



CAMP JEWELL YMCA UPCOMING EVENTS

Woodcutter's Weekend November 8-10
Pre-Thanksgiving November 10
Wine Tasting & Auction November 16
New Year's Family Camp December 29-
January 1

CAMP JEWELL YMCA
A Branch of the YMCA of Greater Hartford
6 Prock Hill Road, P.O. Box 8
Colebrook, CT 06021
campjewellymca.org

The YMCA for **Youth Development**: Nurturing the potential of every child and teen, for **Healthy Living**: Improving the nation's well-being, for **Social Responsibility**: Giving back and providing support to our neighbors. The YMCA of Greater Hartford is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization established in 1852 and is one of the nation's oldest YMCAs. The YMCA strives to serve all regardless of their ability to pay.

THE REAL JEWELL

YMCA of Greater Hartford



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

CAMP JEWELL YMCA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 2
Fall 2013

What's Inside:

- 5th Annual Wine Tasting
- Alumni Scholarships
- New Basketball Courts
- Project 236
- Alumni Spotlight



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CAMP JEWELL YMCA



THANKS • GRACIAS • GRAZIE • MERCI • DANKE • OBRIGADO

Georgi Andrews is a one-of-a-kind volunteer. She became involved at Camp Jewell when her daughter Shelby, who was a Ranger last summer, started coming as a day camper. Shelby came to camp on scholarship, along with her younger twin brothers, thanks to camp's Strong Kids Campaign, and from the moment she got here Georgi felt compelled to give something back to camp. She was persistent in approaching us and offering to volunteer in whatever way she could.

Over the years, Georgi worked to create opportunities to be involved at camp as a volunteer, and really found her place as one of our top-performing callers during our Strong Kids phone campaign held every January. She was the Community Campaign Chairperson for the 2013 campaign, and we're excited to announce that she has agreed to serve as the 2014 Strong Kids Campaign Chairperson. She's a bubbly, energetic and committed volunteer who just exudes her passion for camp. And most of all, she inspires others to be passionate about camp, too. She's gotten other members of her family involved at camp, and comes up on a regular basis to volunteer and to participate in programs here throughout the year.

We know that for as much as she's given to camp, Georgi has that much more she wants to give. Thank you Georgi for all you are and all you bring to camp!



5th ANNUAL WINE TASTING & AUCTION to benefit Camp Jewell & West Hartford YMCA Strong Kids Campaigns

Saturday, November 16, 2013
6-11 p.m.

West Hartford Town Hall
50 South Main Street, West Hartford

Featuring a wine tasting, heavy hors d'oeuvres,
silent and live auctions, dancing and fellowship.

Tickets: \$50

To purchase tickets call camp at 888-412-2267 or visit
www.ghymca.kintera.org/winetastings

Presented by

RAY'S ROUNDUP

Many people aren't aware that Camp Jewell serves more people each year who come to family camp than we do during summer camp. I consider family camp our most mission-based program because it truly impacts the lives of families, one of the YMCA's greatest goals. Perhaps another reason family camp is so important to me is because of my own personal connection to it—my family began coming to New Year's Family Camp when I was a child and we still reunite here over that holiday.

In case you aren't familiar with the program, our family camp programs are typically offered over long weekends throughout the year, from Friday evening through lunch on Monday. Families stay in cabins, participate in recreational programs and activities facilitated by our well-trained program staff and enjoy all their meals together in our dining hall. The key to family camp and its success is that families spend quality time together away from the distractions of daily life, including technology. The fact that you can come here for three or four days and be completely unplugged, focusing only on face-to-face interactions with family members over a game of checkers, or a round of wiffleball or doing an arts and crafts project together is powerful. This is especially the case considering so many people are spending less and less quality time with their kids as a result of work and other life pressures that require us to run in so many different directions.

When you're at family camp you live together in one side of a cabin (or more depending on your group's size), share a bathroom, share your meals and play together as a family. As a result parents get to really watch their kids interacting with other kids, offering a chance to see them in a different way, to see a side your children don't necessarily show you when you're at home. Likewise, your kids get to see you in a different light; they could see your competitive or athletic side while you're playing a game of wiffle ball or volleyball, or maybe they'll see how you make new friends with the other families who are here.

I had a powerful family camp experience that started at New Year's family camp in 1984. The reason I know what can come of participating in family camp is because all those great things happened for me. At the time I thought I was just here to have a great time, but looking back I can remember how I saw my mom and dad in a different way, and the independence it fostered in me. My dad made spending time with my siblings and me a priority over hanging out with the other adults here, and it was here that I learned how great of a mom my mom really was. I saw many other women come up to her and ask her advice on things; I realized she was a resource for other people.

