Director’s Message from Nat Crane: The Year of the Pinecone

It was an exciting summer at WLC with our usual active, full schedule and some significant improvements. The first phase of the planned waterfront enhancement was completed prior to the season with the installation of our new swimming and boating docks. They are much safer and more stable, and the boating docks were far more accommodating for our fleet. This led to much more efficient class starts as almost all boats were able to be in the water and not up on shore. This didn’t necessarily help the fishing class catch more fish but it gave them more time on the water. However, we might have seen a marginal increase in the number of spectacular wipeouts in tubing and waterskiing.

The winners of our BROG competitions were House of Rivers (Orange) in the first session and perennial power House of Mountains (Red) in the second session. Since the institution of BROG (four teams instead of the old Blue/White) a few years back, this is the first time the House of Rivers has won the competition. Poor Thomas Cleary, a long-suffering House of Rivers team member who did not return this year — was Thomas’ absence a factor?

The second-year Seniors came to Camp to find the option of taking a different approach to their daily schedule. Delighting in the fact that they did not have to take mandatory swim lessons, a number of them set out to achieve long-sought goals before their time as campers would come to an end. Many achieved personal goals in riflery and archery while also making a lot of headway to becoming members of the Honor Society. In fact, three campers became Woodsmen, while others got as far as their Lone Vigil. Good stuff, guys!

(continued on page 4)
With the ongoing success of the Waterfront Capital Campaign, we are moving ahead with our plans for exciting improvements. This past spring, we installed all new swim and boating docks. Since Camp, we have broken ground for the next big phase which includes a building for shelter, storage, boat maintenance, and bathroom facilities. There will also be more open space for other recreational activities, as well as a barbeque area. To start, we have had to improve the service road to the waterfront, another nice benefit.

**Waterfront Progress**

**Inside this issue:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inside this issue</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Remembering Gail Warner Jessup</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goose Droppings</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events Calendar</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotlight Profile: Avand Amiri</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honor Society News</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp Family News</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018 Annual Fund Donor List</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do your friends know about William Lawrence? If not, **SHARE THE LOVE!** Bring them to an Open House in 2019. They’ll **THANK YOU!**

Mark your calendars **NOW** and watch your mail/email for details about our Annual Camper/Staff Reunion on January 4, 2019!

Don’t forget to **light your WLC Candle** on Christmas Eve and rekindle your Camp memories!

Don’t be disappointed! Submit your 2019 Camp application by **December 1st** to get your **Early Enrollment Discount**!
Remembering Gail Warner Jessup
William Lawrence Office Manager, Nurse & Wife of Director 1978-88
Trustee and Member of the Corporation 1988-2018
Excerpted from homily by The Rev. Timothy E. Crellin

Every single time Gail Jessup walked into the dining hall at William Lawrence Camp, the entire crowd of 140 boys and staff members broke into a spirited chant of “Mrs. J!” - both embarrassing and delighting the ever humble Mrs. J. She was the moral force at the center of the community, preventing us from descending into The Lord of the Flies in Center Tuftonboro - not because she was strict or fearsome or disappointed, but because she called forth the best by her genuine love and high expectations for each of us.

One of the core values we learned during staff training at William Lawrence Camp was captured in the Latin phrase “in loco parentis.” Parents were entrusting us counselors with the awesome responsibility of caring for their children for two or four or eight weeks, and we were taking their place for that time. But we all knew that George and Gail Jessup were in loco parentis to all of us – they were our second parents for the summer, and I know that my two brothers and I thought of them in that capacity all year round.

But we didn’t call her Mom. We called her Mrs. J. She wasn’t confused about her role in our lives; she wasn’t trying to take over for our mothers. And honestly, I’ve always believed that her truest identity was expressed in the moniker her family used for her: Coach.

