

## Message from the CEO

There is no question in my mind that *Changing Lives: The Campaign for Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA* was a monumental achievement for Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA. The most successful campaign in the camps' history did more than reach its goal of \$12.35 Million; it brought together our community to ensure that we are serving children and honoring the camper experience for years to come.

Our success would not have been possible without the exceptional campaign leadership from *Changing Lives* Co-Chairs Amy Hurwitz Gutschenritter and Jim Goldman. Over four years, Amy and Jim, former campers, staff members and parents visited friends of camp to talk about their financial support to the campaign. Monthly conference calls, hosting events, presenting board updates and traveling on trains, planes and automobiles to cultivate hundreds of potential donors are just a few examples of the effort these two took on.

Raising \$12.35 Million isn't easy. A campaign is a roller coaster ride of thrills, worry, and a smidge of nausea fretting over whether or not we'll make it. However, Jim and Amy's determination never faltered because their love and passion for the camps never falters. On behalf of Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA, I want to say thank you to Amy and Jim.

(cont'd on pg 2)

A  
QUARTERLY  
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## Part Two of Three Part Series -- How Camp Infuses the YMCA Tenets of Youth Development, Social Responsibility and Healthy Living

*Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA is pleased to present the second of three alumni articles featuring how our tenets -- youth development, healthy living and social responsibility -- are promoted through our camps and Berkshire Outdoor Center.*



Torrie Hazelwood

"Chimney Corners in the Berkshires, it's my second home," is one of Torrie Hazelwood's favorite *Goodnight Circle* lyrics. She has grown up at camp. The daughter to camp alumni Jennifer and Brian Hazelwood, Torrie was a seven-year camper, traveled on ICEP Japan, became an Aide in 2006 and went on to be a Junior Unit counselor for three years. For the past four summers Torrie has been a Travel and Service Programs (TSP) leader for TLS, ICEP Vietnam, ICEP Peru 2 and ICEP Australia. A graduate of Franklin & Marshall College and the University of Minnesota with a Masters in Kinesiology, Torrie has spent the last year traveling throughout East Asia and working for YMCA Camp Adair, BCCYMCA's New Zealand exchange partner where she is also pursuing a career in visual communications.

## How Travel and Service Programs Promote Social Responsibility

by Torrie Hazelwood

Whether after a service project or a day exploring, I always ask my campers "what did you notice today?" I think this question sparks good conversations around the idea of awareness and it gets campers to evaluate what they pay attention to, which is often a reflection of what they value. The Travel and Service Programs' (TSP) goals are rooted in cultivating awareness – of self, of others' needs, and of our environment.

Developing a keen sense of awareness happens by taking a moment to step outside of ourselves, becoming more reflective, finding out where our strengths and areas of improvement may lie, and how we react in varying situations. With this awareness, how we conceptualize service also expands. While labor intensive service projects or large donations may be what our participants have in mind as service, more often than not it's the micro moments, conversations, realizations, that have an impact on them. Social responsibility for TSP participants is taking time to be present, observing themselves and others, and finding out how they can join the effort, no matter how small their part.

(cont'd on pg 4)

Masthead Photo Above:

1991 LITs reunite at Alumni Weekend (l-r): Kate Marshall Huntington, Carrie Dickison Jurus, Eric Lind, Adam Gaynor, Ali Pivar and Caroline Rosen LaFiura.

*Message from the CEO  
(cont'd from cover)*

Thank you for your friendship, dedication and exceptional leadership for a cause you love so dearly.

In this issue of the **BCCYMCA News** you will learn more about the *Changing Lives* success from the remarks Amy and Jim shared at our summer Annual Luncheon on page two. We also continue our three part series that showcases the three YMCA tenets of Youth Development, Social Responsibility and Healthy Living on page one. Chimney Corners alumna and four time TSP Leader Torrie Hazelwood shares how ICEP travel shows teens the importance of social responsibility.

You will also meet Anna Doherty, a Chimney Corners camper. Anna and her friend Hope were honored with a \$25,000 college scholarship for creating a coloring book showcasing notable women in history. Chimney alumna Annie Morita shares her remarks from this year's Annual Luncheon on page 3.

