

the Huckonian



A publication for alumni and friends

Fall 2016

Good things take time



The “Palace” — aptly named because it had indoor plumbing when first constructed in 1964 — has been razed, and a foundation laid for a new, fully insulated building which will be the year round home of Huckins camp directors for the next generation. The Director’s home is the heartbeat of camp, overlooking the waterfront, swimming and boating area.

In October, Peter Earle Construction will build the frame of the top two levels. Interior work will continue through the winter months. Jody hopes to move into the completed home next May.

The new facility will include a large meeting area for summer staff meetings, a large kitchen/living area, for group cooking and socializing. The fully insulated

building will have enough space for community gatherings, board meetings, and all around summer functions.

We can’t wait for everyone to see the Director’s new home at our grand opening during our 90th celebration. Please check our website as we will do monthly posts of the construction project. (www.camphuckins.org)

*Help make the Palace a palace
(Camp Huckins’ Style)*

The Palace Mini-Campaign

We are reaching out to our friends and family for help with the finishing touches. This money will go towards furniture and some of the upgrades that will make this building a true centerpiece for our camp and a beautiful home for our current and future directors. The goal for this mini-campaign is 100K.

To make a gift, please follow links to our website www.camphuckins.org/donate or contact Peter King at Peter@camphuckins.org or Stephanie Paine at Stephanie@camphuckins.org.

We thank you in advance for your help. I hope that you will come visit Camp next summer and see Jody’s new home.

Thank you for supporting Huckins!

Empowerment Day



When Jody offered me the chance to return to Huckins for Empowerment Day, I jumped at the opportunity to spend a day at camp. Who wouldn't? When the morning finally arrived, my six year old daughter and I headed out early, excited for our day. She would spend the day as a mini-camper with some CITs and other alumni kids and I would spend the day as if time had rolled back to the simpler days of camp.

On the way there, I imagined the scent of warm pine needles in the air, reuniting with alumni friends and enjoying things like going out on the lake, singing in the dining hall, and walking with linked arms along the well trod paths of my youth. I did all of that, but in truth, the experience was so much more.

As the alumni arrived and we introduced ourselves to one another, we reminisced about our shared experiences, found ties in who we remembered in common from years ago, laughed together at some of the funny traditions and realized that the threads of camp tied us all together, young and old, whether we had been cabin mates for years or had only just met. The Huckins alumni network is a powerful bond and in coming back for Empowerment Day,

we were reminded of how that transcends time.

After meeting in the new leadership division, we dispersed to the cabins where we met with the campers. I have to admit, being many years from my camp counselor days, I was a little unsure at first of how the time with them would go, but they were waiting for me with big Huckins smiles and a balloon with questions to get the conversation moving. Each time I tossed the balloon in the air and caught it, I would answer the question written under my hand. What was my favorite activity at camp? What was the same and what was different at camp? How had camp changed my life? They delighted in finding my name on their cabin walls. We went back and forth comparing ex-

periences. They couldn't believe camp used to have trampolines built right into the ground on the sports field and I was surprised to learn that "down and dirty" was a real activity, but for the most part, their days sounded much like my days had at camp. And the things that I had valued—a safe place to discover and be my best and most authentic self and a place that lent itself to forging lifelong friendships—were still the things they held highest about their camp experience.

When soupy blew, those 10 twelve year old girls and I walked with linked arms down the exact paths I had followed more years ago than I care to admit. For that day, once again, I was one of them. We laughed and stood on the benches and sang the old songs together. Chocolate chip pudding — while not on the menu for that day — was still the favorite dessert in camp.

During rest hour, the counselors sat around the alumni in the lodge and we all tried to give the best nuggets of life and career advice we could and reminded them that when they go out into the

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Camp Huckins Year Round Employees

Jody (Hutchinson) Skelton
Executive Director

Kara (Smith) Couture
Sr. Program Director

Kara Evans
Assistant Camp Director

Angela Lavoie
Registrar

Sue Fullerton
Admin. Asst

Stephanie Paine
Director of Alumni Development

Peter King
Director of Donor Relations

Howard Trask
Director of Maintenance

Carroll County YMCA/ Camp Huckins Board of Directors

Leslie Guenther, *President*
Eleni Eliades, *Vice President*
Kristen Fischer, *Secretary*
Elizabeth (Sanborn) Ventre,
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Sarah Bird

