

## Message from the CEO

It never fails, no matter how many times I watch the ceremony, the last candlelight that tapers out is always bittersweet and leaves a little lump in my throat. At least I am among friends – our campers and exceptional staff who quietly return to their cabins with arms swung over shoulders.

The hugs and tears goodbye are memories, but our camp directors are reminded of their successful summers from the stellar camper evaluations they have tallied as well as the many emails from parents and campers who share how Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA has changed their lives for good. Emails like this one:

*I think we all wish school could be more like camp in its ability to applaud and encourage a child's energy and "leadership" that is fun, helpful, spirited, humor-full, respectful, productive and inspiring vs. being stifling or narrow and focused on what NOT to do, which is what we are so often up against!...*

The above quote validates the research and theme of noted child psychologist and parenting author Dr. Michael Thompson's upcoming book "Homesick and Happy." Dr. Thompson visited Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA this summer and we certainly left a positive impression on him following his weekend stay. Thompson sent this note to Shannon Donovan-Monti:

*I have to say that my visit to Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA was one of the highlights of my summer: the strong relationships between counselors and kids, and the effect that Chimney Corners and Becket have on the spiritual and moral lives of their*

*(cont'd on pg 2)*

A  
QUARTERLY  
NEWSLETTER



## this issue

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# Leaders in Training (LIT) Expand with Eight-Week Service Corps

With an eighty percent retention rate, Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA continues to maintain an exceptional reputation for attracting quality summer leadership. Over 95% of summer cabin staff were campers themselves and participated in the sought after Leadership in Training (LIT) programs of Aides, Service Corps and REACH. These three programs are the first step campers take to be considered for a summer staff position, such as counselor and program staff.

Effective summer 2011, the LIT programs will be enhanced with an extended eight-week Service Corps, versus the previous four-week session. Services Corps, which will celebrate its ninth anniversary at Camp Becket and its third year at Chimney Corners Camp, will join Aides and REACH participants for a special orientation and training in June along with other summer staff. REACH will be slightly altered and open to tenth grade participants only and be the only four-week LIT program offered. This four-week option will allow those teens who have shorter summers due to school and other commitments to be involved with an LIT program.

"We want families and our campers to understand that Aides, Services Corps and REACH are all equal means to become staff," explained Shannon Donovan-Monti, Executive Director of Chimney Corners Camp for Girls.

"We are really fortunate to have a wealth of talented young people who wish to continue on as staff. While the Aides program has been popular it has limited space," explained Donovan-Monti. There are two applicants for every one Aides placement and, "all of our leadership programs are exceptional and will give the participant new skills and new leadership experiences that will ultimately prepare them for a staff position."

**Service Corps** participants are part of a service-oriented, leadership program that focuses on both the camp and broader community as well as opportunities to observe and learn more about camp counseling, program development and leadership. While in camp, participants will assist in the teaching of afternoon activities, develop programs and work with cabin groups. The Service Corps will periodically be called upon to help with projects that keep the camps running smoothly. Seminars and training events will be scheduled throughout the session to allow participants to learn more about camp operations. In 2011 the participants will take an extended service trip as part of the experience.

**REACH**, initiated in 1991, allows teens to develop leadership skills through a service-oriented experience, based in a Lakota Sioux Native American community in South Dakota. The services our teens provide involve physical labor and humanitarian service and are designed to heighten the importance of volunteer service for the benefit of others.

*(cont'd on pg 3)*

Above photo: Dave Margolis, Brock Veidenheimer, Jim Finkelstein, Bob Rich and Tom Fay reunite at Alumni Weekend 2010. Read more about Alumni Weekend on page 5 and enjoy the photo galleries at [www.bccymca.org](http://www.bccymca.org).

Message from the CEO  
(cont'd from cover)

campers was amazing to me. When I asked your staff to tell me whether camp was more powerful and sacred in their hearts than their family's religion, three-quarters of the staff said yes. I was surprised, and glad I had asked the question.

You can learn more about Dr. Thompson, his visit to the Camps and Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA'S role in his latest book on page four.

Over the last year five weddings have taken place at our facilities. The Berkshire Outdoor Center has added event planning to their codicil of environmental education programming, leadership retreats and group conferences. On page six find out how you can book your wedding with us and read about an alumnus who chose Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA for their destination wedding.

