

Message from the CEO

These last few months I have enjoyed traveling and meeting with alumni, parents and friends of Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA. While in Los Angeles in April, I had a chance to connect with one of our trustees and former summer staff member, Larry Andries, an Emmy-nominated screen and television writer and producer. You may have watched some of his work, most recently on HBO's *The Pacific* and prior to that *Six Feet Under*, *Boomtown* and *Alias*.

Larry is a quiet leader. Not a lot of fanfare around what he does, but to the people who have benefited from his advice, connections and friendship in a tough town like Hollywood, he is the "Godfather." Larry has helped many of our alumni with dreams of entering the entertainment field by providing sage advice, a place to sleep and words of encouragement. He is helping the other fellow including successes like Jon Lucas who wrote *The Hangover* and *Ghosts of Girlfriends Past* and Jay Cooper who is in special effects and worked on such blockbusters as *Avatar* and *Star Trek*.

We have lots of examples of people like Larry who are faithful to the camps and willing to give a helping hand. In this issue of the *Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA News*, you will see concrete examples of actions from our Strategic Plan on how we are connecting alumni to one another so that we can continue to cultivate the traditions, life skills and legacy that was first instilled while campers. Our Strategic Plan is giving us the action steps needed to involve more people who want to help the other fellow and gal.

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A
QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER



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Parent Helps Counselor Make Inroads in Career

Two years ago, Peter Scher met Matt Kamisher-Koch, a former camper, Frontier counselor and 2009 staff development director, when he was considering sending his two sons to Camp Becket.

"My kids were apprehensive about going away to camp and Executive Director Chris Burke suggested the boys meet Matt who was nearby at George Washington University," remembered Peter, Executive Vice President for Global Government Relations and Public Policy for J. P. Morgan Chase in Washington, D.C.

What started as an initial house visit from Matt to talk about camp became a major connection for this aspiring international public policy professional.

"Matt became a great touch-point for my kids during their first experience at camp. He was terrific about checking on the boys throughout their month at Becket."

And it is pretty easy for Peter to find the words to describe this young leader and mentor to his sons.

"Matt is a very genuine, down to earth, conscientious, smart person. When I first met him I thought, 'if this is the type of person that Becket is about, then it will be a great place for my children.'"

In June, Matt graduated college and completed a five month internship arranged by Peter at J. P. Morgan Chase.



Peter Scher enjoys his time with son Jacob at last year's Dads' Weekend. Peter has connected two summer staff with major Washington, D. C. positions.

Matt considers his link from role model to intern "organic," a natural progression of one thing leading to another when taking Peter up on his offer to call once he was back in D.C.

"The internship was a great experience," recalled Matt who is now leading an ICEP trip through Vietnam before returning to the capital. "I was part of the global international team working with amazing experts. Each week I was involved with a different project, from regulatory reform work in congress with the financial bill, to attending conferences, to tracking the results of equivalent programs at J. P. Morgan Chase."

Matt, who has also worked for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) credits his work and experience at Camp Becket for his success in college and in the initial stages of his career.

"You really have a strong sense of your ability to work effectively with a team. At Camp Becket and at Chimney Corners you learn to take ownership of one aspect of

(cont'd on pg 4)

Message from the CEO
(cont'd from cover)

Matt Kamisher-Koch on page four is a great example of connections opening new doors. Matt has gone from Camp Becket Leadership Director to an international relations intern with J. P. Morgan Chase because of the relationship he made with Becket dad Peter Scher. Thirteen year-old Sonya Jampel is networking within her community to raise money for the Annual Fund because she wants to make sure camp is affordable to any girl wanting the experience.

Our Camp Directors Chris Burke and Shannon Donovan-Monti enjoyed networking with friends of camp who joined them June 17th at the Westport Playhouse for an evening of theater and revelry.

Alumni can take advantage of the special registration insert enclosed and sign up for Alumni Weekend, September 24-26. Join us for an affordable, fun and family-friendly weekend that will be exactly what you remembered camp to be.