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Ian Dowe

Chris Duprey

Richard Fleming

Robin (Cranage) Lapoint

Kathleen Mulkern

Caitlin Mulligan

Nat Peirce

Priscilla Rowe

Elizabeth (Serio) Eskenazi

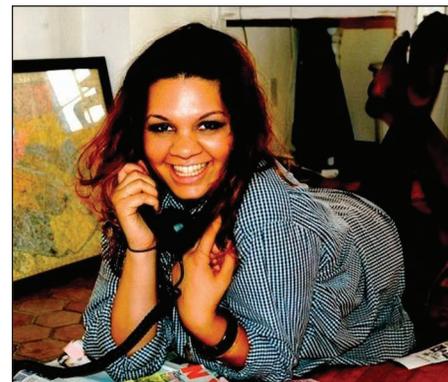
Karen (Greene) Shackford

Lewis M. Vittum

Deirdre (Gaudreau) Wadsworth

What ever happened to... **Kate Sullivan**

My name is Kate Sullivan. I attended Huckins from 1994–2004 and you may know me because I created the Nellie Girls Around the World Facebook page! I live in Los Angeles, CA, with my girlfriend Britt, and our two pups, Scout and Byron. I graduated from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2004 with a B.A. in journalism and immediately moved to Los Angeles. For work I develop television shows with Thomas Kail (director of *Grease Live!* and *Hamilton*) for Fox. I also have my own theater company, Over the Moon Productions, in which I have produced and directed old musicals like *Rent* and *Spring Awakening* and have developed new musicals as well. For the past few years I have been working on a new rock musical with the music of indie pop group, Tegan & Sara, and I recently was just attached to direct my first movie musical for Lionsgate!



Camp Huckins is the most special place on the planet to me. I loved training and being a counselor in the Senior Division and even more so in the Leadership Division. My last two years I was the CIT counselor with my best camp friend Jess Brandt who now runs the Junior Division! Does it count that I've visited almost every summer since? I feel like there should be a necklace for that! My dream is to be a part of camp again every summer — it's in my heart always. I remember standing on the small crafts beach (my favorite department!) by myself the last day of camp one summer. It was silent and peaceful and as I looked over the sparkling water of Lake Ossipee in the early morning light I just thought to myself: *there is no better place in the world than this.*



*Our Spring 2017
Huckonian will
focus on this
Huckins alum...
can you guess
who it is?*

Empowerment Day, continued

world, they have a whole network of Huckins family to help them on their way. That has remained constant and true, perhaps even more so with the rise of Facebook and Huckins alumni groups.

When the CITs arrived with the alumni kids at the end of our program, my daughter talked excitedly about the bracelets they had made. She ran around with her new little friends while I lingered with mine and I knew when I got home, I would plug the date into my

calendar for next year. Empowerment Day had been so much more than just returning to camp and reconnecting with friends—it was a chance to give back to a place I hold so dear and to offer a hand up to those rising from the safety of camp into the real world. Giving of yourself to camp is like the magic penny—you always get back more than you give.

Nancy Richards-Cavanaugh

View From the Bunk



A look at beautiful Lake Ossipee, late in the season.

As the 2016 camp season slowly comes to a close, I find myself deeper into the post-camp season than I've ever ventured before. The days grow shorter, moments of solitude more numerous, and the number of staff members fewer with each passing week.

Even on the sunniest of days, a slight chill lurks underneath each welcome breeze. Every time I reach for a sweater instead of a bathing suit I'm reminded that each moment is taking us further away from the wonderful memories made throughout the summer of 2016, and closer to the ones we'll undoubtedly make in 2017. During this period of transition, however, I've found one fact to remain consistently true: Camp is not the 250 acres upon which we smile, laugh, cry, and love each summer, but rather the people who make each cabin a home.

Thankfully, this truth means we can all be at camp twelve months of the year. Every group text with Huckins friends is a late-night cabin chat; every reunion at a restaurant becomes a meal at the Dining Hall (disclaimer: Singing on tables doesn't go over well at most establishments). Every moment of laughter and Huckins love between

summers keeps camp running year-round, regardless of how quiet it may get in the Snell Dome or at the Small Crafts Beach. The first law of thermodynamics says that something cannot be made out of nothing. Well, that law can go both ways: The laughter shared on the shores of Lake Ossipee doesn't disappear come October, but spreads throughout the world with our campers, staff, and alumni.

This autumn and winter, I challenge each and every one of you to bring a little more camp into the world. Pick up a pen and write a letter, teach a non-camp friend a camp song, make some chocolate chip pudding with your family on a Friday night, and for goodness sake, please purchase the liverwurst while it's still fresh. We'll be here to greet you when you bring camp back to 17 Camp Huckins Road next June.