I am really excited about the updates to our Leaders in Training program detailed on page one and three. There are many avenues campers can take to move into a leadership position on our staff. We are now offering an eight-week Service Corps, eight-week Aides program and a four-week REACH that will all be considered the foundation to advance into a staff position. I think you will agree that these advances will continue to ensure we are always funneling prepared and capable leaders to work and care for our campers.

Over 350 alumni and friends returned to camp in September for Alumni Weekend. Check out the highlights in this issue as well as our Alumni News & Notes page and be sure to meet our new members of the Board of Trustees on page two.

It takes a lot of thoughtful leadership to ensure our success continues so that every candlelight is idyllic in the hearts of our campers.

Amici & Agape,  
Phil Connor



## New Members Join Board of Trustees

At this summer's Board of Trustees meeting, Amy Gutschenritter completed her tenure as Board of Trustee Chair and passed the torch to Jack Sharry, long-time board member, Camp Becket parent and former member of the Legacy Campaign Steering Committee.

**Jack Sharry** is the father to four Camp Becket alumni, John, Alex, Will and Michael who all advanced to summer staff positions. In addition to chair of the Board of Trustees, Jack is the Executive Vice President for Strategic Development for Life Yield, overseeing the strategic initiatives for product and business development. Jack has nearly 30 years experience in financial services holding senior positions in sales, marketing, product development, operations and distribution strategies for several of the world's leading companies. Jack is Chairman of the Managed Money Institute's Retirement Solutions Committee and a graduate of the University of Connecticut.



Jack Sharry,  
Board of Trustee Chair

**Ian Winchester**, parent to Stuart, this year's Frontier Village Director, and Philip a 2010 Aide, is slated to be board chair following Jack's tenure. He is managing partner and chairman of the investment committee at BHC Winton Funds, which provide capital to syndicates operating in the Lloyd's of London insurance market. He is director of Montpelier Re Holdings Bermuda Ltd., and chairs their underwriting and risk committee. Ian is also the director of Toplis and Harding Holdings, Inc., one of the oldest independent insurance outsource services companies in North America. Ian led the Master Planning Taskforce and is chair of the Berkshire Outdoor Center Taskforce.



Ian Winchester, CVO-Elect

### The following are new Board of Trustee members who began their tenure in 2010.

**Stephen Hart** attended Camp Becket from 1969 to 1975. Since his time as a Camp Becket counselor and ICEP leader, Stephen has been a member of the Dads' Executive Committee, the Master Site Planning Task Force, and dad to former campers Liza and Emily, and current camper Charlie. Professionally, Stephen is a registered architect and principal with Hart Associates Architects, Inc. in Belmont, MA. A graduate of Dartmouth College, Stephen also holds a masters degree in architecture from Harvard University. He and his wife Jennifer have helped to send a "Fresh Air Kid" to camp for two summers.



Stephen Hart

**Dr. Derek Tate** is a former Camp Becket camper, Aide and CIT. He is a graduate of Haverford College as well as a Yeshiva University and Columbia University trained physician. Formerly a family practitioner and now a board certified psychiatrist, Derek brings a multidisciplinary approach to his treatment of psychiatric illness. His areas of academic interest are community and public psychiatry, administrative psychiatry, program development, primary care psychiatry and psychodynamic psychotherapy. He also has an interest in cross cultural psychiatry and Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender related issues in the context of treatment.



Derek Tate, M.D.

**Drew Lipsher** is a Partner with Greycroft LLC, a venture capital partnership that invests in digital media companies. Drew has over fourteen years of media and entertainment experience covering all aspects of the media business. Prior to joining Greycroft, Drew was the head of M&A, Corporate Development, and Administration for Interscope, Geffen, and A&M Records ("IGA"). Drew was also the founder and Managing Partner of Little Rose Partners LLC. A Camp Becket alumnus and ICEP traveler, Drew is a graduate of Yale University and earned an M.B.A. from Northwestern University.



