

LAURELWOOD LEGEND



Spring 2018 Issue | The official newsletter of Camp Laurelwood

SUMMER 2018... WHY WE CAN'T WAIT!

Every summer hundreds of campers and staff come together for seven magical weeks. This year's enhancements make us especially excited for summer 2018! New for this year, Laurelwood will offer a new professional slingshot range, an all new digital media center, an expanded music program, updated Super Senior Boys' Housing, inflatables and docks in our boating lake, an expanded archery range, new and improved sports leagues, a reconditioned softball field and MORE!

We are also excited to bring back Basketball Camp and introduce Ninja Warrior Camp and Circus Camp for summer 2018! All specialty camps will incorporate skill development, as well as focus on teamwork, sportsmanship and friendship-building. Traditional camp activities, such as swimming, boating and ropes, will be available to campers in these specialty camps as well. **We can't wait!**



Campers and staff have shared a whole host of reasons why they can't wait for summer:

"I'm excited to meet my new campers and get Ashley's (local homemade ice cream)!"

~ Leah Teller, veteran staff member

"I'm going to Costa Rica with my best friends. What could be better?" ~ Taylor Madden, returning camper, entering Bonim in summer 2018

"It is so fun, you wish you stayed there for life."
~ Jacob Cohen, returning camper, Junior Boys' Division

"I'm excited for Ray to be in a bunk...and excited for day camp for Lillian. For me, I'm excited to watch everyone have so much fun!"
~ Jill Saperstein, Laurelwood Alumna and current Camp Mom

"I can't wait to meet new people and to give campers a summer experience that they'll never forget!"
~ Aaron Cohen, returning counselor

Campus Updates

Boys' Campus (Juniors and Seniors): Ken Yaffe

Hi everybody. I am excited to return to Laurelwood as the Boys' Head Counselor. I am thrilled to be celebrating my 28th year, and I'm just as excited to return to camp each year as I was when I was a camper. One of my favorite things at camp is getting to see all of my returning campers while also getting to know all of our new campers -who are in for such a treat. We have lots of new activities for the boys to go along with our camp favorites. Though we are still a few weeks away from enjoying time swimming, playing lots of sports, participating in some great evening activities, and competing in Big O and Maccabiah, my enthusiasm to start the summer is extremely high. I can't wait to see you all. I know we will have a blast this summer!



continued on page 2

Camp Updates, continued from page 1

Girls' Campus (Juniors and Seniors): Marcie Steinberg

We are so excited to meet all of our new campers in addition to welcoming back our returners! We are thrilled to have two talented and experienced Division Heads who have grown up at Laurelwood to lead our Juniors and Seniors. They will be working together to create engaging programs, such as our big sister/little sister program, which provides bonding moments for the girls together throughout the summer. In addition to all of the wonderful day and evening programs, my favorite part of camp is watching campers create meaningful relationships that I know will last far past the summer. Laurelwood has always been a special place for me and I feel so lucky to help the campers grow as individuals. GIRLS' SIDE 2018!

Plex (Super Seniors): Marcie and Ken

Super Seniors are in for a remarkable summer! These are the years that campers get to design their schedule based on their interests and favorite camp activities, whether it is sports, the arts, boating and more. Super Seniors are also afforded the opportunity to go on weekly field trips to local attractions. Some of these trips are to Six Flags, Brownstone, Hammonasset State Park and our annual canoeing trip. See you at Chuppah Hangout!

Bonim: Craig Barrows

Welcome to Bonim 18!

It is wonderful to have so many Bonim Campers this year!

Session 1 campers will enjoy our new itinerary in Costa Rica that has been designed to allow campers a chance to explore all that the country has to offer. This year is exceptionally special, as we welcome our first Bonim staff member who is also a Costa Rica camper alumna - Sydney Gellerman.



Session 2 Bonimers will travel off campus each week on an overnight trip in addition to enjoying their favorite camp activities. One of the highlights will be during our last week when we will travel to PA to enjoy Hershey Park and Turkey Hill Ice Cream Experience for three days and two nights. See you at camp!