To round up this issue you will get an update on another great Alumni Weekend and our successful results from *One Great Day of Giving*.

Thank you to all who gave to our *Changing Lives* campaign. I look forward to keeping you apprised of the campaign's impact.

Amici & Agape,  
Phil Connor

# Changing Lives Meets \$12.35 Million Goal; BCCYMCA Celebrates

*At the 2016 Annual Luncheon and Meeting held July 30 at Chimney Corners Camp, Changing Lives campaign Co-Chairs Amy Hurwitz Gutschenritter and Jim Goldman officially announced the successful conclusion of this unprecedented \$12.35 Million fund-raising effort. Through lots of hard work and the rallying of thousands of alumni, parents and friends, Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA is celebrating the most successful campaign in the camps' history. The BCCYMCA News is pleased to share an excerpt from Amy and Jim's special announcement:*

Today marks the successful completion of the *Changing Lives* campaign—an ambitious campaign designed to sustain and support the camps that have made a difference in our lives and the lives of our children. With your support and the support of hundreds of others we have reached our goal of \$12.35 Million!

This is truly a milestone moment for the camps. We all have benefited from the generosity of the supporters of the successful campaigns in the past, but never at such a lofty level. Our last campaign raised just over \$4 Million. *Changing Lives* has raised nearly three times this level.

We would like to share some of what we have achieved together:

- We have grown our endowment, a safety net for emergencies and camperships, by over \$3 Million—a 50% increase!
- We have bolstered the Annual Fund, which directly supports our operations and camperships, to over \$800,000 per year.
- We have raised over \$5 Million toward mission critical capital projects to directly benefit the camper experience.

Post campaign, the camps will continue to seek additional funding to pursue all the capital projects needed as they are not fully funded at the current time.

The *Changing Lives* campaign will help make possible a new Becket Dining Hall. The Board will finalize plans for the dining hall this fall with the potential to start construction next summer and unveil to campers the summer of 2018.



At this year's Annual Luncheon, new Board of Trustee Chair David Smith and former Board Chair Drew Lipsch present the Chairman's Award to *Changing Lives* Co-Chairs Amy Gutschenritter and Jim Goldman for their successful leadership throughout the campaign.



For both of us, this campaign was all about giving back to a place that we deeply believe in. Our roles in the campaign have given us the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and meet others who feel the same way about camp. We were inspired by the commitment and remarkable generosity of so many. These individuals and so many more made co-chairing this campaign highly inspiring and so personally satisfying.

There is always more to do, but for now we thank you for your support. *Becket Onward—and, Chimney Corners, you will always be our second home!*

# DreamWorks Executive Shares Her Chimney Story at Annual Luncheon 2016

Each year at BCCYMCA's Annual Luncheon, a special guest speaker is invited to address the topic of summer camp. Previous years' speakers have included acclaimed child psychologist and author Dr. Michael Thompson, MIT sociologist Dr. Sherry Turkle, camp parent and actor Oliver Platt, and Chimney alumna and former director of the White House Situation Room Sarah Takats. This year, Chimney Corners alumna and DreamWorks executive Annie Morita joins the list of presenters. Here is an excerpt from her remarks:

My mom – Nancy Steeper who is here today – is a camp person. She truly believes that there are only two types of people in this world – those who went to summer camp and those who did not.

She started at Trail's End Ranch for Girls when she was 13-years-old and went all the way to Assistant Director .... For as long as I can remember, she would quote ... the saying that hung over the fireplace at her camp, "After all, it's up to you". This was instrumental in my growing up – **depend on yourself and have an impact.**

My parents found Chimney Corners through a friend at the Aloha Camps. My mom wanted a real camp, and one without awards as she felt I already had enough pressure in school. Chimney Corners offered programs that were open to everyone. It was up to you regarding what you wanted to do. And it was your decision. You chose your program for your session at camp.