Kara Evans

From Camp to College

For many rising seniors, the summer is a time to begin to focus on the college admission process, visit colleges and work on the Common Application. If you are at camp for the summer, there is little time for these activities. Fortunately, alumna Leslie Hughes Smith is willing to help. Leslie is a former Regional Admissions Director at University of Pennsylvania, former Assistant Dean of Admissions at Stanford University and is currently owner of Leslie Smith & Associates, a strategic educational consulting company. For the past several summers, Leslie has spent part of an afternoon with our Junior Counselors. She shares tips for navigating the college admissions process and answers questions. In addition, Leslie provides a "suggested check list for August and September" and handouts with questions and answers to many of the most common questions — including how to best communicate to colleges about camp experiences, responsibilities and the leadership development program.

We are lucky to have such an amazing and generous resource. Thank you to Leslie for sharing her time and expertise.



Jody, Leslie Hughes Smith and Hannah

Hucksters Take a Seat

Each year we proudly report how many of our campers and staff are Hucksters and Double Hucksters. Sometimes we have a Triple Huckster and then of course, we have the Skeltons. It is amazing to think about how many accumulated years individuals and families have spent at and given to Huckins. It goes without saying that Huckins is “deep in our hearts”.

This summer if you visited camp you might have noticed forest green Adirondack chairs on the porches of the office and the Lodge. Each chair has been given in recognition of an individual or family who has been at camp for 20 or more summers. There are a remarkable 17 chairs — each chair has an engraved plaque with the name of an individual or family.

The following individuals were recognized in ceremonies at camp this summer:

Zaven and Audrey Vorperian

Robin Vorperian Tallino, Todd and Bruce Vorperian

Judy Wright Snell



Seventeen Adirondack chairs honor Hucksters who have been at camp for 20 or more summers.

Peter and Pat Kaligian

Brian, Mark, Lance and Scott Kaligian

Jody Hutchinson Skelton and John

Skelton

Becca, Michael and Jamie Skelton

Beth Coffey McKay

Anne Vaughan Riley

Kara Smith Couture

Sue Fullerton

Lyman Kenison

Mary Welch

Sarah Mackie Weemen

Karen Greene Shackford

Kris Powers Bennett

Howard Trask

2016 Huckster Donations

Thank you to our newest Hucksters, who supported our scholarship fund this year.

Louise Adillon • Jessica Busick
 Camden Capozzoli • Grace Casey • Isabelle Clayton
 Grace Cooper • Tyler Couto • Erin Czarnecki
 Emily Davidson • Megan Dufault • Hannah Dutton
 Olivia Emery • Lillian Gates • Isabella Goodwin
 Mason Guerster • Maggie Haleyn
 Allison Hermann • Jane Keleghan • Camille Lamey
 Sophie Landau • Ava Landen • Mackenzie Lee
 Celia Lynn • Amanda Magaud • Dana Mahoney
 Mary McManmon • Riley Murphy
 Sophia O'Connor • Oona Peterson
 Rachel Raslowsky • Kathryn Simms • Ella Singer
 Victoria Steed • Madison Talbot
 Brooke Thalacker • Eliza White • Adeline Ziobro

Camp Huckins in the Community

Al-a-men Camp Huckins families!!! Over 500 items donated to the Freedom Food Pantry!



All About the Alumni ...

1980s

Leslie Guenther (89), Athletic Director at Hebron Academy and current Chair of the YMCA/Camp Huckins Board of Directors was recently inducted into the Maine Golf Hall of Fame! She has been a premiere golfer in the state for over 25 years and is a strong proponent of the sport for juniors and women alike. She has been a champion in state competitions many times over, and has played in three USGA national championships during her career.



Huckins board chair Leslie Guenther was inducted into the Maine Golf Hall of Fame in September.

Get Social!

 **LinkedIn** | Join our "Camp Nellie Huckins Alumni" private group by requesting membership. A resource for networking!

 **Twitter** | @CampHuckins

#CNHAlumni
#HuckinsHearts

 **Facebook** | YMCA Camp Huckins

 **Instagram** | YMCACampHuckins



The Orlando Pride, in Seattle, WA, **Maddy Evans** (08), got together with her former counselor, **Courtney Chisholm** (08) for a photo (left). Maddy spent a day sharing her skills on this sportsfield this summer!

Cristina Velez (12) has been living in Madrid, Spain for several years and recently accepted a position as the Student Life Coordinator at BU study abroad Madrid.

