



## CAMP JEWELL YMCA UPCOMING EVENTS

Columbus Day Family Camp: Oct. 10-13  
Greater Boston Alumni Event: Oct. 18  
Halloween Harvest Fest: October 25  
6th Annual Wine Tasting: Nov. 1  
Woodcutter's Weekend: Nov. 14-16  
Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner: Nov. 16  
New Year's Family Camp: Dec. 29-Jan. 1  
Winter Family Camp: Feb. 16-19  
Memorial Day Family Camp: May 22-25

**CAMP JEWELL YMCA**  
A Branch of the YMCA of Greater Hartford  
6 Prock Hill Road, P.O. Box 8  
Colebrook, CT 06021  
[campjewellymca.org](http://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 2, Issue 2  
Fall 2014

## What's Inside:

- Boston Area Meet Up
- Alumni Scholarship
- Alumnae Join CJ Board
- Staff Thanks



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CAMP JEWELL YMCA



## 2014 Annual Wine Tasting Event

**Presented by**  
**West Hartford YMCA & Camp Jewell YMCA**

**Saturday, November 1 at 6 p.m.**

**West Hartford Town Hall**  
**50 South Main Street, West Hartford**

**Hors d'oeuvres, silent & live auctions,**  
**dancing & fellowship**

**Tickets: \$50**

**To purchase tickets:**  
**1-888-412-CAMP or**  
**ghymcawine.kintera.org**



## GREATER BOSTON ALUMNI GATHERING

**October 18, 2014**  
**3-7 p.m.**

**At the Home of**  
**Gordon & Gail Hodne**  
**30 Oakland Street**  
**Medway, Mass.**

**Bring your camp photos, yearbooks**  
**and stories to share with fellow**  
**alumni! Good food, laughs**  
**and fellowship guaranteed!**

**RSVP by October 15 to**  
**becky.barton@ghymca.org**

## RAY'S ROUNDUP

*Below is a letter our Executive Director, Ray Zetye, sent out to all summer camp staff in August, a few days before the last day of the last session. Many Camp Jewell YMCA alumni were staff at one time or another, so we thought you might enjoy reading it, too.*

Dear Camp Jewell Staff,

It is hard to conceptualize what has been accomplished after a summer at Camp Jewell YMCA. We are not a factory where you can measure input and output. Even great efforts, like organizing an all-camp activity or turning around the most homesick of campers can go unrecognized in the hustle and bustle of camp. It is also hard for those of us new to this place or new to a work environment to put into perspective what our own efforts have been and what the reasons are for those efforts. Often there is no time to reflect on what has been done as our summer draws to a close. What little time we have to ourselves in these last days gets eaten up by thoughts of what comes next when camp is over.

So I ask you to think about this...

On Saturday when all the kids have gone and you have cleaned your cabin for the last time, you will sit at the waterfront and watch a slideshow of our time together. And as you do that, there will be kids out in our world that will be setting the dinner table for their family for the very first time, and they will ask that the whole family sit together like they did at camp. There will be kids staring at camp photos on Smug Mug looking for images of YOU wanting to hang YOU up on their bedroom walls next to the latest pop music icons. There will be kids dreaming of real possibilities for their future, possibilities that until they went to camp they did not even know existed. Possibilities like a life outside of Hartford, going to college, or maybe just a world where peers can be nice more often than not.

And in September as kids head back to school, there will be kids who will walk into classrooms all over our community that will stand a little taller and who will raise their hands to answer questions they would not have answered in June—all because of the confidence YOU gave them in themselves. There will be kids who will tell their teacher when they see someone getting bullied because they have a newfound connection to the adults in their lives and believe in their ability to help, thanks to YOU. There will be kids who will try harder when they fail a test because of the resiliency and grit YOU gave them when they failed the first, second, or 17th time here at camp.

And in October as the weather grows colder, there will be dads enlisted to build a fire pit in the back yard so that the family can make hobo dinners together because the ones on the grill or in the oven just didn't come out the same. There will be kids teaching capture the flag games and knockout to their friends at home, and maybe even inventing some new games like YOU did that one day when you were tired of the usual ideas. And there will be at least one carpet ball table built by a parent who calls me up to get the design.

In the dark of winter there will be kids who squeal with delight and will think of YOU first when they open the gift of camp during the holidays. There will be kids more willing to try something new like ice skating or skiing because of the successes YOU gave them at trying new things this summer. There will be kids organizing magic card tournaments, or D&D get-togethers, and at least a couple of dads will sigh and roll their eyes when their kid explains what the term LARP means and begrudgingly will go to the hardware store for pool noodles, PVC and 6 roles of duct tape.



## ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Four counselors and coordinators received scholarships at the summer staff banquet in August thanks to the Second Annual Alumni Scholarship award. The program is possible because of a gift from Caty Burgess, camp alumna from 1981-1992, and a matching contribution from camp.