One of the biggest impacts family camp had on me, and I've seen it happen for so many other kids, is the opportunity to get to know the people, places and programs at camp so that the idea of trying a two-week session of summer camp doesn't seem so daunting anymore. I was a real homebody as a kid, but those years at family camp gave me the confidence to know that I would be OK if I came to summer camp, and that it could actually be a really great experience. Without that preparation there's a good chance summer camp wouldn't have happened for me.

The only catch with family camp is that the weekends fill up quickly. If you're interested in the upcoming New Year's family camp, or those running over Memorial Day, Labor Day, early June or Columbus Day weekends in 2014 you should give us a call for more information or to reserve your spot. Your family will be all the better for it.

Ray Zetye,
Executive Director



PROJECT 236: It's Not Too Late to Give

Do you remember the first time you came to Camp Jewell? Perhaps you had a slightly nervous feeling when you first arrived, but it quickly passed as you got accustomed to camp and met new people. If you're like many of us, what followed over a period of days or weeks or months was a deeper awareness of yourself and the strong friendships you made and still foster today. And, most likely, there's the yearning you felt (or still feel) while you waited for the next summer session or another great Camp Jewell program to be offered again so you could come back to camp.

Please help us offer that opportunity to more kids through Project 236, our annual campaign that brings 236 kids to Camp Jewell regardless of their ability to pay. If you've already contributed, we thank you! If you haven't, it's not too late to give! Your tax-deductible donations can be made online at www.ghymcaproject236.kintera.org, by mail to Camp Jewell YMCA, P.O. Box 8, Colebrook, CT 06021 or by calling 888-412-2267.

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Like these photos? Find us on Facebook for more images of camp from yesterday and today!
www.facebook.com/campjewell

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The Camp Jewell Alumni Association awarded its first annual scholarship to two summer staff members at the closing staff banquet in August. Thanks to a donation from Caty Burgess, camp alumna from 1981-1992, and a matching contribution from camp, two \$500 scholarships were awarded.

Evan Katz, the Ranch Village Coordinator from West Hartford, and May Liu, Nit Nois international counselor from China, were selected the top candidates from the pool of applicants. Evan is attending Tunxis Community College and will be transferring to Central Connecticut State University in the spring to pursue a degree in elementary education. May is studying communications and English studies, and is planning to pursue a postgraduate degree in elementary education.

The Alumni Association is excited to continue this new tradition annually to recognize the hard work and dedication of summer staff members. In today's world the options and pressures facing staff are many, so offering this scholarship is our way to commend those who have chosen to dedicate their summer to help kids discover the possibilities at Camp Jewell.

We welcome additional donations to the scholarship fund; the more we receive, the more we can give! If you're interested in making a donation, please contact Ray Zetye at ray.zetye@ghymca.org.



Evan Katz and May Liu, recipients of the First Annual Alumni Association Scholarships.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

SUSAN HOLT

Camp Nurse 1968-69

I was a nurse at Camp Jewell for the summers of 1968-69. A couple years ago I went online to see if the camp still existed and then got on the alumni mailing list. I've never met Ray Zetye, the current executive director, but I read his column in the summer newsletter and it inspired me to send him my story.

I had been a camper at a camp on Maryland's Chesapeake Bay beginning at age seven. Driving from our home near Philadelphia to camp seemed to take forever back then, but I absolutely loved those weeks spent at camp every summer. So, as I got close to graduating from Penn State in the spring of 1968 I decided to try and get a camp position (I had one year of actual work experience as a nurse). I talked my friend Sandy Hazzard O'Hedy into doing it with me, found camp listings in the back of a nursing journal, sent out some letters and found myself talking to either Allen Beavers, executive director at the time, or Ambery Butcher, who was the outdoor center resident director. They wanted us to come up for an interview, but since I was in the middle of finals and actually too broke to make the trip, they hired us based on the phone interview.

At the time, Colebrook was literally one intersection in the woods with no houses there, only a tiny store that also doubled as the post office. When we drove back into the camp, the first person who appeared through the windshield of my VW bug was Doug "Scoobie" Ahrens. It was as if he just emerged from the trees into the parking lot, no one else was around. He was so animated, I just had to laugh. As it turned out first impressions were right with Doug. He was ALWAYS the spirit of camp and even on rainy days he offered "liquid sunshine". We were only 23 and he seemed so much older than we were, but he was just the greatest guy. He was so helpful, I could tell he really wanted us to feel part of the team right off the bat, and we did. He was one of a kind and I always thought how great it would have been to have had him for a teacher.

