henry Leo Herman September 6, 2018
Joel Androphy, grandfather	1975-1978 (As a staff member)	Landon Campbell September 6, 2018
Jonathan & Bailey (Martin) Orell	Jonathan 2001, 2005, 2006 Bailey 1991-1995	Jolie Rose Orell April 18, 2018

Did we miss you?



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

The Camp truck:

----- END OF AN ERA

Many of our campers and alumni know about "Big Blue" (the old blue truck) which has become quite a fixture around camp. Big Blue has been used in so many ways through the years. Unfortunately, camp is as far as Big Blue can go these days. After decades of faithful service, the truck is no longer road worthy, but it does still help a little around campus moving luggage.

Many of our staff learned how to drive stick shift and some have even taken their wedding photos with Big Blue. Beyond that, the truck can really only provide nominal support to the maintenance and facilities team.

Unfortunately, Big Blue isn't the only truck that has seen it's best days at Camp Laurelwood. Our other camp vehicle, a 2002 GMC pickup truck, saw it's last summer in 2018. While the truck has been instrumental in so much of what we do at camp, the loss of this truck has been a major setback.

We are grateful for all of the years of service from both trucks and the many memories Big Blue has brought us however, the time has come for a change. So we are reaching out to you, our camp family, to see if anyone can help us find a replacement pickup truck that will bring all new memories for our future staff and campers and make the maintenance and facilities team's jobs a little easier. **If you or anyone you know might be able to help us procure a new or used truck, please contact us at 203-421-3736 or louis@camplaulwood.org.**

If you would like to make a contribution to help us purchase a new camp truck you, please visit: <http://bit.ly/bigbluecl>



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 jennifer@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!



Jordan Besnoff and Sara Virgil got married September 23, 2017 and are expecting a baby boy.



Bonnie Unger married Aaron Kominos Smith July 14, 2018 - Bonnie was at camp from 1997-2006.



Sam Kantrow and Melissa got married - Wedding was on August 5, 2018. Sam was at camp 1995-2010, Board Member since 2016. Sam and Melissa have a camper currently enrolled in camp - Cameron. They are expecting a future CL camper in April.



Tess (2009 to 2016) and **Amir Norman** (1996-1999, 2004, 2010-2012, 2014) - married November 11, 2018 - Tess and Amir met and also got engaged at camp.



Hadley Levine became engaged to Phillip Drujak in August.

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

Anna Barlis, March 3, 2018

Sophia Barker May 26, 2018

Garrett Sparks June 2, 2018

Alex Malkin, October 16, 2018

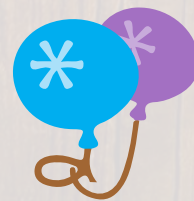
Maddie Feldman, October 27, 2018

Dara Weinstein, November 3, 2018

Caleb Milles, November 10, 2018

Jeremy Marcus, November 24, 2018

Margot Rosenband, December 1, 2018





Important
dates!

FEBRUARY 2, 2019Hockey and Havdalah, Tickets \$15 thru 1/28 at <http://bit.ly/clhockey>**FEBRUARY 11, 2019**

PJ Library Event, JCC of Greater New Haven, Woodbridge, CT

FEBRUARY 18, 2019

Laurelwood at JCC of Greater New Haven Afterschool

Please come see us and tell your friends!

Check out the most current list of fairs we will be attending on our website, as this list continues to change and expand. Some include:



SUMMER

CAMP

FAIRS

- ▶ **JANUARY 27, 2019 – 15th Annual New York Family Camp Fair Series**, Congregation Rodeph Sholom, Upper West Side, NYC
- ▶ **FEBRUARY 10, 2019, 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM – The New England Camp Fair**, Bigelow Middle School, Newton, MA
- ▶ **FEBRUARY 10, 2019, 1:00-3:00 PM – One Happy Camper Camp Fair**, JCC of Greater New Haven, Woodbridge, CT
- ▶ **FEBRUARY 10, 2019, 1:00-3:00 PM – Mandell JCC**, West Hartford, CT

STOP BY AT ONE OF THESE FAIRS and SUPPORT LAURELWOOD!

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