Be sure to friend us on *Facebook* and join the over 800 others who already have and while you are at it, log on to *LinkedIn* and join our Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA group. Learn more about these sites on page four and five.

I also invite you to update us on what you have been up to since you put away your trunk in the attic. In the November issue of the *Becket-Chimney Corners News* we will begin to share *Alumni Notes* on what folks are up to now. Maybe a new job, new baby, new marriage, we want to know how you are doing, and so do all of your camp friends.

Please join us in being a part of reconnections, rekindled camper friendships and new opportunities to honor the values and skills you gained while at Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA.

Amici & Agape,

Phil Connor

2009 Annual Report, "Defining Philanthropy" Correction

Recently, 2009 donors, current parents and select alumni received the 2009 Annual Report, "Defining Philanthropy."

In the report, we inadvertently listed donors to the Steven Grave Memorial Campership Fund under the Shellenberger Leadership Fund and vice versa. This error occurred during the final design and layout of the report and was unfortunately not caught during the last proofing of the publication.

The Office of Development takes full responsibility for this oversight. Please know that we very much value the support of our donors as well as the Grave and the Shellenberger families who put their trust in us to honor their philanthropic giving towards our advancement.

The following is an appropriate listing of the Grave Fund donors and the Shellenberger Leadership Fund donors. An updated PDF version of the 2009 Annual Report with the correct listings of both funds on page 22 can be found in our News and Publication section of the www.bccymca.org website.

We are sincerely apologetic for this oversight and inconvenience to our donors.

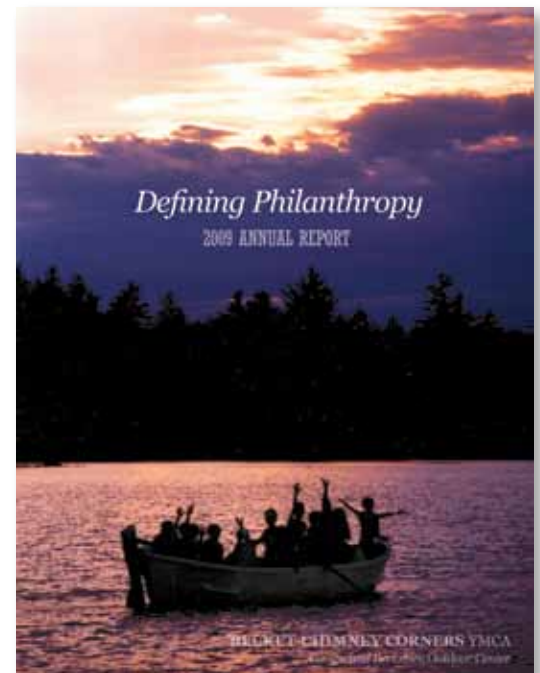
Shellenberger Leadership Fund

Jeanne Shellenberger

Steven Grave Memorial Campership Fund

Anonymous (2)
Chris Basiurski
Peter and Tarun Bertolami
Brian Bieluch
Marc Bradley
Miyoko L. Brunner
Kim and Martin Buckton
The Burke Family
Sam and Margaret Carr
Melissa Finan
David Geiger
Gerald Giaimo and Deborah Moore
Michael Goldbeck and Kay Lustberg-Goldbeck
Dorothy Grave
Fred and Sally Grave
Ted and Sally Grave
The Grimes Group, Inc
William Helman
Justin and Merrilou Hillenbrand
Marc Hoechstetter
Dorothy and William Hoyt
Pat Krol
Rosemary Little
Scot Little
James and Judith McDevitt
Bill and Judy McMeekin
Thomas and Mary Beth Moran
Darren Ovitsky

Scott Pierce
Mark Rademacher and Lois Frankforter
Gerard Saviola
B. Stockton and Judy Clark



The cover of the 2009 Annual Report.