I was a second session camper in all three units – junior, intermediate, and senior. I loved camp. I loved the traditions from Song & Sign night, to the Summer Olympics, to Candlelight. In my senior year as a camper, I met some pretty great guys from my brother cabin over at Becket. They were planning to go on ICEP the following summer and encouraged me to go. I was studying Shakespeare that year in school and thought it would be fun to join ICEP England. I submitted my application and waited.

A few days before the acceptance letters were scheduled to be mailed out, one of the Becket boys called me and advised that ICEP England was not going to be any fun. He had learned that some counselor named Tater was going to lead the ICEP Denmark trip and he said that this would be much better.

Taking camp advice from my mom – **after all it's up to you** – I informed my mom that she needed to call Camp Director Jeanne Shellenberger and move me to the ICEP Denmark trip. She informed me that I needed to be accepted first but she would see what she could do. Several days later I learned that I would be joining my Becket friends on ICEP Denmark. The ICEP program was the very best of all things camp for me and created an incredible foundation that I still refer back to today. It stretched my thinking both mentally and emotionally. I learned to work on a team, I learned to be on my own during my homestay, and the overall experience made me realize that I could literally do anything. My ICEP leaders were mentors and that guy named Tater is still giving me advice 33 years later.

I worked at camp during my college years and my goal was now to be an ICEP leader and have the same type

of impact on people that my ICEP leaders had on me. While attending Smith College, I was an Aide, a Rover, and a counselor (senior unit!).

I took my junior year aboard from Smith in China and happened to be in Beijing in the spring of 1989 when Michael Gorbachev and Deng Xiao Ping were scheduled for their historic meeting. Their meeting happened but their tour of the Forbidden City never did as one million students had taken over Tiananmen Square.

During that time, I got a job as a field producer for CNN. The networks were hiring students who spoke the language and knew the city. I reported to CNN's makeshift headquarters at The Great Wall Sheraton Hotel and instantly found something I was not expecting – these journalists were like camp people! They had traditions, they sang songs, and their stories of covering events around the world had a gravitational pull on me. I wanted in.

I returned home to finish college, interned at CNN, and then took on something far bigger than me – I took 12 teenagers to Communist China twelve months after the events in Tiananmen Square. That's right – ICEP China – the first ICEP trip to Mainland China. We took our traditions, our songs, and our thinking and spent six weeks in China and Taiwan. I actually reconnected with the YMCA in Shanghai in 2013 and met with the administrators who had managed the ICEP China trip. They still had my file and advised that they remembered me – I am still not sure if this is a good thing! I came home to camp from ICEP China in the summer of 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait, and I quickly moved to Atlanta, Georgia to work for CNN.

I worked on the international assignment desk before moving to Hong Kong for the company. If you were young, had a passport, and were "expendable", CNN would literally let you do anything and would send you anywhere in the world.

All along, my colleagues were my friends. Like camp friends. There were stories, inside jokes, songs, and traditions. As I started building my career, I looked for environments that offered a team focus. I looked for bosses who could be good counselors, even mentors. I found that media and entertainment offered a lot of what my camp experiences had offered.

I looked for opportunities that were original – the first of their kind – much like my ICEP trip to Denmark and my ICEP trip to China. I then joined my fiancé – now my husband of 21 years – in Los Angeles.

I have worked for some of the biggest companies in entertainment – Warner Bros. Studios and Sony



Annie Morita with her mom Nancy Steeper at this year's Annual Luncheon. Nancy was instrumental in encouraging her daughter Annie to attend Chimney Corners Camp.

Pictures ... Today, I work for DreamWorks Animation in the ultimate "Hollywood meets Camp" environment. We have a campus, our production teams are set up like cabin groups, there is a difference between the juniors, the intermediates, and the seniors, we do not have air raids or animal farms but I challenge you to see a more committed group of people on Bacon Thursdays or movie launch day. I was a founding member of the company's focus on China. Our goal was to be the first entertainment company to set up a US-Sino joint venture for feature film animation to be produced in China, for China, and for export to the rest of the world. I moved to Shanghai to accomplish all of this.