Drew Lipsher

**Anne Messitte**, in addition to being a second year Iroquois Village mom, is the Executive Vice President & Publisher for Vintage and Anchor Books, Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group and the Director for Random House Mondadori, an International joint venture media company. Anne is a graduate of Harvard University and has enjoyed a successful career in publishing along with board leadership roles with the Theatre for a New Audience in New York City. Anne is married to Camp Becket alumnus Dan Rapport.



Anne Messitte

Meet all members of the Board of Trustees on our website at [www.bccymca.org](http://www.bccymca.org) under "About Us."

# Sisters Credit Service Corps for Life-Changing Experiences

*Service Corps becoming an eight-week program was good news to the Diaz sisters. The sixteen year old triplets from New York feel pretty lucky to have been Service Corps campers this summer and are pleased that this amazing leadership experience is now twice as long so it can provide twice the impact.*

“We wanted that for Service Corps. We want kids to look at this program just like they look at Aides. More campers will want to be in the program now and that is very exciting,” explained Alex, whose sisters Emma and Tessy also agree.

“Throughout the four weeks we wondered why it couldn’t be for the entire summer because there was so much to do. It’s great that every year the program changes and grows. Service Corps changed my life and sparked my curiosity about people and their lives,” commented Emma.

Tessy explained that Service Corps was not the first LIT choice for her and her sisters, but admits they didn’t know too much about the program prior to this summer, “For me, Service Corps is the tops. We did some exciting projects and got the chance to go outside of camp and give back through community service. We made so many friends and Katie Garland our leader put her all into this program. It was just an amazing time.”

Chimney Corners Service Corps participated in a Habitat for Humanity home construction project for a single mother of nine children, helped clean and restore a portion of the Appalachian Trail and worked at the Berkshire Food Project, preparing and serving food for homeless people.

Each of the girls could recall a moment during the outreach experiences that was poignant. For Tessy it was the homeless man at the Berkshire Food Project who played beautiful piano music during dinner; music that he composed himself. Alex recalled the kindness and appreciation expressed by the single mom who would benefit from a new house because of Service Corps efforts. And Emma was inspired after talking with Appalachian Trail hikers who had been hiking for over four months when they met.

The girls were in junior high school before discovering Chimney Corners Camp despite going to sleep away camp since they were



Alex, Emma and Tessy valued their experience as Service Corps Leaders

eight years old. They tried out three different camps before enrolling at Chimney Corners.

Alex explained why Chimney Corners surpassed their previous camp summers, “The Chimney Corners environment is so warm and welcoming. The staff is so nice – Shannon is amazing – and I love all the singing.” Tessy added, “It’s definitely the people who run it that make Chimney Corners so special. The counselors and kids are always happy every day.”

Alex, Emma and Tessy hope to be a part of what makes Chimney Corners so special by becoming assistant counselors in the summer 2011 and feel well prepared to take on additional responsibility following their tenure with Service Corps.

“Service Corps definitely prepares you for a staff position. Each Service Corps member was in charge of one or two cabins and we were constantly coming up with new ideas and activities to involve the girls,” explained Alex.

*(cont’d on pg 6)*

## Leaders in Training *(cont’d from front cover)*

The REACH Program incorporates visits to pow-wows, Badlands National Park, Wounded Knee, Mount Rushmore, and the Crazy Horse Monument. Located in the southwestern corner of the Cheyenne River Reservation, participants will stay in the Red Scaffold Community Center.

**Aides** learn about the operation of a resident camp through involvement in various support services. They assist in leading camp activities and as the summer progresses, are given greater opportunities to work with campers. An important aspect of the program is learning to live and work together as a group. Aides also receive lifeguard training.

“Whether you participate in the Aides, Services Corps or REACH program, you will have an

opportunity to work directly with kids, learn about program development and receive the foundation necessary to move into a larger camp position,” explained Jim Brown, Chief Operating Officer for Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA.

Brown emphasized that applicants are encouraged to apply for all LIT options rather than focus on one program.

“There are a lot of different ways to be a successful counselor and we hope that our LIT candidates will be thoughtful and open minded when determining what is the best fit for them and their goals,” he added.

Camp Becket Executive Director Chris Burke emphasized that applications to all of the LIT

programs should be taken as seriously as a college application.