Camper Raises Money for Future Campers

Last fall, Chimney Corners camper Sonya Jampel was studying the Torah (Five books of Moses) in preparation for her Bat Mitzvah. As part of her training to become a responsible adult in the Jewish faith, Sonya interpreted a passage from the Torah in which the Israelites were *included* in a census for the first time.

Inclusion became more than a teaching about her culture's values, but something Sonya wanted to apply to her own life.

"Mitzvah is a commandment of a good deed and I wanted my good deed to be including another girl to have a really fun summer like I had at Chimney Corners," explained Sonya, an eighth grader at the F. A. Day Middle School in Newton, MA.

At the end of summer 2009, Sonya learned that camperships were available for girls that otherwise would not be able to attend Chimney Corners.

"It really disappointed me that there were girls who were going to miss out on so much fun," said Sonya, who will return to camp this summer with her sister Serena, a first year camper, and brother Jacob, a second year Camp Becket camper.

So Sonya decided to help – by raising \$3,700 for one full campership via the Annual Fund so one more girl could be included. She conducted her own mini campaign to friends and family with email blasts, mailings and phone calls. Donors to Sonya's special effort were bestowed a handwritten thank you note and a friendship bracelet.

"It really disappointed me that there were girls who were going to miss out on so much fun."

Dr. Sandra Marwill, Sonya's mom and Chimney Corners alumna, recalled Sonya giving the D'var Torah (a discussion of that week's Torah portion) during her Bat Mitzvah, a ceremony she shared with a boy completing his Bar Mitzvah.



Sonya Jampel takes a break while hiking with her mom last year at Moms' Weekend.

"A guest of the boy's was so moved by Sonya's plans to include another child at camp that she wrote out a check for \$100 and handed it to Sonya right after the service" and that donor turned out to be a Chimney Corners alumna.

Sonya surpassed her \$3,700 goal by more than \$200.

"It feels pretty great to make a difference in the world," and for Sonya, that difference is an experience that is values-filled fun.

"I have higher self-esteem at the end of the summer because of Chimney Corners. I worry less about being judged when I return to school," continued Sonya, who admits she still wouldn't be caught wearing her pink tutu in West Newton when the frock was a staple at Chimney.

At Sonya's Bat Mitzvah in May, five of eight Chimney Corners friends from Emerald City cabin 2009 (Meredith Clark, Shosh Kumin, Eliza Klein, Shoshi Stern-Robbins, and Haley Ring) and three Chimney Corners friends from Atlantis cabin 2008 (Lexi Goulet, Lucy O'Sullivan, and Emily Krupa) designed and tailored a perfect paper hat that Sonya wore while they sang customized lyrics to a medley of songs by pop sensations Justin Bieber, Taylor Swift and Lady Gaga. The lyrics celebrated the girls' love and friendship for their friend Sonya. It was just like lunch at the Chimney Corners dining hall with a bunch of girls laughing and singing silly songs just for the birthday girl.

Sonya's Bat Mitzvah was more than an opportunity to celebrate with her favorite friends. It was a realization that she had achieved her personal goal to include one more friend in the Chimney Corners community this year.

"It feels pretty great to make a difference in the world."



Serena, Sandy, Jacob, Sonya and James Jampel enjoy Smith Pond.

Social & Career Networking – *get connected, stay involved and get ahead!*

As we've already seen in this issue of the *Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA News* sometimes it's not just *what* you know, but *who* you know that matters most.

Whether campers, staffers, travelers or parents together – or separated by 20 years – we are all bound by wonderful common experiences. The work we've done, the fun we've had, the character we've built and the lives we've changed have all helped make us who we are today.

Building on these close relationships, and with the help of the internet, Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA is growing two important networking initiatives online – *Facebook* and *LinkedIn*. We hope you'll join us there.