Our effort was literally building a camp from the ground up. We had to bring our traditions, bring our training, and bring our attitudes, to China where the biggest hurdle is getting kids from "one child policy" families to collaborate. It was hard - sometimes really hard ... I often thought of my mom and her camp motto – after all it's up to you.

Today, Oriental DreamWorks is the hottest animation company in China with 300 people on staff representing 15 countries. Earlier this year, we released *Kung Fu Panda 3*, the very first U.S.-Sino animated feature film co-production.

Once back in the States, I decided to add more camp like experiences to my life. I joined the board of the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) and completed my first student prime expedition in March ... We paddled 120 miles and circumnavigated an island in the Sea of Cortez. It was the hardest thing I have done.

What's next? DreamWorks Animation is in the process of being acquired by Comcast/NBC Universal ... Will I find the camp people in this new company and create the ultimate unit leadership team? Or – maybe it's time to look back on my ICEP experiences and hit the road – as a camper or a leader. Whatever I plan to do, my mom will be right there expounding on camp values and reminding me that after all, it is up to me.

## How TSP Promotes Social Responsibility

(cont'd from front cover)

The values of responsibility, honesty, caring and respect manifest in a variety of ways and TSP participants have likely grappled with how to transfer the practice of these values from camp to home. TSP serves as the next level where campers are challenged to explore how to employ camp values in a new setting and among new people. For example, we are taught to help the other fellow and that we have a role to play in bettering our community and ourselves. The adventure of TSP trips continues to emphasize these core values by expanding campers' perspectives on how we think about concepts like social responsibility through service work and the cultural exchange opportunities.

TSP introduces social responsibility as the ability to recognize our own positionality and biases, and observe what's going on around us and acting intentionally. Social responsibility through TSP isn't about imposing change, but rather asking those we serve how we can join in their efforts. This is exemplified by TSP's long held tradition of valuing the local knowledge of our host partners and working with them to create learning service experiences. Approaching service as knowledge building allows for more productive learning on how to practice effective social responsibility – being careful not to fall prey to the “savior complex” and recognizing that though local knowledge may be different, it is equally valuable and effective.

To combat the “I know best” mentality, TSP leaders facilitate cultural sensitivity training to help participants understand stereotypes, paternalism and cultural appropriation. This often includes discussing what it would be like if TSP simply came in and told the local communities what they need. In conjunction with pushing our campers to examine how we approach service, we discuss who our work impacts. One of my past TSP participants shared, “It's easy to feel like the people and children you're working with need you; but I think that's a degrading attitude, implying that underprivileged kids need saving from privileged American kids.” I think an essential part of learning social responsibility is recognizing exactly what this camper honed in on so expertly – while TSP leaders want to fill our campers with a sense of purpose, we also hope they recognize that the beneficiary may sometimes be themselves and it's what they do with this realization that makes the difference.

We also talk to our campers about service as a mechanism through which cultural exchange happens. TSP leaders facilitate debriefs, focusing on key cultural learning moments that happen during service projects. This rethinking increases

campers' social literacy as they explore more of the human story. Leaders often discuss with campers the importance of being aware of the responsibility they hold through their storytelling, emphasizing that how they choose to talk about our trips helps honor the people and places they experienced. The heightened awareness and learning that stems from this travel can lead to a paradigm shift, encouraging our campers to be more intentional participants in their home community.

Albert Einstein said, “The mind that opens to a new idea never returns to its original size,” so TSP participants have to reconcile this life altering perspective and shift this new learning with the life they lived before. Participants are inspired but unsure how to take this augmented sense of social responsibility and apply it to their lives. This may not feel difficult to some, but for many the question, “How was your trip?” can be overwhelming. Both TSP campers and staff members have struggled to relay their learning without minimizing or trivializing their experience. Despite my years of travel, both personal and as a TSP participant and leader, I find articulating my experiences and doing them justice difficult, as I always feel I change. Since I've grown older, I have given myself the space and time to evolve and reflect on what new aspects of myself I gained from my travels and which parts I hope to keep as permanent characteristics.

