

the Huckonian



A publication for alumni and friends

Spring 2017

Nellie Turns 90!

This summer we are excited to celebrate our 90th year in camping. Camp Huckins was founded in 1928 when Samuel Huckins gave the New Hampshire YMCA land for a residential camp in memory of Nellie, his young wife. The first summer, camp opened with 7 cabins of boys, the Lodge and the Director's House (today's Middler Division Leader's house). In 1929, the girls arrived on Lake Ossipee. There were four weeks of girls' camp and four weeks of boys' camp. The split camp continued until 1965 when Camp Huckins became an all-girls camp.

On June 17th–18th, we will be celebrating our long history with a weekend of camp activities and Huckins tradi-

tions. Please join alumni and friends and experience camp. You may stay for the weekend or come for the day. Program areas will be open, tours will be available and there will be gatherings by the decade, a dinner at the waterfront, Vespers and Candlelight. Whether you come every summer or have not been back in many years, the 90th will be a celebration to remember.

Please register online on at www.camphuckins.org or contact camp for more information. We hope to see you there.



90th Anniversary Schedule at a Glance

Saturday, June 17th

- 9:00 am Tri-Ath-Loon
- 12:00 pm Lunch on the Ball Field
- 1:30 pm Program Areas will open
- 4:30 pm Hors d'Oeuvres by the Decade
- 6:30 pm Dinner by the Waterfront
- 7:30 pm Vespers
- 8:30 pm Candlelight

Sunday, June 18th

- 8:00-9:00 am Breakfast

Buildings, Buildings, Buildings, Hooray!!!



What else is happening?

3. In May, the Senior Jons will be transformed. The showers are being refinished, new water saving toilets will be added, the Jons will have a brand new look.
4. More SOLAR PANELS will be added to the ROOF of the Dining Hall this spring. An Array of Photovoltaic panels will be installed to help reduce our carbon footprint to help make Camp as GREEN as possible.
5. New Screens will be added to some of our Senior Division Cabins and the Dining Hall will have all new screening complete with new screen doors.

1. The construction on the new year-round Camp Director's home has begun. Builders will work until June and then return in the fall to complete the project. Check the "Palace Progress" on our website: www.camphuckins.org.



2. The Health Center is having a facelift!! The dispensary area has been remodeled with a new bathroom and a shower. In the fall, a new housing area will be added to the front of the living quarters providing housing for all three Nurses at the Health Center.

YMCA Camp Huckins
17 Camp Huckins Road
Freedom NH 03836-4403

(603) 539-4710

camphuckins.org

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

Mike St. Onge
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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Caitlin Mulligan

Nat Peirce

Karen (Greene) Shackford

Deirdre (Gaudreau) Wadsworth

It's back to camp for them, too!

Huckins Staff

As the weather is changing and June is right around the corner, here at Camp Huckins we're filling out our summer staff. We're very thankful to have so many amazing staff returning this summer, both old and new. From first year counselors to seasoned Division Leaders, each Huckins staff member has an impact on campers' time at camp. Learn a little about some of our returning staff!

Alisson Brooks | Ski Boat Driver

From: New Hampshire, USA!

Profession: I have been working full time as a special education paraprofessional while going to school for my bachelor's and certification in Special Education and English.

Years at Huckins: 14

What you're most looking forward to about coming back to camp: I'm super excited to be coming back to camp all summer! I can't wait to see everyone and I'm really looking forward to playing in the lake again every day!



Elsie Daddow | Craft Shop Director

From: The Land Down Under

Studies: I'm studying a dual degree in Global Studies and Arts, with a major in politics and international relations, and minors in fine arts and sociology at Australian Catholic University.

Years at Huckins: 3

What you're most looking forward to about coming back to camp: I'm most looking forward to rekindling relationships and building new ones. Also to trying out some cool new things in the craft shop!