2000s and up

Caitlin Brooks (03) started a business in Southern California called Coyote Creative. She makes plant based décor with succulents and natural items. She was recently featured on the CW6 San Diego Living segment for being one of the best vendors in San Diego. Check out her website: www.coyotecreativeSD.com.

Nicole Veilleux (06) is studying Nurse Midwifery/Women's Health Nurse Practitioner at Yale School of Nursing.

While playing soccer for the professional women's soccer team,



Bethany Pillay (13), Elsie Daddow (15) and Mi-kaela Holman (14) had a mini Huckins reunion in Melbourne, Australia in August.



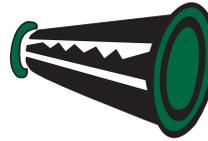
Jane Siegel (08) and Jill MacArthur (09) have been best friends since they were bunk mates in Cabin S! The photo was taken at Jane's going away party before moving to San Francisco, CA



Huckins alums gather for a photo at the recent wedding of Amy Shackford (06)



Dana Capasso (08) got married last August at the camp and retreat center in CT where she is the Associate Executive Director. Nicole (Coli) Veilleux (08), Megan Healy (16) and Ali Traver (10) are pictured with Dana.



Please send us news about your accomplishments—or brag about someone else— fellow Huckonians want to know! Email Kara at kara@camphuckins.org.



Britt Conway (12), Charlotte Clark (14) and Becca Fallon (15) had a mini reunion in England.



While visiting Texas after camp this summer, Fiona Bourke (16), from New Zealand, bumped into Hannah Gisness (12). Hannah was also traveling and recognized Fiona from her brief visit to camp over the summer. It truly is a small "Nellie" world!



Janna Dwyer (11) met up with Maggie Chen (09) in Seattle, WA.

Save the Date

Chicago Alumni Gathering

Saturday, October 15, 2016

At the Leopold residence

Boston Alumni Gathering

Saturday, October 22, 2016

Sunset Grill & Tap, 130 Brighton Avenue, Allston

Boston University Club Dinner

Friday, November 4, 2016

San Francisco Alumni Gathering

Saturday, December 3, 2016

Location TBD

LA Alumni Gathering

Saturday, December 10, 2016

Location TBD

Manchester, Portland and NYC Alumni Gatherings

Coming up in the spring.

Welcome to the Huckins family!

Weddings and Babies



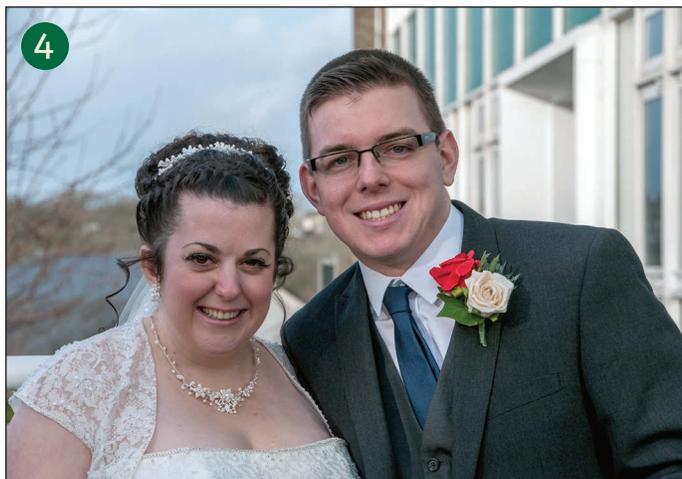
1 **Emily Germain**
(99) married Paul
Goncalves on June
20, 2015.



2 **Valerie Tobia** (05)
married Isaac
Breton on October 24,
2015 in West Green-
wich, RI.

3 Brooklyn Elizabeth
was born on June
26, 2016 to **Carol
Knerr** (98) and Lynn
Hersey.

4 **Erin Nicholas**
(12) married **Lee
Thomas** (11) on
December 29, 2015



5 **Amy Shackford**
(06) married
Nichole Cousins on
August 3, 2016

6 Georgia Ray was
born on June 14,
2016 to **Karen Prazar**
(09) and Cecilia Kiely.

7 Woods Loosigian
was born on July 8,
2016 to **Emma Loosi-
gian** (10) and Michael
Laham. He attended
his first Family Camp
week in August.



Third Annual Tri-Ath-Loon Completed at YMCA Camp Huckins



The 40 brave Tri-Ath-Loon participants raised over \$20,000 to support the scholarship program at Camp Huckins.