The process of transferring what our campers learn through travel and service sets challenges and often changes how they view the world. Hearing campers' reflections on themselves and their values prior to TSP continues to be one of the most compelling conversations I have with my participants. Upon returning home, they see ordinary, everyday things through a different lens – they become more aware and empathetic. This is another key component of social responsibility that TSP offers to its participants. My past campers tell me that our service work made them more aware of their immediate community and inspired them to take action. One camper decided to become a peer mentor for struggling underclassmen while another found that her experience working with kids in hospitals on ICEP gave her the confidence to seek out volunteer opportunities at her local hospital. Transferability of what we learn about the world and ourselves on TSP trips enriches our participants and by extension, their communities.

Like many of my TSP participants, my experience on ICEP Japan as a camper made me acutely aware of the power of observation and experiential learning – pushing me to become a more reflective traveler. Reflecting back on my ICEP Japan summer, I realize it was the small moments – holding the hand of an elderly Japanese woman in a retirement home as she sang a soft song to me or

having planned and set up an entire haunted house at the YMCA in Utsunomiya only to find myself intently listening to a five-year-old tell me an animated story in Japanese for half of it (I can only assume there were dragons involved with the amount of tromping around and fire breathing that was happening) – that I remember as key in expanding my understanding that service is more than just serving those I perceived as needing help. That summer I learned my strength in making connections with the people, despite language barriers, and that listening is one of the purest forms of generosity. I actively utilize both these attributes in my practice of social responsibility, both in everyday life and as a TSP leader.

One of my wise campers wrote, “Service is about engaging with the community and helping them and providing some sort of temporary security. What's permanent is the awareness you take away from the experience. I gained awareness of my own privilege through actively engaging with communities.” This camper went on to start a service program that works in an underserved bilingual elementary school where K-5th graders come to her school and they read to them in Spanish. I swell with pride when I hear my campers share their brilliance and can illustrate what TSP does so well.

I'm reminded of Lily Tomlin's words, “I always wondered why somebody didn't do something about that, then I realized I was somebody.” This is the attitude toward social responsibility we hope to cultivate through TSP trips – one where we acknowledge the small space we occupy in the world while also realizing the ability we have to join others in making the world, or someone's world, a better place. The lessons I continue to learn are simple: leave the space you occupy better than you found it, never assume you have the correct or complete answer, you are not always the star of the show, grappling with concepts like privilege is hard, but worthwhile, and be intentional. The uniqueness of Travel and Service Programs is not to be underestimated and we have a responsibility to live out all that camp has given us, after all, “it's the magic within you and the love you pass on.”



Torrie Hazelwood, second from left standing, joins her ICEP Peru 2 participants in traditional Andean attire.

## Travel and Service Programs Celebrates 50 Years of Service Learning Through Travel

*“As a leader of the International Camper Exchange group from Camp Becket, I was extremely pleased with the whole program ... I know the boys in my group gained far more than they realized at the present time, and have fond memories which they will never forget. I feel that our group did a good job of representing the United States of America and presenting a good image...”*

-- Richard B. Ziegler, Trip Leader, Summer 1966

Fifty years ago, Richard Ziegler’s final trip report announced the successful conclusion of the first-ever ICEP Trip.

What started as an exploratory trip to send American teen ambassadors to Germany has turned into one of the leading international travel programs in the country with over 170 teens traveling annually.

According to Chief Operating Officer and former TSP Director Jim Brown, ICEP was a product of the times. President John F. Kennedy’s newly minted Peace Corps, and a more global world that Americans were viewing on television, and accessible air travel made international travel obtainable.

“Camp Becket Director Don Shellenberger and his wife Jeanne wanted to take the values campers were learning from camp and connect them to the larger world,” explains Jim.

In 1974 the first all-girls trip took place and in 1981 the first coed trip traveled to England.

Maintaining a growing international travel program isn’t easy according to Jim. “ICEP and our domestic programs are unique, big and resilient and it isn’t easy to maintain a travel program over five decades. We are committed to ensuring that our trips are focused on service and cultural exchange, not just tourism.”

Alysa Austin, Director of the Travel and Service Programs is excited about the future of travel at Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA.