Dominik Kortas | Kitchen Crew

From: Poland

Years at Huckins: 2

What you're most looking forward to about coming back to camp: My favorite thing about camp is that it is a place full of so many great people from all over the world who are willing to share their culture with you. You can learn so many things from each other, working and having fun together. Being at camp during the summer is a great opportunity to experience the best summer of your life!



Save the Date!

May 8 | New York City Alumni Gathering
The Long Room | 120 W 44th Street

Support Huckins Scholarships!

USAT Sprint Tri-athlon



On Saturday, June 17, we will kick off the 90th anniversary celebration with the 4th Annual Huckins Tri-athlon, which will include a sprint distance triathlon & duathlon for both individuals and relay teams. Individual participation is open to women only, ages 15 and up. Team competition is open to both men and women. The Huckins Tri-ath-Loon is a sprint tri with a 1/3 mile swim, 10.5 mile bike ride and a 3.1 mile run. The duathlon begins with a mile run followed by the 10.5 mile bike and 3.1 mile run. This USAT, certified sprint event, is perfect

for beginners or for those training for events later in the season.

According to Jody Skelton, "The Tri is a wonderful way to engage in a spirited competition and support scholarships for a camp experience." Last year over 200 campers received a full or partial scholarship to attend camp.

For additional information and to register go to www.camphuckins.org/tri-ath-loon.

Already registered:

Kris (Powers) Bennett
Meredith (Haff) Breiland
Kristen (Parthe) Brown
Anne Colbert
Rebecca (Levy) Corwin
Annette Denise
Andrea Domenici
Chapin Dwyer
Elizabeth Dwyer
Jess (Brandt) Eisner
Kara Evans
Amy Farnham
Diane (Jackson) Gow
Amy Kallmerten
Melanie Knight
Sue (Blondell) Lindblad
Rhonda McDonough
Dede McKibbin-Vaughan
Chris Nelson
Lindsay (Riley) Nelson
Sarah (Coombs) Plummer
Anne (Vaughan) Riley
Kara (McDermott) Ryan
Jody (Hutchinson) Skelton
John Skelton
Michael Skelton
Rebecca Skelton
Patricia Sullivan
Deirdre (Gaudreau) Wadsworth
Lee Winer

The Camp Nellie Huckins Legacy Society

Over the 90 years, Camp Huckins has provided a summer home for over 90,000 campers, thanks in part to bequests and estate gifts from alumni and friends.

The Camp Nellie Huckins Legacy Society recognizes and honors all individuals who provide support to Camp Huckins through their wills, trusts, retirement plans, life insurance designations and other planned gifts. By joining others who have taken this step you can take satisfaction from knowing that you are part of an important legacy.

If you would like more information or if you have designated a gift for camp please call, email, or write to inform us of your planned gift. We would like to thank you for your generosity, make sure the purpose of your gift is understood and include you as a member of the Camp Nellie Huckins Legacy Society.

Contact Peter King or call 603-539-4710 for additional information.

The Y Goes to Washington

In early March, YMCA YOUTH & GOVERNMENT delegates Sarah Clark, from Berlin High School, and Victoria Sanchez, from Nashua North High School, accompanied by Jody Skelton, YMCA Youth & Government Director, went to



Left to right: Senator Maggie Hassan, Sarah Clark, Victoria Sanchez, Jody Skelton, Senator Jeanne Shaheen.

Washington to meet with our state representatives.

The delegation visited all four New Hampshire offices and are pictured here with NH senators Maggie Hassan and Jeanne Shaheen. Representatives Carol Shea Porter and Annie Custer were unavailable for photos.

Sarah Clark was a Senator and Victoria Sanchez was a member of the House of Representatives at the YMCA Youth & Government Program held April 7 and 8 at the State House in Concord.

Come back to Ossipee's shores

Empowerment Day 2017

This summer, we are inviting our alumnae to come to camp on July 15th to take part in the 3rd annual Empowerment Day. Camp Huckins has prided itself on developing young girls into strong women and leaders. Empowerment Day is a chance for our alumnae to share their stories and experiences from camp and life with campers and staff. The campers love hearing about camp in the past — so many activities and traditions continue. Alumnae get



to spend a day at camp, eating in the dining hall, singing on the benches and perhaps jumping off the Tower.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Stephanie@camphuckins.org or register online at www.camphuckins.org.