“All of our LIT programs train young men and women on how to be excellent in future years, while teaching life skills. The application process is a great stepping-stone for the college application process. As a component of the programs all participants have an interview with the camp directors. For many young men and women this is their first time interviewing.”

LIT applicants are currently being reviewed and decisions and announcements regarding 2011 LITs will take place in early December. For questions or more information on the LIT program you may contact Shannon Donovan-Monti or Chris Burke.

## Best-Selling Author Features Camps in Upcoming Book

If Dr. Michael Thompson's book editor wasn't a Camp Becket mom, he may have never solidified a book deal for his latest work "Homesick and Happy: How Children Change and Grow When They Are Away From Their Parents." His agent just didn't think a book about camps and being homesick would sell. But Thompson's editor was in the throes of already missing her son enrolled to attend Becket for the first time this past summer. And it seemed fitting to have Camp Becket and Chimney Corners Camp be a part of his research for the book.

Dr. Thompson, acclaimed child psychologist and best-selling author of numerous parenting books including "Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys," spent a weekend interviewing campers, staff and families about their camp experiences and how they coped with homesickness. His visit also included a presentation at the 2010 Annual Luncheon. "A lot of my research has focused on whether school fosters a child's growth or presents humiliating obstacles to him or her. As a psychologist I deal with children who aren't happy and when I ask

them 'where do you feel best' the answer is usually 'camp'."

Thompson recalled one answer from a child he interviewed when he asked the follow up question why, 'because I am popular at camp.'

The impetus of his new novel was based on a theory that he recently explained during Camp Becket snacks.

"Today's parents are extraordinarily devoted and supportive of their children, but they have this mistaken notion that their presence always adds value to their children's lives."

"I believe many of the sweetest moments in childhood come when children are away from their parents. When they are dealing with new people and challenges on their own, they can draw from their own skills and development. Children will be less likely to take risks and feel strong when their parents are around."

However, Dr. Thompson believes that a parents' gift of camp gives children the opportunity to grow



Dr. Michael Thompson

developmentally in a way that modern suburban America cannot provide.

Dr. Thompson had the opportunity to attend a cabin chat at Becket and Chimney Corners and was enamored by this special moment.

"What a sacred experience that was," Dr. Thompson recalled the intimacy, the candlelight and how deeply profound and thoughtful the boys and girls spoke.

"Camp Becket and Chimney Corners are impressive camps. People have faith in this place and that it can change lives. The campers and alumni love this camp and for many it is more meaningful than their religion and families."

In a time when four-week residential camp programs are being cut down to two weeks, Thompson reinforced the importance of long-term residential camps.

"Change can't happen in two weeks. The campers need to fall in love with their counselors and their fellow campers. Camp really is the lost world of family values."

Dr. Thompson's new book will be published in winter 2012. To share your camp experience and participate in Dr. Thompson's "Homesick and Happy" blog, visit his Facebook page or his website [www.michaelthompson-phd.com](http://www.michaelthompson-phd.com).

## 2010 Annual Luncheon Celebrates Leaders

This summer, the 2010 Annual Luncheon welcomed 150 friends, alumni and parents.

Hosted by CEO Phil Connor and outgoing Board of Trustees Chair Amy Hurwitz Gutschenritter, the afternoon included a presentation from guest speaker Dr. Michael Thompson, and a presentation of several awards recognizing staff and volunteers.

This year, two full-time Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA staff celebrated milestone service years with the YMCA and received the YMCA Staff Service Award. Shannon Donovan-Monti has been affiliated with the YMCA for twenty years, fourteen of those years as the Executive Director for Chimney Corners Camp, and Senior Program Director Emily King has been with the YMCA for ten years, the last eight here at Chimney Corners Camp

Anna Goldman was bestowed the Moms' Association Exceptional Staff Award following her summer's tenure as Staff Leadership Development Director, and Trustee and alumnus Jim Finkelstein presented the Finkelstein Leadership Award to Jason Mintz recognizing his work as Pioneer Village Director.

Two recipients were honored with the Volunteer of the Year Award. Trustee Anne Condon received the award for her work chairing the Branding and Marketing Task Force and Jeff Gregor was honored for his time and talent toward technology and IT support for both camps.