“We want to continue to strengthen the core experience of TSP by focusing on leadership development, cultural exchange and service learning,” says Alysa. “We are also looking to strengthen our partnerships with our program hosts, and are currently exploring the idea of hosting an international group here in the United States.”

For now, Alysa loves seeing how international travel inspires youth. “Our teens are just beginning high school and to see how a trip to Vietnam or Chile opens up their whole world is really meaningful. For many of our participants, ICEP changes their life path and influences their career choices,” says Alysa, who knows of many TSP alumni who have gone on to pursue careers or volunteer opportunities abroad.

## Chimney Corners Camper Wins Grand Prize in National Student Entrepreneur Contest

Anna Doherty is a true Chimney Corners girl. A Chimney girl with a great idea, an entrepreneurial spirit, a best friend and a solid business plan that has earned her the top prize from the 2016 NFTE National Entrepreneurship Challenge, presented by the Citi Foundation.

Anna and her friend Hope Sacco, both students at Roland Park Middle School in Baltimore, Maryland, teamed up as class partners for an entrepreneurship class where they were assigned to create a hypothetical business plan. The girls decided to illustrate and write a coloring book entitled, *Girls Coloring for Change*, featuring famous women.

“Hope and I both love art and we loved the idea of empowering girls. The coloring book was a great way to incorporate what we are most passionate about. We wanted to inspire girls.”

Anna did quite a bit of research on which notable women to feature including consulting with her social studies teacher. Some of the women included were Harriet Tubman, Irena Sendler who saved thousands of children during the Holocaust and some local women of note including Dr. Leana Wen, Public Health Commissioner for the City of Baltimore.

Initially, Anna and Hope were eager to have the best project within their class, but once they won the class competition they moved on to the school, then regional, state and finally a trip to New York City for nationals where they beat out high school and college age competitors for a \$25,000 college scholarship.



Dr. Leana Wen, Public Health Commissioner for the City of Baltimore was featured in *Girls Coloring for Change*. Anna and Hope bumped into Dr. Wen at a local Starbucks and gave her a copy.



Anna Doherty (right) and her best friend Hope Sacco

“Chimney Corners definitely had an influence on me throughout the competitions. Before we presented at state, my mom said, ‘Remember you are a Chimney girl so don’t be scared. At camp you learned to speak in front of people and to be confident with yourself.’ My mom’s advice really stuck with me.”

“I have learned so much at camp. I have learned to say your ideas and be confident. This competition would have been a different experience if I didn’t have camp as an influence.”

As the girls advanced in the competition the judges encouraged them to think big and big is how they are thinking. *Girls Coloring for Change* can be purchased on Amazon.com and as part of the national competition in New York City, Anna and Hope vetted several offers and collected lots of business cards at a networking expo.

Still enjoying the fanfare from their win, Anna and Hope are back at school and catching up on homework.

“We want *Girls Coloring for Change* to be the antidote to Barbie dolls and supermodels,” and Anna and Hope plan to publish a series of coloring books targeting different themes like women of color, local women and infamous women. But for now, the entrepreneurs want to shop around to find the best publisher.

“This experience changed us in a lot of ways. It helped us with public speaking, reaching out to the community and working hard to solve problems. We just want to help our community and inspire other people. We learned no matter how old we are we can make a difference.”



The mission of Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA is to put Judeo-Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

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**Phil Connor**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Jim Brown**  
Chief Operating Officer

**Christine Kalakay**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Brenda Marsian, CFRE**  
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*Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA News is published by the Office of Development at Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA. Questions and inquiries may be forwarded to Brenda Marsian at [bmarsian@bccymca.org](mailto:bmarsian@bccymca.org). Read this issue and others at [www.bccymca.org](http://www.bccymca.org) and click on our News and Publications page.*

## One Great Day of Giving Keeps Annual Fund on Target!

Over \$53,000 from 150 donors was raised for the Annual Fund as part of the second *One Great Day of Giving* on September 21<sup>st</sup>. The Alumni Council and Young Alumni Action Group Development Committees collaborated with other key volunteers to design the day and promote the 24 hour giving rally. An extraordinary and generous "challenge" donor matched *all* new gifts to the camps up to \$20,000.