Coordinators Ethan Madore and Chris Kimball were each awarded \$400 toward their master's degrees. Ethan, who hails from our own Colebrook, is enrolled in an MFA program in creative non-fiction writing at the University of Iowa. Chris calls Duxbury, MA his hometown and is pursuing a graduate degree in American Studies at UMASS Amherst with the goal of becoming an English teacher.

Counselors Lizzie Revay and Ryan Wilde were each presented with \$100. Lizzie, who is from Fairfield, is studying early childhood education and psychology at Stonehill College; Ryan is from Avon and is studying math on a Pre-Med track at Bucknell.

The Alumni Association is excited to continue this annual tradition 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—and themselves—discover the possibilities at Camp Jewell.



Pictured from left to right: Craig Dawson, Associate Executive Director, Ryan Wilde, Ethan Madore, Chris Kimball & Lizzie Revay, award recipients, and Jami Silver, Camp Jewell Board member.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CAMP JEWELL YMCA



## RAY'S ROUNDUP (continued from page 2)

And as spring comes, kids will be checking camp's website for the countdown to next summer. They will Facebook their friends to see what sessions they are coming, and they will email Craig to find out if YOU are coming back in 2015. There will be kids and parents organizing little get-togethers with their friends from camp, and at those get-togethers they will tell stories of YOU and the times you all spent together, and they will be cementing friendships that will last all their lives. We also know there will be kids who will stand stronger against the negative influences of bullies, gangs and abusers because they know in their hearts they are loved by YOU, and it is only 2 months and 17 days until the sweet relief of going back to camp.

And 20 years from now there will be teachers and nurses, doctors and social workers, politicians and activists who are doing what they are doing because of the seeds YOU planted this summer. They will still be getting together with those same friends who will stand by them through the toughest times in their lives and will celebrate with them in the greatest moments in their lives. The world will be safer, more at peace, and a better place. And you should know...

YOU did that. You did that over and over and over this summer. Even when you thought you weren't doing anything, you were doing that. There is no way to measure the lives you touched this summer, but there are thousands of lives that each of you reached this summer, lives of people most of whom you will not ever meet. I can say this to you with great certainty because I have seen the future. I have seen the future in the stories of campers and staff from the past. I have seen the future in letters and emails from parents. I have seen it in my own life, and in my own reality, and I have seen it in YOU. I saw it all summer long, often when you didn't even know I was there.

So I say to you, thank you.

Thank you for the sacrifices you made to be here, thank you for all you did in these last 8+ weeks.

Camp will always be here for you and those you love.

Stay in touch,  
Ray



2014 Summer Staff

## ALUMNAE JOIN CAMP'S BOARD OF ADVISORS

Some of the people who know Camp Jewell the best are our alumni. And it's for that reason we are excited to welcome two seasoned camp alumnae—Jessica Dowdell Brown and Julie Ellis Levine—as part of the most recent slate of volunteers elected to our Board of Advisors. We are excited to see how their experiences from the past help shape their ideas for the future.

### JESS DOWDELL BROWN



I first came to Camp Jewell at the age of 8 and was hooked immediately. I returned each year as a camper, Ranch camper, LIT and Ranger from 1985-1994. I learned how to make my own fire, braid leather bracelets, and cook hobo dinners, while also learning how to reggae dance, saddle surf, and avoid the Golden Shovel. IT was like no other place on Earth. I made friends that have lasted a lifetime. I came back again as year-round staff in 1998 and learned that the magic of camp is not exclusively for the campers. Camp gave me confidence, independence and nurtured a sense of wonder and love for the great outdoors, which I still carry with me today.

Volunteering on Camp Jewell's Board is my way of giving back to a place that has meant so much to me and is an extension of my work in conservation with a mission to preserve natural places and encourage people to get outside and enjoy them. I currently head communications for National Wildlife Federation's Eco-Schools USA program in New Jersey where I live with my husband and two kids who can't wait to be campers!

### JULIE ELLIS LEVINE



I first came to Camp Jewell in 1973, which was also the first year the summer camp program went co-ed. I absolutely loved it. I went through all the ranks, as a camper, LIT, junior counselor and counselor. One of the best parts of camp was meeting all kinds of different people and then reconnecting with them each summer when we returned.

Camp Jewell is a family tradition for me. My father attended camp when it was located in Swanzey, N.H., and has served as a board member, and my two daughters are now campers. When Jay Aronson asked me to consider joining the board I was excited because of how great an experience I had at camp. When I was up at camp this past summer for a meeting, standing near the dining hall as campers were heading up for dinner, I felt like I had gone back in time. It felt like nothing had changed and I was reliving my time here. To have the experience of coming around full circle has been cathartic for me and I look forward to giving more kids—including my own—the same opportunities I had at camp.

Today I continue to live in West Hartford with my husband and children and I co-own Luxury Living for Less, a home staging and interior redesign firm.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: DI BARTON BRUCE & AL BRUCE



In the fall of 1991 I embarked on the second phase of my journey, travelling through the vast country of USA, full of excitement and ambition to experience as many opportunities, meet as many people and to capture all the beauty for a lifetime of memories.