Top: July Empowerment Day participants.

Bottom: Participants in the August Empowerment Day.



Women's Wellness Weekend

September 29–October 1, 2017

Join us for our 5th Women's Wellness Weekend on the shores of Ossipee. The weekend will offer many opportunities to enjoy camp activities in the company of women. Hiking, kayaking, island swim, archery and crafts are a few of the activities that will be offered. Do as much or as little as you would like, design a weekend just for you.

We are looking for programming so if you have an expertise that you would like to share, please let us know. Previous activities have included yoga, cooking, massage, dance, estate planning and natural living.

The cost for the weekend is \$150. Please contact Kara@camphuckins.org for more information or go to www.camphuckins.org to register. We hope to see you there.



All About the Alumni ...

John Sherden was a camper in the 1950s and maintains a healthy and active lifestyle. He hikes regularly and will be doing the Maine portion of the Appalachian Trail this summer. Go John!

Alna Stevens (60) retired from teaching in 2005, but continues to sub at the school where she taught.

Carol Murphy McAllister (77) lives in North Kingston, Rhode Island, with her husband and 2 sons (who



Becca Skelton (front), Katie Croyle, Ally Brown, Michael Skelton (middle), Breezy Dwyer, Megan Healy and George Eklund (back) at Ally's wedding.



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



Mini 2016 1st session W reunion in San Rafael, CA with Hailey and Anna Weisel and Sophie Ehrbar.

spend summers at Belknap). She will always treasure the joy of camp and loves that her sons get that experience as well.

Amy Davis Kossak (90) and her husband welcomed a son, Evan, to the world in 2016 and he brings them joy every day!

Meghan Simone (99) just launched a new branch of her wedding film business, Mountain Love Films, to



Marjorie Rosenthak, Jenny Bussian Kempner and Muffy Pendergast enjoy a Spring camp reunion.

Huckins Alumni Gatherings



San Francisco Alumni Gathering, December 2016



Los Angeles Alumni Gathering, December 2016



Manchester Gathering, April 2017

cater to those celebrating in the Mount Washington Valley where she spends a majority of the year. She continues to film weddings all over New England and then travels out west and lives in her van from January to April. For every wedding, Meg donates \$50 towards a camper scholarship. Meg attended for 10 years and knows how impactful the summer camp experience can be for cultivating confidence and leadership skills in young women (www.megsimone.com).

Amanda McNamara (08) graduated from the University of Vermont in 2014 and her younger sister, Caroline, is a freshman at Bucknell University.



In this photo from Kathy Bleday: All are alumnae from camp. My daughter, Jenn Bleday, is on the left with cap, Mrs. Carol Carter Corbin in the middle, and my younger daughter, Amy Bleday, is on the right. The picture was taken at Vanderbilt University in Nashville where Mrs Corbin's son is the head baseball coach. Amy will return to camp this summer as a CIT; Jenn attended camp for five years, and Mrs Corbin said she was there as a camper and worker many years ago.

Get Social!



LinkedIn | Join our

"Camp Nellie Huckins Alumni" private group by requesting membership. A resource for networking!



Twitter |

@CampHuckins

#CNHAlumni

#HuckinsHearts



Facebook |

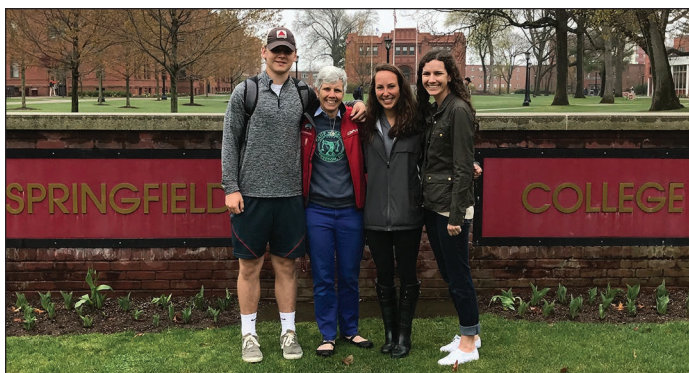
YMCA Camp Huckins



Instagram |

YMCACampHuckins

at CBS News in Washington DC and missing her summers at camp under the pines!