Amy Hurwitz Gutschenritter was recognized for her decade-long tenure on the Board of Trustees as well as for her generous philanthropic support. The South Room of the Chimney Corners Camp Dining Hall will be named the Eleanor Hurwitz Room in memory of Amy's mother. Amy was presented with the wall plaque which reads: "A gift from The Gutschenritter Family and Friends made in loving memory of Eleanor Hurwitz. Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA Mom, Grammy and Family Camper."

Incoming Board of Trustees Chair Jack Sharry said thank you to those trustees stepping down from the board in 2010. Larry Andries, Amy Gutschenritter and Paul Samuelson were honored for their outstanding leadership and dedication to the Camps and Berkshire Outdoor Center.

Following the luncheon, guests were invited to stay on for an update on development efforts as



Trustee Anne Condon and Jeff Gregor received the 2010 Volunteer of the Year Award from new Board Chair Jack Sharry.

well as the Master Site Plan. Chris Burke and Shannon Donovan-Monti followed the Master Site Plan discussion with tours of the camp to point out slated construction projects including the finishing of the basement of Chimney Corners Dining Hall, renovations to the Arts Center and the updating of new cabins for Camp Becket's Pioneer Village along with a new Welcome Center. Visit the Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA home page to download and read the Master Site Plan.

# Alumni Weekend Attendance Soars

How wonderful it is when something truly lives up to all the hype and billing. Such was the case this September as Alumni Weekend 2010 proved to be exceptional in every way. Nearly 350 alumni and their families joined each other back at the camps for great activities, superb meals, high honors, joyful celebrations and remembrances, and some of the finest weather the Northeast has seen this year.

Of the many highlights on the weekend, one stands out as a new tradition of honor and excellence begins at the Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA. The Alumni Council presented a new award at the Saturday night dinner, The Distinguished Service Award. Created by the council earlier this year, the first Distinguished Service Award was presented posthumously to Brent R. Jackson for his more than 45 years of dedicated service to both Camp Becket and Chimney Corners Camp as a staff member and volunteer. The award was presented by Alumni Council President Scott Taylor, and accepted for the Jackson family by friend and fellow alumnus Spider Alton.

This award will forever honor and recognize those individuals who have

done great works on behalf of the Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA over decades and generations. In future years this award may be announced in advance of its presentation at Alumni Weekend so that the Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA community can pay tribute to these wonderful recipients in person.

For much more on Alumni Weekend 2010 and those who were there, the Distinguished Service Award, and photos from the weekend, please go to the website at [www.bccymca.org](http://www.bccymca.org).



1990 Becket and Chimney Corners Aides were in force at Alumni Weekend 2010.

## ANNUAL FUND CLOSING IN ON CRUCIAL GOAL

The 2010 Annual Fund is heading into the home stretch, and optimistic about hitting its very ambitious goal of \$600,000 by December 31, 2010. Already more than \$525,000 has been raised in cash and pledges, and it's all thanks to our very loyal alumni, parents and friends. If you are already one of the more than 1,200 people who have generously supported this year's Annual Fund, Thank You!

If you have not yet had the chance, don't worry – there's still time to participate, and help shape the future for **Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA Camps and Berkshire Outdoor Center**. You can make your gift online at [www.bccymca.org](http://www.bccymca.org) using our secure site, or you can return your gift in the special Annual Fund envelope included for you here.

Whether supporting camperships, program enhancement or facility improvements, your Annual Fund dollars impact every aspect of the camps and Berkshire Outdoor Center. Please join us, and take advantage of this opportunity to help change a life.

### THE 2010 ANNUAL FUND



*An Opportunity to Change a Life*

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

Issue 04  
November 2010

**Phil Connor**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Jim Brown**  
Chief Operating Officer and  
Travel Service Program Director

**Christine Kalakay**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Brenda Marsian, CFRE**  
Chief Development Officer

**Chris Burke**  
Executive Director  
Camp Becket

**Shannon Donovan-Monti**  
Executive Director  
Chimney Corners Camp

**Steve Hamill**  
Executive Director  
Berkshire Outdoor Center

**John Anz**  
Director of the Annual Fund and  
Alumni Relations

**Jack Sharry**  
Board of Trustee Chair

**D. Scott Taylor**  
Alumni Council President

**Chris Reynolds**  
Dads' Executive Committee  
President

**Sue Beringer**  
Moms' Executive Committee  
President

*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). Help us go green by sending us your e-mail to receive notifications of future issues on our website. Read this issue and others at [www.bccymca.org](http://www.bccymca.org) and click on our News and Publications page.