Now, anyone who’s ever played youth sports knows that there are good coaches and then some people who probably shouldn’t be coaching. The most effective coaches, the coaches you remember later in life, bring out the finest in you – as an athlete, as a teammate, as a human being. They see your potential and they guide and encourage you to become the person they perceive even when you don’t yet share the vision. I imagine that many of you who knew Mrs. J can think of a time when she helped you discover who you were or who you were becoming.

Like a great coach, she was honest, authentic and fair. You knew where you stood with Mrs. J, and you wanted to stand tall in her estimation. Her genuineness called forth a genuine response. You couldn’t lie to Mrs. J or make excuses. I remember during pre-season prep when I was a CIT. My crew was supposed to be hauling brush near the Director’s Cottage, and it was hot and buggy, and to say the least we weren’t having fun, and in fact we were feeling sorry for ourselves. I had stopped to sit and rest on the back of the old truck, and Mrs. J walked by and said, “Seems like you guys are taking a lot of breaks today.” I never ever wanted Mrs. J or Mr. J to think I wasn’t a hard worker, so I got up off my butt and worked as hard as I could the rest of that day and the rest of the summer. Maybe you can remember a time or two when her honest feedback helped you pick up your game.

Like an inspirational coach, Mrs. J led with her own courageous example. I always thought she was brave to spend the summer at a camp fueled by testosterone. But when I found out that she was coming back to Camp for the summer of 1988, the summer after George died so tragically and unexpectedly, I was amazed. To me, that was one of the most self-giving and courageous things I could imagine someone doing –

(continued on page 4)
Evening programs remain a big part of the WLC experience. We don’t stop until it’s dark, with favorites such as Counselor Hunt, Mosquito, Neske’s new EP, and Nitro highlighting the scorecard. Nitro is a camper favorite. This is Goose’s version of disco dodgeball in the Barn. Nitro is played by unit as BROG teams, enhancing the excitement and level of competition.

We played games against other camps, particularly in arena soccer, basketball, and flag football. Flag football has become a favorite sport at WLC. Our second session Middlers were especially sporty so we accommodated. We had games against the usual suspects, North Woods and MiTeNa. We try not to play Camp Belknap (spin up the Star Wars track for mention of the evil empire), as they are so much larger and way too competitive. That said, it was interesting seeing North Woods, after being down by 30 at halftime of a Middler basketball game, miraculously substitute in some bearded 6 footers to bring the game to within one point at the end. Victory WLC.

With strong enrollment and a great program, William Lawrence Camp remains a special place for boys and young men to gain so many important skills and have an incredible time learning and playing. Thanks to everyone for a great season. - Nat

(JESSUP continued from page 3)

because she loved the Camp and cared deeply about transitioning to new leadership. I wasn’t sure I wanted to be at Camp that summer. It felt too painful. But when I found out Mrs. J was going back, I committed immediately. By the way, that summer was the year of the American Camping Association inspection, a comprehensive review of every aspect of the Camp’s policies, procedures, facilities and program. I had been Mr. J’s typist and assistant for the previous review in 1985. Mrs. J called me in June and asked if I would help again. “We’re going to get a perfect score this year,” she said. And we did — her way of honoring Mr. J. Perhaps her example inspired you at some point to do more than you thought you could.

Like the very best coaches, Mrs. J saw you. She saw each person. She knew you. She knew where you were from, she knew your parents. She knew what you were allergic to and how much money you had left on your store account. That’s a cruel irony of her memory loss in these recent years — she had an incredible ability to recall details. She knew you. She loved you. She took care of you if you were sick or injured. She took you just seriously enough but not too seriously. She was calm and steady and even. She and Mr. J worked to create a beloved community of respect and mutuality, in which each member was invited, encouraged, and challenged to become his or her true and best self.