On Sunday, June 5, 40 participants braved the chilly waters of Lake Ossipee and completed a USTA certified Sprint Triathlon. The individuals raised over \$20,000 to support the scholarship program at Camp Huckins. Camp Director and Tri Participant Jody Skelton greeted all the participants and led the dive into the lake. Skelton told the group gathered at the lake shore “I am so proud of all the participants, volunteers and sponsors who made this wonderful day possible. Camp Huckins works hard to ensure that any deserving girl may come to Camp regardless of her family’s financial circumstances. Last year 174 young girls received a full or partial scholarship.”

Participants were from five New England States, including event winners Rachel Taylor (1), Portland, ME, Lee Winer (2), Brighton, MA and Jody Brennan (3) South Grafton, MA.



Top finishers Lee Winer of Brighton, MA (second), Rachel Taylor of Portland, ME (first), and Jody Brennan of South Grafton, MA (third). For complete results: www.coolrunning.com/results/16/nh/Jun5_Huckin_set1.shtm

Mothers & Sons 2016



Mothers & Daughters 2016



1. Middlers
2. Seniors
3. Leadership
4. Juniors



Save the Dates!
**2017 Mother/
Child Weekends**
Sons June 9–11
Daughters
September 15–17



Family Camp Week 2016



Follow the Gleam

Do you follow us on Facebook or on Instagram? Camp's social media pages are a great way to keep up on the news and views of Huckins. Over the past year we have doubled our followers on Instagram (1500) and Facebook (3245). In addition to the official YMCA Camp Huckins' sites, there is a closed group (just ask to join) Nellie Girls Around the World which was created by Kate Sullivan, this month's "Whatever happened to." This group has been used to connect Huckins' people. If you need a babysitter, are moving to a new city or want a school recommendation - Nellie Girls is a place to exchange ideas, create conversations and to network. *So get connected and stay connected to camp - Follow the Gleam*



1. Family Camp Leadership group
2. Family Camp Juniors
3. Family Camp Middlers
4. Family Camp Seniors
5. Five Year Family Camp Hucksters
6. Ten Year Family Camp Hucksters
7. Twenty Year Family Camp Hucksters



Labor Day Family Camp



1. Labor Day Family Camp Middlers
2. Labor Day Family Camp Leadership
3. Labor Day Family Camp Seniors
4. Labor Day Family Camp Juniors
5. Labor Day Family Camp Five Year Hucksters
6. Labor Day Family Camp Ten Year Hucksters



Staff Parent Day 2016



Doran



Mautz



Paris



Raha



Ulrich



Sheehy



Witherford



Zavrl



Ward



Gamache



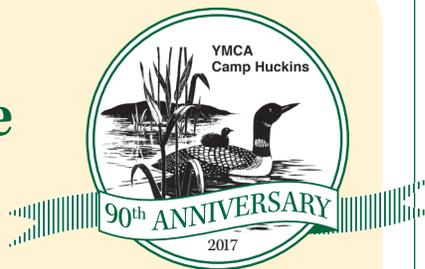
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Save the date! Camp Nellie Turns Ninety!



The summer of 2017 is the 90th anniversary of the founding of Camp Nellie Huckins. Way back in the summer of 1928, Camp Huckins opened with a two-week session for boys only. The next year it was open for 8 weeks, four for girls and four for boys. In 1966, Camp Huckins became all-girls. The rest, as they say, is history... and the laughter and shouts of so many camp seasons on the shores of Ossipee echo in the hearts of anyone fortunate enough to spend a summer here.

To mark this anniversary, we are very excited to announce a weekend of celebration on June 16–18, 2017. Please plan to come to camp and help us celebrate, and even spend the night if you can!

A party planning committee has been formed with several enthusiastic Nellie alumni volunteers. We'd love your help too, if you are interested. Please email Kristen Fischer if you'd like to help: kfischer@holderness.org. Hope to see you here in 2017!

YMCA Camp Huckins 2017 Season • Important Dates

Snow Day at Camp • Feb 25

Spaghetti Supper/Carroll County Alumni
Gathering at Camp • June 2

Alumni Work Weekend • June 2–4

Mother/Son Weekend • June 9–11

Early Bird Week • June 12–16

Triathalon & 90th Anniversary • June 16–18

Staff Training Week • June 18–23

1st Session • June 24–July 8

2nd Session • July 8–22

3rd Session • July 23–Aug 5

4th Session • Aug 5–19

Family Camp • Aug 21–26

Labor Day Weekend Family Camp • Sept 1–4

Mother/Daughter Weekend • Sept 15–17

Women's Wellness Weekend • Sept 29–Oct 1