If you are interested in staying involved with all of the events, news and photos coming out of the Camps and the Berkshire Outdoor Center these days, then join the more than 800 alumni, parents and friends who are part of the Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA group on *Facebook*. In addition to being able to find many friends, old and new, you will also be “in the know” about special events taking place, important links to the Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA website, past event photos, upcoming event registrations and so much more.

If you are looking to land an internship, your first job, your next job, or are considering changing the colors of your parachute completely, then connect with the Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA group on *LinkedIn*. Thanks to the Career Networking Committee of the Alumni Council, this group is already more than 75 members strong, represented by alumni and parents from coast-to-coast, in many different fields, who are eager to network in the business community, create working partnerships, and who are either looking to get ahead, or who want to help someone else do the same. Start a discussion, upload your resume or post a job description. Take advantage of this resource and of the strong relationship we all share.

So connect with us on the internet. Whether you are a Becket or Chimney parent who is CEO of your organization, a recent alumnus or staffer trying to make a first contact in the real world, or just a loyal member of our family

trying to stay involved and keep up with what's going on, our networking groups are great first steps. Check these two group sites – and the main site at www.bccymca.org – for events and gatherings later this year.

Finally, let us know what you are thinking and feel free to make suggestions. Want to host an event? Have an idea for a networking discussion or workshop? Contact John Anz, Director of the Annual Fund and Alumni Relations at the Office of Development and let's make it happen. The only way our efforts work best for you is if *you* are involved in our efforts!

LinkedIn

facebook

Parent Helps Counselor Make Inroads in Career *(cont'd from cover)*

camp, but see the big picture of the whole operation as well,” and Matt added that time management is another skill set that summer staff master because of the intense schedules of coordinating activities, shepherding cabin groups, completing countless paperwork and planning new programs.

“Just going to camp prepares you for college in so many ways. You're emotionally ready and have the self-confidence to adapt to a new environment, meet new people, live and share a small space and manage your time effectively.”

Matt is particularly excited to see campers apply the values they gained at Becket and Chimney to an international experience over the summer.

Last summer, Leadership Development Director James O'Connor, now chair of the Career Networking Committee for the Alumni Council,

worked with summer staff to prepare a resume book for dads to review at Dads' Weekend and begin the first step in getting talented recent graduates to network. That's where Peter met another Camp Becket staff member, Kurt Weiss, who was very interested in politics in Washington.

Peter's initial conversation at *snacks* connected Kurt to movers and shakers on Capitol Hill, garnering him an internship with a congressional office. Today, Kurt is working full-time for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

“As smart as you may be and as great a college you went to, one of the most important things for success is how you interact with other people. Frankly, the values they teach at Camp Becket are extremely relevant in the work place,” said Peter who considers the doors he's opening for Camp Becket staff another way he can give back to all that they have given to his sons.

“All of us face the point in our lives when we need a helping hand. If someone once helped us, we have an obligation to give back in that same way and I get a lot of satisfaction helping people get introduced.”

For Peter Scher, helping the other fellow are not just words on a wall, but something he makes an important part of his life.



Matt Kamisher-Koch

Learn how you can help other staff and young alumni network by reading the above 'Social & Career Networking' article.

Theater Night in Westport –

Now That's Entertainment!

On June 17th, a loyal band of Camp Becket and Chimney Corners Camp alumni and parents spent a lovely evening at the Westport Country Playhouse in support of the Camps, good friends and live theater. After a reception before the show, only paces from their seats, the group settled in for a moving performance of the highly reviewed *Dinner with Friends*.

What's more, after the show the audience was treated to an intimate "Talk-Back" with the cast, and got a first-hand look at how this brilliant piece of drama was



brought to the Westport Country Playhouse stage. Look for more events like this one in your area on the Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA website at www.bccymca.org, or on the Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA group on Facebook.

Alumni and parents spend a lovely evening at the Westport Country Playhouse.