Alex Livingston, Jody Skelton, Lilly Barraclough and Becca Skelton. The first three are all Springfield College alumni.

Kate Hinnant (08) is spending a year in Australia after working in an orphanage in Columbia and traveling through Europe as a graduation present to herself.

Tory Coughlan (12) is working



Above: Boston Gathering, October 2016

Top right: Boston University Club Dinner, November 2016

Bottom right: Washington Gathering, March 2017



Welcome to the Huckins family!

Weddings and Babies



1 Annabelle was born to **Brooke Currier** (04) and Lee Frank on November 25, 2016. She joins sister, Addison, 3, at home.



2 **Ally Brown** (12) married Tim Allen on December 18, 2016 in Tewksbury, MA.

3 Eliza was born on March 12, 2017 to **Jennifer Stebbins** (06) and Dylan Thomas.

4 **Annie Perley** (97) and married Mike Dandy on September 24, 2016 in South Berwick, Maine. Annie and her son, Isaac, are Mother/Son Hucksters.

5 Harriet (Hattie) Jean was born on February 8, 2017 to **Maxine Wolfe** (15) and **Mark Cadman** (15).



Whatever happened to...

Linda Shayne “Spitzzy” (Spitzberg) Levine

It all began in 1968. I had heard about Huckins through my neighbor and best friend Carol (who happened to be Ellie Gordon's cousin) and Debbie Gummer who I knew from the Natick Pool Club. Before I knew it, I was driving down the dirt road with the irreplaceable scent of pine, fresh air and CAMP!!! I started in the Middler Division. From the moment I moved into Cabin I, I felt like I was home, like I could be myself and be accepted for who I was. I could be free with my creativity and feelings.

Camp made me feel safe, uninhibited and happy! Huckins gave me a sense of empowerment and shaped who I am today.

I am proud to chair two charity events a year: The first, LAUGHING MATTERS, is a charity event to support domestic violence shelters. I created this event and in 2012 I received the Nina C. Leibman Award for Empowerment and Justice from the Los Angeles Jewish Family Service Family Violence Project. The second charity event is a Prom Day event where LAUSD high school girls from the low income and homeless division get help getting ready for their



Ellie Gordon, Debbie Gummer Jabbari and Linda “Spitzzy” Levine

upcoming high school proms. We provide them with dresses, shoes, makeup and makeup instructors so that they fit in seamlessly with the rest of their classmates. This year was the first time we did two days and we were able to dress and prep 200 girls. A highlight of the event for me was working with two Huckins volunteers — Kate Sullivan and Emily Peck. They were amazing ...Of Course.

Back to my Huckins roots. I spent almost 10 summers at Huckins. I was a camper, a CIT and finally, a counselor. I performed in and directed plays, sailed and even did arts and crafts. Zaven and Audrey nicknamed me Spitzzy (I was born with the last name Spitzberg) and I was never called Linda again.

I graduated from Emerson College in Boston with a theatre degree. After graduation I did what every aspiring actor/singer does: I moved to New York

City. I checked coats at Carnegie Hall and waited on tables while auditioning. I travelled on the road for a few years and met my husband Steven in the band. We've now been married for 33 years. We moved back to New Jersey close to NYC. My husband became a music/concert talent agent and we moved to LA in 1988. I toured with Mary Wilson of the Supremes for a while and then came back home to act in TV and movies. My dream was realized when I was cast to sing for Helen Mirren in the animated film “Prince of Egypt.” But my greatest accomplishment is being a mom to my adopted

daughter Sophie. She is the light and love of my life! She is 23 and a singer/songwriter. Check her out at Sophie Ann music.