It was a simple plan. To travel to Camp Jewell YMCA to collect my older brother, Mo Barton, who had been working there for the summer and to continue our travels the very next day in our small but reliable vehicle and head across the great land of America to Seattle.

On my arrival at Camp Jewell YMCA, I was met by a sea of friendly faces and made to feel very welcome. It was extremely gratifying to have seen the surroundings that Mo had been working at for a long period of time, to have met the "camp family" that Mo had established and understand why Mo had embodied the camp life.

After a staff game of Frisbee Golf and meal of Sloppy Joes, I was convinced to reschedule our travel plans and to remain at Camp Jewell YMCA for a couple of days to enable Mo to assist at the upcoming Day Camp and supporting programs.

Well, to cut a long story short. Mo and I both worked during the fall, working alongside such greats as Peter "Jonesy" Jones, Ethna, Paul, Shannon, Lydia (Latvia), and many more.

Whilst Mo and I did eventually hit the road 8 weeks later, the camp fire of Camp Jewell drew us both back before too long. With my new love interest Allan (Al Bruce) that I had met in Canada in tow, I arrived back at Camp in the spring of 1992 to work the season and upcoming summer.

Al and I spent the spring performing maintenance duties alongside other great comrades from around the world such as Trina (Australian), Jonesy (Australian), Dick, Tom, Matt (New Zealand) and others. We had a great time, working hard during the day, having a lot of laughs at night and we spent our weekends travelling around the countryside of Connecticut.

Spring very quickly rolled in to summer and both Al and I had our dedicated roles. I worked under the leadership of Ethna at Seniors Village as a councillor, whilst Al was appointed as Director of Transport (DOT). We had a great team of councillors at Seniors Village: Carrie, Gus, Copeland and Allan and we worked like a winning team, leading the campers on hiking, biking, canoeing and climbing trips whilst having fun and creating memories together. To this day, I am often heard screaming out the Seniors chant "your left, your left, your left, right, left....", so much so, that my three children can quote the whole chant word for word!!

Similarly, Al was enjoying his summer as Director of Transport. He was travelling the countryside, transporting councillors and campers to various sites for trips. He was the master of playing tricks on councillors, but also was the brunt of gags played on him. He fondly recalls the honour of taking trippers on a biking trip to Cape Cod with fellow councillor Lawrie. By day one he had realised very quickly that Mo and Jonesy had retaliated and removed all of his underwear from his backpack, leaving him biking for two weeks in an uncomfortable position. He talks about it to this day and reminds Mo often to watch his back!!!!

Both Al and I continued working at Camp Jewell during the fall. I led teams of groups that came back to camp for their annual pilgrimage through activities such as archery, arts and crafts, leather work, hiking, high ropes, zip line and many others. Al utilised his plumbing skills and worked in the Maintenance Department, and alongside his partner in crime, Jonesy, they helped to build the covered bridge and the extension on the then ranch camp cabin.

The summer of 1992 was full of fun, and an experience that has lasted a lifetime for both Al and I. With a spring, summer and fall season behind us, sadly we had to leave Camp Jewell and return to Australia. We married in April of 1994, had three children (13, 17 and 19) and have revisited Camp Jewell three times since.

In 1995 Al and I returned to camp for Mo and Becky's wedding, bringing more Barton family members. It was a pleasure to bring my parents to Camp Jewell and to show them around so they could appreciate all the stories of camp we had shared with them.

In 2008 we made the pilgrimage back to Camp Jewell YMCA with our three children in tow so they could experience camp and to visit the backyard of their cousins, Max and Kyle. In that same year, our family grew with the introduction of a puppy we all fondly named "Jewells" to commemorate our trip.

This year, Al and I celebrated 20 years of marriage and in July, we returned to Camp Jewell YMCA with our family to visit Mo, Becky, Max and Kyle but also to revisit Camp Jewell. On this occasion, with the children as young adults themselves, our visit was enough for them to be enticed to come back to Camp Jewell as councillors in the future. Daniel (19 years) is hoping to travel in 2016 after he has completed his University studies and work at Camp Jewell, Mitch (17 years) is also hopeful of being a camp councillor in the future and Carina (13 years) was very grateful of the opportunity to be a camper for 2 days and 2 nights during our recent visit. Carina was embraced in Utopian Village and experienced the joys of camp. All of our children now understand why Al and I always refer to Camp Jewell with so much fondness.

Both Al and I now fully understand and appreciate the term "a lifetime of memories" as it is 22 years since we arrived at camp, with a backpack full of ambition and adventure. We recall our time at Camp like it was yesterday. Camp Jewell YMCA was the beginning of Al and my relationship as we made memories together, experiencing the outdoors of the Berkshires, meeting councillors, campers, program group members, Nature's Classroom and Camp Jewell staff.

Thanks Camp Jewell for opening up your arms to welcome a young ambitious Australian couple 22 years ago, and still opening up your arms to the extended Bruce family in 2014. See you again soon!!

## 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."

### Camp Jewell YMCA

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