At the end of every summer, when our parents would come to pick us up, we would cry. We were always sad that the summer was over and we had to leave our Camp family and go back to school. I remember one year Mr. J came toward us, pretending to paddle a canoe up the river of our tears, to give us a final hug under the big tree before we drove away. And I remember Mrs. J saying, with all of the confidence and reassurance we needed to feel a little better, “We’ll see you next summer.” As we release Gail Jessup back to the universe, let us be profoundly grateful for the memories we cherish, memories she worked so hard to create, and which will always be part of us. Let us be thankful for her example, for her witness, for her limitless ability to love. Mrs. J, Coach, thank you. Thank you. May you rest in peace. We’ll see you next summer.
**Goose Droppings...**

It is such a fantastic opportunity we as staff are afforded, working at William Lawrence. The formula every summer is pretty much the same, with just a few variations. Campers arrive from some far away land. It’s their first time being away from home. They’re used to all the creature comforts and having their family close to them at all times. Then suddenly they’re thrust into a foreign environment, where they have to learn new skills, meet new people, and understand incredible problem solving. The problems may be self-care skills, social skills, outdoor skills, sports skills and/or life skills.

There’s this moment near the beginning of the process where they hit overload and begin to think that it’s all too much for them. But, and here’s the beauty of it, there’s no eject button. Their only solution is to move forward, and to push through. At first it’s scary, and then suddenly every day is better than the one before. Then, somewhere in week two, they become a superstar. By the time pick-up is reached, the boy is now a young man. It’s simply a privilege to be a part of that process time and time again.

Enjoy the fall!

— Scott Giessler - 27 years and counting (It counts!)

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**Mark Your Calendars!**

**Upcoming Events for 2018 - 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Enrollment</td>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>Submit your Camp enrollment for Summer 2019 with the non-refundable deposit of $500 by this date and receive an Early Enrollment discount! As usual, enrollments for a full session (3, 4, or 7 weeks) by December 1 will receive a $300 discount; we will give a discount of $150 for enrollment by December 1 in a 2-week Camp period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp Remembrance</td>
<td>December 24</td>
<td>Don’t forget to light your Camp Candle on Christmas Eve to keep the Bill Larry spirit alive!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January Reunion</td>
<td>January 4, 2019</td>
<td>Present and past campers, staff, and trustees will gather at the Burr School in Auburndale, MA, for our annual winter Camp Reunion. The fun begins at 6:30PM with basketball, sodas and snacks available, to be followed by pizza and cake and then Goose’s video from the summer of 2018. Bring your friends! There will be door prizes!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January—March</td>
<td></td>
<td>There will be Open Houses scheduled throughout the Northeast where prospective campers and their parents can chat with Director Nat, view a little presentation, have some pizza, and learn about Camp. Last year, we had events in Cambridge, Haverhill, Hingham, and Wellesley in Massachusetts and Ridgewood in New Jersey. Dates and locations for 2019 will be announced once events are scheduled. If you are willing to host an open house, please contact Camp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Weekend</td>
<td>May 4, 2019</td>
<td>Come help open up Camp. After a delicious breakfast at 8:30AM, Nat will divide attendees into work crews. A full lunch and a hearty dinner will be provided. Cabin accommodations are available, and breakfast will also be provided Sunday morning at 8:30 AM, after which all will depart. No Friday meals will be served, but cabin dwellers are welcome to arrive Friday evening.</td>
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</tbody>
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Spotlight Profile: Avand Amiri
Engineering His Own Path Forward

If you looked at the WLC website at any time over, say, the past 15 years or so, you saw the fruits of Avand Amiri’s handiwork. Avand, who currently works as a software engineer in San Francisco at Airbnb, began his work on the Camp website not long after his last summer at Camp. (Lucky for us. We wouldn’t be able to afford him at his current professional rates.) The Camp’s previous minimalist approach to web presence had been “disappointing for users” as he diplomatically puts it now.

The WLC website was one of Avand’s first web development projects. It “had some juice” as Avand fondly recalls. In early versions of the site, WLC ranked highly in Google web searches both for “boys camps” and “summer camp songs.”

Avand had come to web development by a somewhat unusual path. Avand had left BU Academy, and Dexter before that, without graduating, at odds with teachers and the educational experience. Not surprisingly, his Iranian parents had favored a more traditional educational path. Avand figures that he likely shaved more than a few years off his parents’ lives in the process of doing education his way.