I know I said a lot but Camp Huckins wasn't just a summer camp for me. Camp was a place to grow, to be who and what I wanted to be and to make friends for life.

I feel blessed to have had that unique experience and as I write this, I'm planning my next reunion for September with my best Huckins pals.

It really never ends.

xo

Linda Shayne (Spitzberg) Levine

Our Fall 2017

Huckonian will focus on this Huckins alum... can you guess who it is?



Save the Date!

**May 24 | Portland, Maine
Alumni Gathering**

Rivalries | 10 Cotton St

Huckins Healing

by Annie (Perley) Dandy – 1991-1997

Twenty-six years ago, I drove through the gates of Camp Nellie Huckins for the very first time. I was a nervous, excited, scared little 11 year old girl. That first summer in Cabin T was a whirlwind of new emotions, new experiences, new friends and lots of fun. I was hooked. I was the camper who counted down the days until the next time she could walk hand in hand with friends under the pines, sing in the dining hall, and splash in the water, as carefree as can be. Camp meant everything to me. Over the next seven years the Huckins Spirit and all things Nellie filled my soul and helped shape a large part of who I am today. I learned how to be confident, how to speak up and how to listen, how to lead and how to follow, how to share and learn and grow. My last summer at Huckins was heartbreaking. How could I walk away from the best thing that ever happened to me?

The next decade of my life was also filled with a whirlwind of new emotions and experiences: high school graduation, college, living on my own, starting a career, and having a child. Although it is my most amazing life experience to date, having my son was also one of the most terrifying. Will I be a good mom? Can I do this? How can I keep him safe and happy? Am I prepared for this? The truth is nothing truly prepares you for motherhood. Nothing prepares for the massive expansion of the heart, the unconditional love and adoration, the excitement and fear of creating a human being and watching that human grow before your very eyes. I didn't do things perfectly. In fact, when he was age 3, I strapped him into a U-Haul and we began our next journey together — just the two of us. Single motherhood was where I found myself.

I never imagined that I could go back to Huckins — after all, I didn't have a Nellie daughter. When I learned about Mother/Son camp, I was over-the-moon excited. My son was 5 that first summer, still a little boy who didn't understand why we had to do capers, or set the table or how much fun it was to belt out Father Abraham at 7:30 a.m. I felt like my



heart was slowly being healed from the many years of not being able to be “present” for my son.

Mother/Son camp was where I let go of my stress and fear. I became the mom I always wanted to be: “Yes, of course you can have a 3rd s'more!” “Yes, let's go the playground at 6 a.m.!” “Yes, let's laugh until our bellies hurt!” I forgot about my bills, my doubts, my mistakes and my fear. I became closer to my son and that Huckins Spirit stayed with me even after we left camp. This will be our sixth summer at Mother/Son Camp. Our lives have changed dramatically since that first summer. My son is almost 13 years old. He still loves his Mama. The

soft dander on his upper lip is darkening by the day and I know my Mother/Son Camp window is closing before my eyes. Pretty soon he'll be driving! Where did the time go? Am I ready to leave Huckins again?

I'm not sure...but I know that I will always cherish our summer weekends under the pines. I will be forever grateful for Huckins healing our hearts and souls — bringing us closer and solidifying that sacred bond between mother and son. When I am gone from this earth, my son will remember sleeping over me in the top bunk, as I kick his mattress and giggle. He will remember our time spent, hand in hand, when I pointed out my memories from decades ago. He will remember that his mother loved him more than anything. I will never forget the Mother/Son weekends, when time stood still, and the outside world seemed so far away — where I could spend time with the love of my life at the very place that loved me first.

It is not too late to register for this summer's Mother/Son Weekend (June 9th-11th).

Please register online at:
camphuckins.org/mother-child-weekend/.