SITs: Andrea Freed

This summer, our SITs will work towards becoming leaders both in and out of camp. SITs will participate in daily development sessions that focus on various skills, such as effective communication, inclusion, child development and conflict resolution. Every SIT will have the opportunity to work with a Junior or Senior bunk as they develop their skills, as well as shadow specialists and participate in lifeguard training. I am very excited to share that we will be partnering with BBYO throughout the summer to run targeted development for our SITs. During Session 2 we are thrilled to have 3 Israeli Emissaries join our SIT program. In addition to sharing our summer home with the emissaries, we look forward to learning about their home in Israel.

Day Camp: Ryan Mullins

I am ecstatic to join the Laurelwood family and help guide our day campers through another fantastic summer. I have been so impressed with the Camp Laurelwood campus as well as the team overseeing this wonderful camp. Our staff are eager to provide an amazing experience for every day camper. In addition to our regularly scheduled activities such as swimming, arts and crafts, sports and music, day campers will also have opportunities for overnights, evening barbecues and so much more. We can't wait to see you at camp!

FROM Chuppah Hill With Ari



We hope you are all enjoying the start of the spring season. It feels like it was just yesterday we were getting together at our fall reunion and now summer 2018 is quickly approaching - we could not be more excited! We are getting ready to wake up to the smell of pine trees and spend the beautiful New England summer days together. We have some awesome activities and adventures planned for the summer of 2018 and we hope that you are as eager to get to camp as we are.

Going into my 3rd summer as the director, I am excited for all of the amazing programs that are coming to camp. We have a tremendous team working at camp this season and I know that all of our campers are going to be part of a special summer.

The athletics program is gearing up to be top notch this summer. We have phenomenal and talented staff that are ready to get everyone outdoors and moving. Our renovated softball field will feature a new clay infield with a new outfield fence. We have added new tournaments and leagues that provide more interaction and friendly competition for our campers and staff.

Our newly expanded Archery Range will provide campers of varying levels the opportunity to test their skills and maybe one day challenge me. We are also very excited about the professional slingshot range that will be new in 2018,

continued on page 3

From Chuppah Hill with Ari, continued from page 2

and we're now working on the finishing touches. Stay tuned for more information as we get closer to the start of camp.

We have also spent this offseason working on our lakefront. Campers are in for a treat and will get to experience new and exciting programming that includes our new lake inflatables. Campers and staff will now enjoy climbing, jumping and bouncing around on our lake, in addition to boating in canoes, kayaks, etc.

Finally, this summer marks the addition of our brand new Digital Media Center, which will feature state-of-the-art computer equipment that enables campers to further develop their video production and photo editing skills.

While we have developed so many cool new features, the best part of camp continues to be our approach at camp—providing exceptional experiences in a family environment. As we pass through the gate of 463 Summer Hill Road, we will always be able to call Laurelwood our home for the rest of our lives. Recently, I was sitting on one of our benches on Chuppah Hill overlooking our campus and was overcome with emotions about this summer. I can hear the laughter, see the kids swimming in our pools and feel the excitement that only camp can bring. **I can't wait to get everyone back to camp to join me in creating the magic that can only be experienced at Laurelwood!**

IT TAKES A VILLAGE!



Camp Director Ari Golub

Assistant Camp Director	Louis Lasko
Program Director	Brian Grossbard
Program Coordinator	Emily Cooper
Health Center Director	Lila Tullock
Boys Head Counselor	Ken Yaffe
Girls Head Counselor	Marcie Steinberg
Day Camp Director	Ryan Mullins
Bonim Director	Craig Barrows
SIT Director	Andrea Freed
Office Manager	Heather Golub
Head of Aquatics	Matt Nierenberg

Executive Chef	Jarrod Levy
Head of Maintenance	Ned Linnehan
Head of Sports	Freddy Oliphant
Head of Art	Emma Senior
Ropes Supervisor	Aaron Purvor
Junior Boys Division Head	Matt Cannell
Junior Girls Division Head	Breezie Miller
Senior Boys Division Head	Ethan Schaefer
Senior Girls Division Head	Allyson Tine
Plex Boys Division Head	Andy Thompson
Plex Girls Division Head	Julia Rubens

CAMP365: Laurelwood in the community

Camp Laurelwood is proud of its role in the community. This year, you may have seen us at your synagogue, speaking to your campers during Sunday/Hebrew School, or helping to promote events run by the local Jewish Federation or JCC. You might have even seen us at a PJ Library Event or a BBYO Program.