After departing BU Academy, Avand landed in Chicago and began an unpaid internship his father had arranged for him at a financial firm. The extent of his preparation had been to buy a necktie and learn to tie it. After being assigned a space near the IT group, Avand soon found his way onto the payroll, going from assisting at the help desk to doing server maintenance, doing some small web projects along the way. He completed his GED and began to work toward a degree in Computer Science at DePaul where he devoured the computer science part of the curriculum. The other courses required for the degree were less compelling but no less costly – he was paying – so he left school once again and began work as a freelancer. Several jobs would follow. There would also be several years working in start-ups, some consulting, and, ironically for one who had earlier spent so much time challenging one teacher after another, even some teaching.

(continued on page 7)
Through several cities and even more jobs since leaving Boston, the willingness to jump into new challenges with both feet is apparent all along Avand’s career path. That willingness is one of the foundational values of Camp is not lost on Avand.

Years before, as a scholarship student at Dexter, Avand recalls a sense of not quite fitting in. During the school year, he found refuge in sculpture classes at the MFA – the other of his artist mother’s enrichment programs, piano lessons, didn’t have quite the same appeal. During the summers, his refuge was WLC. The introduction to Camp had come as a suggestion made to Avand’s mother by George Butterworth. If the fit at Dexter never seemed quite right, the attraction to the big personalities among the international staff at WLC was immediate. Returning to Camp in subsequent years was much-anticipated. Avand remembers counting down months, weeks, and days until he could pack the trunk and depart for Camp again. On the drive to Camp, he remembers counting down the miles. His personal countdown is part of our collective camp experience now: Avand built his days ‘t’il-camp-starts countdown timer into the Camp website.

At WLC, Avand would go on to spend four years as a camper and another two as counselor, becoming a member of the Braves in the process. He enjoyed the sense of self-reliance that Camp encouraged, particularly so in the adventure of the Camp trips. What he most looked forward to is what he now calls the opportunity to reinvent himself each summer at Camp.

When he’s not working, Avand enjoys hosting gatherings for friends and colleagues both at home, where he often hosts Persian dinners, and on the road, where his taste for adventure can be satisfied with outings like skiing at Tahoe. One recent, memorable event was his own 30th birthday bash, complete with bounce castle. (The occasion called for something special.) He says he had been looking forward to this – turning 30, not the bounce castle – since his Camp days.

Avand’s culinary specialties include mast-o-khiar – recommended with salmon – which he makes with cucumbers, walnuts, and mint; and tahdig, the crunchy bottom created when cooking Basmati rice. Listening to him describe how the tahdig is made makes it clear that the challenge of the preparation is part of his enjoyment of the finished dish; as his aunt says, “you need to be in with the rice” to know just when it’s done (browned, not burnt).

Thanks, Avand, for being “in with” WLC and for bringing us into the new century with our website. We may not have made it without your help. Now that we won’t be calling with requests for changes, you can put some of your newly-free time toward driving your new van in search of adventure. Possibly a cross-country pilgrimage to the Knoll? All paths lead to WLC, you know.

We wish you the best wherever your path leads. WLC will be here; stay in touch. We’ll expect to see some adventure pictures from you in the Knoll News.
Becoming a member of the Camp’s Honor Society is a tremendous commitment requiring a great deal of effort and sacrifice. It is physically demanding for campers, and finding the time for passing the 18 tests requires difficult tradeoffs. For campers interested in pursuing this worthy accomplishment, we have made it a priority to support them on their journey. A number of campers and LITs made it to the final test, the Lone Vigil, in summer 2018. We are proud to note that Dylan Goldman, Ethan Stump, and Russell McCarter all became Woodsmen this summer.