## Sisters Life Changing Experiences

(cont'd from pg 3)

Each of the girls attend different high schools – Alex is enrolled at Harrison High School in Westchester, New York; Emma at the La Guardia School for Performing Arts and Tessy at Riverdale King Bridge Academy, both in New York City – so the chance to be together with a team of seven girls was welcoming.

Emma, who is studying acting, appreciated seeing her sister Alex, an aspiring fashion executive, and Tessy, a future criminal lawyer, branch out while at Chimney Corners.

“It was nice to see them be more independent because we always rely on one another. I know we all did things that we are not necessarily comfortable doing,” said Emma, who admired the work her sisters put into a skit for Berkshire’s Best. “I was so proud of my sisters and the other girls who worked so hard on the skit and took it so seriously.”

For information on how Service Corps, Aides and REACH are gateway programs to summer staff leadership positions read the accompanying story on page one or log onto [www.bccymca.org](http://www.bccymca.org).

## Saying “I Do,” the Berkshire Outdoor Center Way

When you’ve just finished your first full summer at camp, the thought of tying the knot in the most wonderful place on earth makes perfect sense.

But for most, there is a shift somewhere between candlelight and the altar – canoeing gets trumped by indoor plumbing and sunsets over the lake lose out to grand estates and swanky hotels.

Some, however, remember the magic of summer leading up to their big day and for those folks the best parts of camp become lifelong memories shared with their closest friends and family members.

“I think a wedding is one of the few times in your life when all your loved ones are in one place, to be there to support you,” said Bernadette Smith, a wedding planner who recently worked with the Berkshire Outdoor Center staff to put on a wedding at Chimney Corners Camp.

“It’s a very special experience and to have guests not just for 5 hours but for a few days really adds to the overall meaningfulness of the experience,” she said.

Sean Effel, an alumnus who was married at Camp Becket in 2009, agreed with Bernadette, saying he and his wife Susan “wanted a multi-day wedding extravaganza that would let our family and friends spend quality time with each other before we tied the knot.”

“This was my first camp wedding but my expectations were absolutely exceeded between when I was hired and when I first visited Chimney Corners,” Bernadette recalls.

“The biggest fear I had was having the staff serve food during the wedding itself, but the Berkshire Outdoor Center program coordinator was great,” said Bernadette. “The staff were really fantastic and Mik Monti and his team were too. In the end, it was a huge success and everyone was thrilled.”

“The Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA staff do a fantastic job,” Sean echoed. “I know it’s just every day work for them, but to the guests it’s clear they care very much about how the experience will be. And the kitchen folks are great to work with, Shaz especially.”

Steve Hamill, Berkshire Outdoor Center Director said, “having a wedding at camp is a culmination of many good things: a beautiful setting, a fun environment and time to really connect with the most important people in your life as you begin a new chapter with your partner.”

Weddings at Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA’s Berkshire Outdoor Center have ranged from \$5,000 to \$25,000 and have been as basic as a ceremony and dinner to a whole weekend-long “destination camp” wedding including high ropes, swimming, campfires and archery. Join the growing list of alumni (like Justin Rubin, Sean Effel, Dave Wiener and Michelle Stantial) who have tied the knot in everyone’s favorite home-away-from-home in the Berkshires.

To book your wedding with the Berkshire Outdoor Center contact Steve Hamill at (413) 623-8991.

## Rudd Pond Preservation and Fundraising in Process



Rudd Pond Dam renovations restarted following the conclusion of camp. In September, a temporary dam at the site of the dike repair was installed. This work included the excavation for a concrete wall in front of the existing dam, as well as a temporary structure on the pond side. Dike repairs will be completed later this month.

This spring, over five hundred plants will be placed in two wetland reclamation sites where the summer 2009 access road to the dam construction was created. Final dam repairs will take place fall 2011.