### *Why will you give to the Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA Annual Fund this year?*

The success of *One Great Day* was a key next step in reaching our \$850,000 Annual Fund goal by December 31<sup>st</sup> with a target to have 1,800 donors. In addition to this online giving frenzy, the 2016 Annual Fund Fall Appeal was sent earlier this fall asking the question, "Why will you give to the Becket-Chimney Corners Annual Fund?" Whether *giving back*, to *pay it forward*, or for any reason that is important to you, join us before year's end with a gift to the Annual Fund. It feels good. It is good. And it *changes lives for good*. You can donate by mail using the enclosed envelope, or online at [www.bccymca.org](http://www.bccymca.org) and clicking *Become A Supporter*.



Over 250 alumni, parents, friends and families came to the Berkshires September 16 – 18 to celebrate camp at Alumni Weekend. Participants left with songs in their hearts and smiles on their faces. In addition to great attendance, the weather was gorgeous, activities were popular, spirits were high, songs were sung and memories were shared over and over again.

Among many highlights of a weekend filled to the brim with food and friends, wine & cheese, arts & crafts, swimming, boating and singing was the Saturday night Alumni Banquet. Jane Washburn Parker elegantly and graciously received the Distinguished Service Award from Alumni Council officers Justin Ihne and Courtney Walker Hendricson. This was a fitting tribute and deserving recognition for Jane's lifetime of devotion and service to the camps.

Please join us next year for Alumni Weekend, September 15-17, 2017. Have a great idea for the weekend or for bringing more alumni together? Contact John Anz at the Office of Development at 413-623-8991 or [janz@bccymca.org](mailto:janz@bccymca.org).

# Alumni News & Notes

*Alumni News & Notes appears regularly in editions of the Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA NEWS. Send your news and photos by mail to John Anz, or by email to [janz@bccymca.org](mailto:janz@bccymca.org).*



Dan and Libbet at their wedding this summer in Darien, CT.

**Dan Baginski** (CB camper '96-'02, ICEP '03, Aide '04, Staff '05 – '06) wrote in with this big news and family update: "This past summer I was married to Libbet Megroz in Darien, CT. After the wedding we went to St. Martin for our honeymoon. Together Libbet and I live in New York City. She works at the Episcopal School and I work at TowerBrook Capital Partners. My brother **Andrew Baginski** also got married this past fall to Kristen Wickham. They too are living in New York City. Andrew works for the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, and Kristen works for Deloitte & Touche. My sister **Casey Baginski** is living in Philadelphia, where she is completing a Masters Degree in Public Health at UPenn. She is working at the Ebright Collaborative."

**Emily Bastian** (CCC camper '99 – '03, TLS '04, Aide '05, Staff '06-'11) sent in a quick update saying "I'm living in Washington, DC and working here as well for American University in the School of Professional and Extended Studies. This past April I ran in the Boston Marathon and was cheered on by my best friends from CCC, **Jordan O'Connor** and **Sarah Weinstein**."

**Ralph "Trip" Wadleigh** (CB Staff '84-87, Parent 2010-Present) writes, "My wife **Kimberly Wadleigh** (CCC Staff '87), and I live on Martha's Vineyard, where we've been since 2001. Our four kids Jack (CB Camper '02-'03), Isabelle (CCC Camper '03), Benjamin and Becket (CCC Camper '15-'16) are located either under our roof or in Jack's case at Vermont Law School and in Isabelle's case Lesley University.

Our youngest daughter Becket has been fully engaged in camp over the last few summers, and she ensures that we get back there as frequently as we'll allow her, most recently to Alumni Weekend. It's been great to reconnect with people at these events, and show the young 'uns that my four square game has not only not devolved, but changed into a crafty game where risk of injury only becomes more possible! On a serious note, it's been amazing to see how my former campers, colleagues and Aides have grown up into wonderful parents. Next summer is the 30th reunion for the 1987 Aides, and I hope we can get the CB and CCC group together to build many new memories!"