Camp Huckins Staff Member to Earn College Credit for Summer Position

Maddy Clapp, a sophomore Hospitality major at UNH, will fulfill 600 hours of her internship requirements — the equivalent of 4 college credits — while working at Camp Huckins this summer. Maddy will be one of our Leadership Division Counselors, developing and designing our ninth grade Leadership program.

Living with and managing 18 girls in a cabin is just one of the many leadership responsibilities required of counselors. Maddy will help coordinate 8 out-of-camp events, manage the travel budget and organize taking 54 leadership campers on each trip. Working as a counselor is a demanding job that provides lots of interpersonal skills and team-building. This is a wonderful opportunity for staff to be able to



attend Camp and also get college credit for their hard work. Jody is very hopeful this will set the standard for beginning many internships in the future.



Sharing the Huckins Love Through the Linus Project

Remember what it feels like to be wrapped up warm and snug on a cold morning at Camp? We want to spread the Huckins love by making sure those in need can also be snug and warm every morning. In honor of our 90th celebration we would like to make 90 fleece blankets for the Linus Project

(www.projectlinus.org/about/) for our New Hampshire chapter in Portsmouth, NH. Here's how you can help:

- Donate fleece to the Craft Shop where each session 20 blankets will be made by our campers (you can order fleece here: www.picotextiles.com/Shop/Fleece) *Note: For fleece blankets, an easy guideline is to order 1¼ yards for young children, 1½ yards for children/youth and 2½ yards for teens.*
- Donate a pair of sharp scissors
- Help make a blanket during Alumni weekend, the 90th celebration weekend or Mother/Son weekend
- Donate material for quilting (we will also try to make a few quilts for those who like to sew)

Save the Date!

Alumni Weekend
June 2-4

Mother/Son Weekend
June 9-11

90th Celebration
June 17-18

CampMinder

In January Camp Huckins switched to a web-based summer camp management platform. The new system, CampMinder, manages camper registration, staffing, healthcare, fundraising and our alumni network.

We need your help to build our alumni data base. We are asking all alumni to sign in, update contact information, alumni information (years at camp, jobs held etc.) and identify relationships (did your sister go to camp, did your cousin work in the kitchen or did your aunt attend in the 40's – we want to know it all!) The new system will allow, with your permission, alumni to connect with one another. So please go to camphuckins.org/alumni/426-2/ and update your contact information.

Here are the directions: Please visit camphuckins.org/alumni/426-2/ to create an account. At the login screen please choose Retrieve/Set Password. When prompted to enter your email please use your most current email. You will receive an email with instructions on setting your password. Be sure to write this password down. Please complete all information including if you are a former camper, staff or both. Please enter your specific years at camp or if you do not remember specifics you can enter total number of years attended as camper and as staff. **ALUMNI CONNECTIONS:** If any of your family members also attended camp (aunt, mother, daughter, cousin, etc.) please let us know that on the connection form on your dashboard. You can get to this form by signing in, choosing forms and then clicking on the alumni connection form.

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Camp Huckins Food Drive

Each summer for the past five summers, we have asked our camper families to bring canned goods when they drop their daughter off at camp. The food is donated to the Freedom food pantry. This summer we would like all of our visitors to consider making a donation. Please bring canned goods when you come to Alumni Weekend, Mother/Son Weekend, the 90th, Empowerment Day, Family Camp, Mother/Daughter and Women's Wellness. Let's make a difference in honor of Nellie's 90th!



YMCA Camp Huckins 2017 Season • Important Dates

90th Pre-Party Bronxville, NY • May 6

NYC Alumni Gathering • May 8

Portland, ME Alumni Gathering • May 24

Alumni Weekend • June 2-4

Mother/Son Weekend • June 9-11

Tri-Ath-Loon & 90th Anniversary • June 17-18

Staff Training Week • June 19-23

1st Session • June 24-July 8

2nd Session • July 8-22

Empowerment Day • July 15

3rd Session • July 23-August 5

Staff Parents Day • July 29

4th Session • August 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

Boston Alumni Gathering • October (TBA)