### Challenge Grant \$58,000 away

Earlier in the year, an anonymous donor offered to donate \$105,000 if Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA could raise the remaining \$210,000 to fully fund the Rudd Pond Dam repairs. Over \$150,000 has been raised with the remaining \$58,000 to be raised by December 31st. With several private foundation requests pending, we still welcome individual gifts above and beyond Annual Fund support this year. Gifts may be directed to Brenda Marsian, Chief Development Officer at Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA, 748 Hamilton Road, Becket, MA 01223. You may also inquire further by email or phone at [bmarsian@bccymca.org](mailto:bmarsian@bccymca.org) or (413) 822-7950.

# Alumni News & Notes

*Alumni News & Notes are published in all editions of the Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA NEWS. You can submit your own news and photos by mail or email to John Anz, Director of the Annual Fund & Alumni Relations.*

On behalf of all of her fellow Aides and friends from 1990, **Shannon "Tiger" Donovan** (CCC camper '83-'89, Aide '90, CIT/AC '91, Staff '92-'96) sent in the following news: "This year marked the 20th anniversary for the Camp Becket "Renegades" & the Chimney Corners Camp "Shaides" of 1990. Fifteen Aides as well as one Aides Director of 1990 were able to make it to Camp to celebrate this joyous occasion. Returning Shaides joining me were **Jen Cotter, Kirsten Slusar Bossin, Anne Dugan Andrews, Charlotte Hutchings, Siobhan Neary Polese, Deb Ciplet Crist and Ilse Murdock**. Returning Renegades were **Titus Agee, David Clements, Craig Gleason, Bill Overbay, Gabe Unger, Matt Grossman, Craig Collister** and '90 Aides Director **Paul "Bonzo" Laband**. Wonderful does not begin to describe this reconnecting of old friends. Everyone was so comfortable around each other and the feeling of camaraderie among the group was equal to – if not stronger – than it had been 20 years earlier. It was as though no time at all had passed. Most of the group stayed nearby in Frontier Village: ladies in Ticonderoga – men just across the circle in Vincennes. Some highlights of the weekend were campfires at the Frontier Village fire pit both Friday and Saturday night accompanied by Gabe Unger on his guitar, a birthday song and chair lift for Deb Ciplet-Crist's daughter Molly's 5th birthday at Saturday dinner, and a Saturday night cabin chat in Vincennes led by Titus Agee... chock-full of camp ghost stories! The reunion was such a success that the attending Aides of 1990 are going to make Alumni Weekend an annual pilgrimage! We hope the rest can join us next year!"

**Justin Ihne** (CB camper '80-'86, CIT '87, Rover '88, Staff '89-'90) wrote in with big news. "I recently came back to the Berkshires as the new CEO of the Northern Berkshire

YMCA in North Adams, MA. After almost a 20 years stint at the YMCA of Kingston and Ulster County in New York, I was very excited for the opportunity to run a Y and try to have the same impact on young people that Becket had on me. I am currently living in Williamstown, Massachusetts with my wife of 12 years Sophie, daughter Marley 6, and twin boys Ethan and Rowan 18mths (and a lab of 3 yrs Lyla). We have been here about 3 months and I love being back in the "Grand Ol Berkshire hills."



The Ihne Family, minus Lyla the Lab

**John Mason** (CB camper '73-'77, '78 Aide, CIT/AC '79, Staff '80-'81) writes in "I'm living in Northampton, Massachusetts, teaching music and guitar studies at Westfield State University, Holyoke Community College, Northfield Mt. Hermon School, The Williston Northampton School, and the Northampton Community Music Center. I'm performing regularly with the Back Bay Guitar Trio, jazz vocalist Ellen Cogen, improvisation with drummer Gary Rzab, and sax player Ed Harlow among others. We play all over the northeast and occasionally get overseas as well. People can check out our website at [www.backbayguitartrio.com](http://www.backbayguitartrio.com) for upcoming performances. I don't do much else!" John has a loyal following, and "groupies" **John Burns ("Burnsie")** and **John Anz** can often be found at a John Mason gig.