**Pam Leven Watkins** (Camper '98-01, ICEP '02, Aide '03, Staff '05-06): Greetings from Boston! This past year has been a pretty busy one for me. In January, I passed my Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker exam, after graduating with my Masters in Social Work in 2013 from Boston College. Since graduating, I have worked for a nation-wide private non-profit called *Youth Villages*, which specializes in Intensive In-Home Therapy for kids with mental health and behavioral disorders and their families. I was recently promoted to the East Regional Manager for Youth Villages New England, and will be overseeing two of our biggest offices in the state which have four different programs for kids and families. Between studying for my licensure test and getting a promotion, I spent the rest of my time planning my wedding.



It was Apple Blossom Time at Pam Leven Watkins' wedding in June for (l-r) Allison DeLuca, Ilana Cliffer, Jessie Gilman, Anna Goldman, Jocelyn Pinkerton, Pam, Maia (Hazelwood) Crandall, Ali Leven, Beth (Goldman) Leven, Rachel Moore and Ilene (Goldman) Hamilton.

This past June, I married Ben, on the beach in Rye, NH. There were 11 Chimney Corners alumnae there, including my mom and aunt who were campers, Aides and Staff from 1966-1974. We had a small wedding party, but my maid of honor was my aide-sister and friend of over 13 years, **Jessie Gilman**. In true Chimney fashion, what wedding would be complete without a rousing song, and the 11 performed "Apple Blossom Time" flawlessly...until my solo! I love that Chimney has provided me with so many cherished and time tested friendships, friends who would stand by me on my wedding day and even sing in public for me. It was truly an honor to be surrounded by so much *Agape* on this special day. Once the honeymoon was over for Ben and me, I swiftly got him right on the camp train, straight to Alumni Weekend. Nothing says romance like sleeping in separate bunk beds with five of your wife's oldest friends around you! But Ben loved every minute, from canoeing to four-square to Wine & Cheese...he already told me we can send our kids to camp, and hopes he gets to experience Dads' Weekend! Ben and I live in South Boston with our dog Winston, and if you are ever in the area, let us know and we can grab a drink!"

## In Memoriam

**George W. Lehman (A)** of Venice, FL died on July 22, 2016. "Bill" was a CB camper from '39-'45, and an LIT and staff member from '46-'53. He is survived by his wife Sally and a large and loving family.

**Diego Parra Duque (A)** of Bogota, Colombia died on June 16, 2016. Diego was on the Camp Becket staff from '87-'91. He is survived



by his wife and daughter, as well as his father Guillermo, a brother Juan Pablo, and brothers and fellow Camp Becket alumni "Pex" and "Piti". The family is inviting and encouraging gifts in Diego's memory to the BCCYMCA Annual Fund to support camperships and programs at the camps.

**Herbert F. Steeper (P)** of Easthampton, MA died on July 11, 2016. Herb is survived by his wife Nancy, his daughter and Chimney Corners Camp alumna and former BCCYMCA Trustee Annie Morita, and his son David.

(A) Alumni (S) Staff  
(P) Parent (F) Friend

*If you know or hear of the passing of a member of the Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA family, please contact John Anz in the Office of Development so that we can be aware, and so others may learn of the news in a timely fashion through this section in future issues. Thank you.*



**BECKET-CHIMNEY CORNERS YMCA**

*Camps and Berkshire Outdoor Center*

**Two State YMCA**

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## Upcoming Dates of Interest

**Sat, December 31**

2016 Annual Fund "closes"

**Fri - Sun, January 20-22**

Women's Wellness Weekend

**Fri - Sun, February 3-5**

Women's Wellness Weekend

**Sun - Sat, February 19-25**

Winter Camp

**Sat, April 29**

Deeds of Love and Service



**DEEDS OF LOVE & SERVICE**  
*changing our communities for good*

DEEDS 2017 is April 29, 2017. Stay tuned for more details in the New Year!

More information is available about these and other events online at [www.bccymca.org](http://www.bccymca.org).