Alumni Weekend 2010

September 24th–26th

Whether you've never missed one, or never been to one, please join all of us this year for *Alumni Weekend 2010*. The camp and family activities you've come to expect and enjoy over the years are back again, including campfires, snacks, swimming, canoeing and kayaking, climbing, archery, kick-ball, tie-dye, bingo, chapel and so much more for adults and kids alike. There's also the great hospitality and entertainment including wonderful meals at each camp, a lovely wine & cheese reception and square dancing just to name a few.



What's New for Alumni Weekend 2010?

- Your Alumni Weekend t-shirt (FREE) with your completed *early registration*
- Special gatherings for LIT groups celebrating landmark reunions
- An inaugural reception honoring our most loyal supporters *by special invitation only*
- A new Alumni award presentation
- A memorial celebration of the life of our friend Brent R. Jackson

Hopefully the date is already saved on your calendars. Now take the next steps and check out the Alumni Weekend pages at www.bccymca.org for all the details, full weekend schedule, registration materials and lists of those registered and planning to attend. **For the convenience of our alumni, a self-addressed Alumni Weekend registration packet is included in this publication.** Send yours in today!

Berkshire Outdoor Center Recognized for Excellence in Energy and Environmental Education

Berkshire Outdoor Center was one of fifty-two programs recognized by Massachusetts Governor Deval L. Patrick for teaching students about energy and the environment at the 16th Annual Secretary's Awards for Excellence in Energy and Environmental Education on April 30th.

Berkshire Outdoor Center designs educational programs for schools that provide hands-on nature lessons, opportunities to reinforce lessons learned in the classroom and an appreciation for the environment, as well as recreational water and land-based activities.

Students participate in various ecology classes such as beaver, forest, animal and pond ecology.

"Our bog walk is a very interesting component newly added to the program. We usually also blend in team building, low ropes activities and some recreational adventure activities. All of our activities have been matched with the curriculum frameworks of Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York state. Each of the activities satisfies objectives within these curricula," explained Steve Hamill, Executive Director of the Berkshire Outdoor Center.

Steve added, "Our organization has run many environmental education programs to school-aged students over the years. Combined, we serve more than 5,000 students in environmental education programs each year. It is meaningful to us to be recognized by the Commonwealth for the excellent programs we run. These programs are a cornerstone of our operation."

"It is meaningful to us to be recognized by the Commonwealth for the excellent programs we run."

According to state secretary Ian Bowles, programs like Berkshire Outdoor Center bring students, teachers, and communities together to learn and act as environmental stewards to protect wildlife habitats, encourage energy efficiency and reduce waste.



Preservation of Rudd Pond Challenge Underway

Since the March announcement of an anonymous donor's \$105,000 challenge to help raise the remaining \$210,000 to preserve Rudd Pond, we have raised over \$85,000 toward this initiative and have until December 31, 2010 to meet this important goal. Funds will be directed to the repairs of the 120 year old dam that preserves Rudd Pond at Camp Becket.

As reported in the last issue of the *Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA News*, we have been mandated by the Massachusetts Department of Dam Safety to complete these repairs by the end of 2011.

Here is how you can help us. We would like to address the remaining funds through private foundations capable of giving five figure gifts (or more) to reach this goal sooner. If you have a connection to a private corporate or family foundation or perhaps a donor-advised fund, you could be instrumental in helping to open a door for the Office of Development so that we may be invited to submit a formal request.

In addition to private foundations, we are approaching donors to give above and beyond the Annual Fund Campaign with a secondary gift to the Rudd Pond Challenge. Letters will be sent to select donor prospects.

For more information on how you can give please contact Brenda Marsian at bmarsian@bccymca.org or (413) 822-7950.



Phil Connor met up with Camp Becket alumnus Jon Mims and his young son Alexander Becket Mims at Amici's East Coast Pizzeria in San Maeto, California in March. Jon is already planning for his son and daughter to attend Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA in a few years.

We Want Your News First Hand

Don't make us "Google" you!