**Marisha Mitchell** (CCC camper '95-'01, ICEP '02, Aide '03, Staff '04-'09) writes "I came to Nashville in March and have been working in a preschool here ever since. I am at the Calvary Young Children's School, teaching in the Penguin class. My kids are 24-28 months old, so it's hard work, but it's a blast! I have a whole class full of little Chimney girls in the making! I love being here, but missed camp this summer since it was the first summer I hadn't been there since 1995. But, I did make it to Alumni Weekend in September. It was an amazing time and wonderful to see so many friendly faces again.

**Harry Marshall** (CB camper '49-'55, Aide '56) contacted us with much news of himself and his growing Becket and Chimney family, soon to be approaching 4 generations at camp! Harry reports that his son **Harrison Marshall** (CB camper '83-'86) got married in June of 2009 to Diana Pittman, and is now attending the University of Texas Graduate School of Architecture in Austin. Daughter **Kate Marshall Huntington** (CCC camper '86-'89, ICEP '90, Aide '91, CIT/AC '92, Staff '93-'94) was married to Pete Huntington in September of 2006 and have a son, Sam, born in April of 2008. Kate and Pete visited Becket this past June and await the day young Sam can join the Becket ranks as a 4th generation camper (NOTE: Sam's great-grandfather, **Harry Marshall, Sr.**, was a Camp Becket counselor and swimming instructor from 1919 to 1922). As for himself, Harry says "I continue to work in the Criminal Division of the Justice Department, but retirement looms for sometime next spring."

## In Memoriam

**Jane Shields (F)** died on January 26, 2010. Jane was predeceased by her husband and Camp Becket alumnus, Charles "Chick" Shields in 2004.

**James M. Austin (P)** died on June 13, 2010. Among many in his family, James is survived by his wife and Chimney Corners Camp alumna Barbara-Jeanne Somes Austin, and his children, Leah, Robyn, Lucas and Noelle who are also alumni of the camps.

**Leonard D. Garfield (F)** died on June 16, 2010.

**Alexander G. Strzetelski (A)** died on July 16, 2010. Alex was a camper from '73 to '77, and then again on staff in 1984. Among others, he is survived by his brother and Camp Becket alumnus Peter Strzetelski, and sisters and Chimney Corners Camp alumna Elizabeth Strzetelski Waldman and Katherine Strzetelski Fitzmaurice, and Kate's children Brendan, Erin and Meghan, all alumni of the camps. Alex's family did ask that in lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy be donated in the memory of Alexander Strzetelski to the Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA Annual Fund.

**Andrew Mullen (A)** died on October 11, 2010. Andy was a firefighter, engineer, EMT and member of the haz-mat and dive teams in Anchorage, Alaska. In addition to his wife Lynee and daughters Riley, Erin and Darby, Andy is survived by his sister, Chimney Corners alumna Alice Mullen Burke and his brother, Becket alumnus Scott Mullen. Andy was a camper at Camp Becket in '79 and '80.

(A) Alumni, (P) Parent, (F) Friend

*We have just recently learned of the deaths of those listed above. 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 the In Memoriam section of the Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA News. Thank you.*



## HERITAGE CLUB

The Heritage Club at Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA recognizes members of the Camp Becket and Chimney Corners Camp community who have included the camps in their estate plans or have made a planned charitable gift such as a charitable gift annuity, gifts of life insurance, or inclusion in their will. Log onto “Become a Supporter” at [www.bccymca.org](http://www.bccymca.org) and learn how you can become a member.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Saturday, November 13 through Sunday, November 14 Board of Trustees Meeting
- Saturday, January 15 (tentative) Camp Reunion, New York City
- Friday, January 21 through Sunday, January 23 Women’s Wellness Weekend
- Saturday, January 22 Board of Trustees Meeting
- Saturday, February 5 Camp Reunion, Newton, MA
- Sunday, February 20 through Saturday, February 26 Winter Camp
- Friday, April 29 through Sunday, May 1 Spring Work Weekend
- Friday, May 27 through Monday, May 30 Memorial Day Family Camp
- Sunday, June 26 First Camp Session Begins
- Sunday, July 24 Second Camp Session Begins

*For updates, changes, and a full list of all alumni, parent and camp information events please go to the EVENTS page at [www.bccymca.org](http://www.bccymca.org).*



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