We were extremely proud to co-sponsor Hockey & Havdallah with BBYO this past January, as part of an initiative to partner with another Jewish organization whose members are often Laurelwood campers and staff during the summer. With over 500 attendees total, the event welcomed families from different Jewish organizations in a most enjoyable, inclusive evening of culture.



In March, we participated in the New Haven Jewish Federation's annual Mitzvah Day celebration. Laurelwood staff led "The Sandwich Brigade", making sandwiches to deliver to the community. Other projects included Sock Sorting, Lasagna Making, Blanket Making and Card Writing. It felt good to give time to address community needs!

This summer, we look forward to welcoming groups from JCCs in Connecticut, Springfield, MA, and "the Y" in Riverdale, NY. We can't wait to show them "the Laurelwood Experience" and share resources. These groups stay in bunks, eat in the mess hall and participate in all of the great programs that Laurelwood has to offer.

If your Jewish agency is interested in a partnership with Camp Laurelwood OR if you would like us to speak at your synagogue, please contact info@camplaurelwood.org to make arrangements. We can't wait to meet you!

Staff Spotlight: CRAIG BARROWS Retreat Center Coordinator, Bonim Director

Imagine standing inside our Mess Hall with more than 300 people all chanting the same thing: Bonim '18, Bonim '18. But instead of '18, each camper chants the year that they plan to join the trip to Costa Rica. The excitement and energy is indescribable. Yet that is what Craig has helped to create every summer.



Craig has been part of Laurelwood for 17 years over the past 20 (he took some time off and joined the army as well as spending one summer leading a teen travel group in Israel). However, this past season Craig became a full-time employee at camp as he is now the Retreat Center Coordinator in addition to leading the Bonim program. Since 2016 our Retreat Center business has grown almost 250% with much of this expansion being credited to our Wedding business. Craig has been instrumental in getting the word out that Laurelwood is the best place to get married.

We sat down with Craig to learn more about who he is and why he has chosen to make camp such an important part of his life:

When did you start at Laurelwood? I was 10 years old

Your favorite memory of camp growing up? I remember my Bonim year. My group was the first year that the Bonim program existed. It certainly has changed a lot since then. I remember growing closer to my camp friends that summer. We spent a lot of time making our own schedule during the day and went on some pretty cool trips as well. After that summer we all knew that we wanted to come back and work at camp.

Before becoming full-time, why did you continue to come back? As much as I love working with the kids to make it a meaningful summer, I always learn something new at camp every summer. It pushes me to learn new skills which makes me grow as a person.

Why is camp so special? Camp gives anybody an opportunity to just be themselves. It also helps push you out of your comfort zone at times which only helps you grow. I've learned to drive stick shift at camp, as well as how to fix a water leak. It was the first place I learned to be responsible for someone other than myself.

Why do you love Bonim? This is a program that every camper looks forward to starting from their first summer at camp. I love to hear the "Bonim" chants in the mess hall during meals and listening to hundreds of campers shouting out their bonim year both from former bonim members but also from campers that are almost 10 years away. I also have the unique position to be able to say that the majority of the staff who were former campers, were my campers. It is great seeing them grow from a teen that was leaving the country without their parents (many for the first time), take on the responsibility of being a counselor. I am also excited that we are beginning to bring staff that were once campers going to Costa Rica. Costa Rica becomes a milestone in every camper's life and I am honored to be a part of that.

continued on page 5

Craig Barrows, continued from page 4

What do you like to do away from camp? Just like everyone else I try to catch up on sleep, but I love going on trips with my friends. I also staff Birthright trips during the winter where I average 2 trips a year.

What do you hope to accomplish in your role as Retreat Center Coordinator? I want to bring more people to camp. Camp is a special place and it is truly meaningful to introduce Laurelwood magic to the community and beyond. We are excited that we have been able to fill up all our available weekends in 2018. My next goal is to start bringing schools and youth groups to camp that hopefully will return year after year. I also would love to have more corporate and synagogue events. Finally, I would like to see us grow to offer year-round programs for all age groups ranging from sports teams, local boy/girl scout meetings to local yoga programs.

C.I.T.s (Campers-in-Training)

We are always so excited to learn when our alumni, friends and family welcome a new baby. **Know a CL alumnus who recently had a baby?** Please let us know so we can send them a Future Camper onesie.