Back then Jewell was an all-boys camp with around 250 total kids and staff. There was another part of camp set up across the lake that was very primitive, where boys from Hartford spent the summer. They would only come over to our side a couple of times a week and they considered their side the "real" camp. There was a huge trips program with groups gone on hiking or canoe adventures to the Smokies, Saranac Lake, Mt. Washington, Franconia Notch, etc. for weeks at a time. I remember the trip leaders sending back postcards with crazy messages addressed to "the nursi."

Camp Jewell is a magical place, and I just wanted you to know that it's always been that way. The people who work there create that. I loved being at camp and every time I think about those two summers, I smile.

We want to hear your camp story! We're building an archive of stories from campers, staff and volunteers both past and present; if you'd like to add your memories to camp's written history please contact Ruthie Napoleone, our communications specialist, at ruthie.napoleone@ghymca.org.



Sandy Hazzard O'Hedy, left, and Susan Holt, right, when they were Camp Jewell nurses during the summer of 1968.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CAMP JEWELL YMCA



NEW BASKETBALL COURTS ... AND MORE

Here at camp, we believe it is important for every child to have the chance to experience success, have fun and develop positive relationships. One of the ways we do that is through the activities we offer, including a wide variety of dynamic, hands-on games at our sports complex. We're excited to announce this area of camp got a major overhaul earlier this year, thanks to a bequest from Bill Cole, that makes it even more of an exciting place for kids to play.

Perhaps you're one of many who remember trying to clear water off the basketball courts after it rained so you could play without simultaneously splashing water about. Those days are gone now thanks to a new drainage system and a state-of-the-art surface that sits on the old courts, making it a safer, more comfortable and more appealing place to play. And we love that it looks great, too! The new adjustable basketball hoops can go as low as five feet, making it possible for even some of our youngest campers to experience the satisfaction of making a slam dunk.

In addition to the basketball courts, the sports complex is also home to four square, carpet ball, pickle ball, tetherball and two gaga pits. Some, like four square and tetherball, are old playground favorites, while gaga, pickle ball (a slowed-down version of tennis, akin to what wiffle ball is to baseball) and carpet ball (similar to bocce, but on a long, wooden table built by our Jedi campers) are newer games that almost any child can learn and play successfully in a short time. A portion of the area is surrounded by a new stone wall that offers spectators a place to cheer on friends.

These improvements were possible because of a generous bequest by the Cole Family. Bill Cole had a special place in his heart for Camp Jewell, and because of his bequest to camp we are able to realize this kind of improvement to camp.

The updated sports complex gives every child at camp more opportunities to play cooperatively among friends. We saw more kids than ever enjoy their time on the courts this past summer, making new friends and sharing time with old ones. That's what camp is all about!



Like these photos? Find us on Facebook for more images of camp from yesterday and today! www.facebook.com/campjewell

CORN ROAST RECAP

When you think of Corn Roast, it undoubtedly brings back memories of not only hot-buttered corn on the cob, but the campfire, songs and ice cream that followed it as well. Most of all, it brings back memories of the campers and counselors who shared that time with you.

Five years ago we started recognizing members from our 112 years as a Camp Jewell family for their distinguished service to camp with the "Scoobie Awards," named after Doug "Scoobie" Ahrens. This year we awarded three men who have made significant contributions to camp.

Archie "Pal" Knowles, whose award was given posthumously and received by his grandson Duncan Knowles, was Camp Jewell's director from 1923 to 1945. Paul Berkel, camp director from 1976 to 1983 and Gordon Hodne, assistant camp director from 1977 to 1988 were also awarded. A group of former staff from the 1970s and 1980s attended to honor Paul and Gordie, and together they shared a heartfelt reunion among old friends.

As part of the celebration we gave out copies of a promotional video from camp that was produced in the late 1980s. We would love to send you a copy! Just email becky.barton@ghymca.org or call us at 888-412-2267 and we'll drop one in the mail to you.

Save the date for next year's Corn Roast on August 9, 2014. We hope to see you there!



Paul Berkel and Gordon Hodne at Corn Roast with camp friends from the 1970s and 1980s.

Camp Jewell Credo:

"We come together for this short time to live simply, close to nature and closer to each other; that we might renew our respect for the world around us, recommit ourselves to family and friends, and rejoice in God's love for us all."

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