This November the *Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA News* will begin to carry *Alumni Notes* as a regular feature once again. But we can't print what we don't have – so send us your news. Tell everybody what you've been up to: great travel, personal and business successes, your small-world Becket and Chimney Corners encounters, weddings, births, etc. And, if you just can't find the words, then send a photo (high-res, please!) – worth a thousand words, or so we're told.

Be among those in the first issue of notes this November. Send your news and photos to John Anz, Director of the Annual Fund and Alumni Relations at the Office of Development, or by email to janz@bccymca.org **no later than October 1, 2010**. We can't wait to hear from you.

"Bike for Brent" Bikethon Honors Revered Brent Jackson and Supports Annual Fund



Eric Grimes, Al Weston, Peter Tiffany, Spider Alton, Brock Veidenheimer, Michael Achey, Bob Persons, Bob Rich and Chimney Corners Executive Director Shannon Donovan-Monti celebrate following their ride. Not pictured are support team members Tom Fiore and Rich Beringer.

Moved by the loss of friend and fellow alumnus Brent Jackson, a group of Camp Becket and Chimney Corners alumni spearheaded a special "Bike for Brent" Bikethon July 5th and 6th.

Michael Achey, Spider Alton, Tom Fiore, Eric Grimes, Bob Persons, Bob Rich, Peter Tiffany, Brock Veidenheimer, and Al Weston along with several other alumni pedaled from Boston to Becket over two days tallying 130 miles to raise money for camperships via the Annual Fund in Brent's memory.

"Brent was just a big deal to me and so many other kids and his death was really unexpected. This bikethon is a way for us to honor his spirit by giving to future campers," explained Spider Alton.

The ride concluded at Camp Becket where cyclists took a moment to celebrate their trek and join Camp Becket campers for lunch.

Friends, alumni and families interested in making an outright gift may do so via the Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA website. Click on "Bike for Brent" in support of the Annual Fund at BCCYMCA when you make your online gift. Checks may be paid to Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA. Please indicate on the memo line that the gift is for "Bike for Brent."

Brent Jackson



The mission of Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA is to put Judeo-Christian principles in to practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

Issue 03
July 2010

Phil Connor
Chief Executive Officer

Jim Brown
Chief Operating Officer and
Travel Service Program Director

Christine Kalakay
Chief Financial Officer

Brenda Marsian, CFRE
Chief Development Officer

Chris Burke
Executive Director
Camp Becket

Shannon Donovan-Monti
Executive Director
Chimney Corners Camp

Steve Hamill
Executive Director
Berkshire Outdoor Center

John Anz
Director of the Annual Fund and
Alumni Relations

Amy Gutschenritter
Board of Trustee Chair

D. Scott Taylor
Alumni Council President

Chris Reynolds
Dads' Executive Committee
President

Stacey Turner
Moms' Executive Committee
President

Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA News is published by the Office of Development at Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA. Questions and inquiries may be forwarded to Brenda Marsian at bmarsian@bccymca.org. Help us go green by sending us your e-mail to receive notifications of future issues on our website. Read this issue and others at www.bccymca.org and click on our News and Publications page.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, July 16 through Sunday, July 18 **Moms' and Dads' Weekend**

Sunday, July 25 **Camp Becket and Chimney Corners Camp Second Session Begins**

Saturday, July 31 **Board of Trustees Meeting and Annual Luncheon**

Friday, August 13 through Sunday, August 15 **Moms' and Dads' Weekend**

Friday, September 24 through Sunday, September 26 **Alumni Weekend**

Friday, October 8 through Monday, October 11 **Fall Foliage Family Camp**

Friday, November 5 through Sunday, November 7 **Fall Work Weekend**

Saturday, November 13 **Board of Trustee Meeting**



HERITAGE CLUB

The Heritage Club at Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA recognizes members of the Camp Becket and Chimney Corners Camp community who have included the camps in their estate plans or have made a planned charitable gift such as a charitable gift annuity, gifts of life insurance, or inclusion in their will. Log onto "Become a Supporter" at www.bccymca.org and learn how you can become a member.

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