CL Alumni	Years at Camp	Future Camper
Alex Goodman	1993 - 1999	Braden
Brian Harding	1998-2011	Oliver
Ali (Ashford) Herman	1997, 2005-2009, 2013-16	Felicity
Melissa (Kaye) Lampi	1994-1996	Jack
Allison (Levy) Ofir	1999-2008 and 2013-16	Layla
Assaf Ofir	1998-2003, 2007 and 2009	
Adam Ponchick	1988-1994	Noah
Allison (Kaye) Scarinzi	1989 to 1994	Ryan
Brett Weiner		Gemma

ANNOUNCEMENT of Cornerstone Fellows

Returning counselors are the “cornerstones” of their camp. Over the last 16 years, 3,600+ Fellows have participated in this transformative leadership experience sponsored by the Foundation for Jewish Camp.

Being a part of the Cornerstone Fellowship includes attending a 5-day seminar in the spring, and bringing new ideas, programs and initiatives back to camp. At the Cornerstone Seminar, 400 staff members from Jewish camps across North America come together for workshops, song sessions, and campfires, learning from seasoned camp staff and from each other. Fellows share “magic” and ideas among their camps, creating a new type of camp community.

Cornerstone offers an important professional development opportunity for senior camp staff, who supervise counselors’ progress throughout the Cornerstone program. Both Fellows and senior camp staff are supported by a faculty Advisor, who provides coaching throughout the summer so that goals, visions, and action plans can be implemented successfully. We are thrilled to announce the 2018 cornerstone fellows:

- Gabrielle ‘Breezie’ Miller - Junior Girls Division Head
- Julia Rubens - Plex Girls Division Head
- Hannah Bienstock - General Counselor
- Eric Bienstock - General Counselor
- Amanda Thompson - General Counselor

STAY IN TOUCH



Register as a proud Laurelwood alum!

Did you know that you can easily stay in touch with your Laurelwood Family by registering as an alumnus on-line?

All you have to do is click on <http://www.camplaulwood.org/alumni/> to sign up today! (You can also e-mail info@camplaulwood.org and she will gladly assist you). The whole process takes three minutes and will ensure that you have exclusive access to Laurelwood pictures, videos and news. Let’s stay in touch!

Did we miss you?



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

LET'S * * *
Celebrate!
 Your Milestones * * *

When someone at camp celebrates a big day, we all stand on our benches and cheer!

Because we want to share in your joys all year long, please send us your milestones by e-mailing info@campl laurelwood.org. We want to hear about your B'nai Mitzvot, weddings, births, moves, jobs, college acceptances, graduations, and other life events.

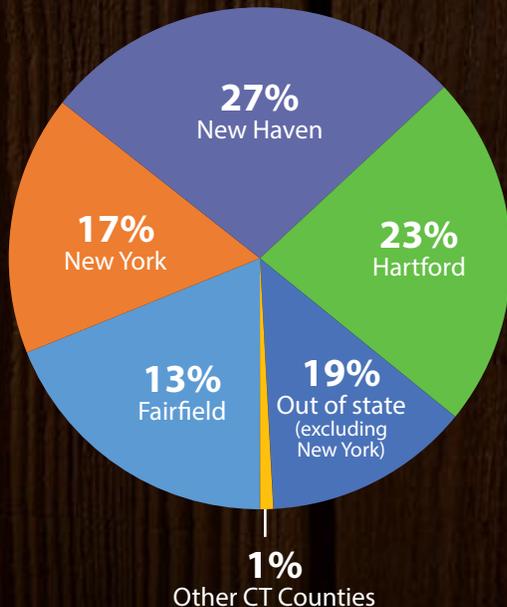
We look forward to celebrating with you!

Congratulations to Rachel Sier and Zach Mancher who wed on February 18, 2018.



Where do Campers who attend Laurelwood come from?

While Camp Laurelwood continues to be the only Jewish Overnight camp in Connecticut, campers who attend Laurelwood come from all over the country including New York, Florida, Virginia and California (to name a few). The chart below shows where our campers live.



June 10:
Israel at 70 Event on campus!

June 24:
First Day of Camp

Summer 2018:
2019 Summer Registration Opens
Stay tuned for further information



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