Dylan Goldman is from North Andover, MA, and has been a camper since 2011. Camp has always been a priority for Dylan, and it was inevitable that he would someday become a Woodsman. Dylan was captain of the House of Lakes (blue team) this past summer and is known for his passion for fly fishing. Dylan’s great attitude and loyalty to Camp make him a valuable member of the WLC community.

Ethan Stump started at Camp in 2012 while his family was living in Winchester, MA, but they have since moved to Chicago, IL. His older brother Ryan came before him, and his Dad is currently on the Board of Trustees. Ethan was captain of the House of Forests (green team) this past summer. Always respectful and happy, Ethan is passionate about archery and enjoys going on outcamping trips.

Russell McCarter hails from Scottsdale, AZ, and started at WLC in 2012. Russell finished his camper years in 2017, when he was captain of the House of Mountains (red team). This past summer he was a Leader in Training. Knowing this would be his last opportunity, he pursued becoming a Woodsman with a passion while also taking care of his responsibilities as an LIT. You’ll generally find Russell at the waterfront in some capacity, whether it’s sailing, fishing, or lifeguarding.
On the night of September 22, 2018, there was a mini-reunion of WLC alumni out in San Francisco. Pictured are attendees Tom “Grinder” Myers, Dave Page, Phil Page, and Matt Nathanson. As a description of the event, Grinder provided the following: “Havoc was wreaked in fine Bill Larry tradition.” Bill Larry Rules!

After years of living together, Drew Duncan and his significant other, Christine Bath, came in from the woods long enough to get married in the William Lawrence chapel on September 15, 2018! The weather gods were kind, and many family members and friends enjoyed a lovely ceremony in the chapel, followed by a sumptuous luncheon in the Centennial Lodge. The couple took just a few stay-cation days off at this time and are saving up for a more extensive overseas honeymoon in Spring of 2019.

Long-time Bill Larry Buddies (left) Nick Phillips (Camper, Counselor ’06-’10) and Jon Ceru (Camper, Counselor, Member of the Braves ’04-’12) brought some William Lawrence Spirit to the Southern Hemisphere this past April when Jon visited Nick down in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The two went backpacking through Northern Argentina, making their way through the Andes and later stopping by Las Salinas Grandes (Salt Flats) 4,100m up.

Since their time at WLC, Nick has worked for the Appalachian Mountain Club hut crew, including a season spent at the Lakes of the Clouds Hut near Mount Washington, the destination of an early WLC camping trip. Nick lived in Buenos Aires from 2016-2018, and has recently moved back to the US.

Jon has taken a more ‘domestic’ route, basing himself out of Boston as a Management Consultant, and working across Chicago, New York, and Boston, with the occasional biz-cation weekend trip elsewhere throughout the US. Needless to say, the trip to Argentina was a much-needed re-communion with nature and our WLC outdoorsmen roots.

The two often connect with fellow WLC alum Parker Dow (Camper, Counselor ’06-’11), who is also Boston-based, when they are all Stateside.

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September 1st of 2018 brought gorgeous weather to the Knoll for a group of alums who came together to celebrate the 105th year of William Lawrence Camp. We all gathered near and around our infamous green Adirondack chairs, looking over the Knoll and celebrating with great food and company. Those that attended were alumni from different generations; this made for remarkable memories, stories, and laughs. Many attendees took walkabouts around camp to explore the ‘ole stomping grounds’ and see what changes have been made over the years. It was a fantastic afternoon, and we cannot wait to celebrate the 110th with all of you!
2018 Annual Fund Donor List

$5,000 and Up
Copper Beech Foundation

$1,000 – $4,999
Tobey & Mark Fidler
Bradford Greason
GoDaddy, gift match for Bradford Greason
Erik Helleren
CME Group, gift match for Erik Helleren
Neil & Martha Hulbert
Mark & Ellen Hyde
Boris Kalinichenko & Alena Zalutskaya
Joan Newell
Keith & Joyce Schnaars
Bank of America, gift match for Keith Schnaars
Stephen & Heather Tingle
Lee Webster

$500 - $999
Gail Avery & Kirk Trachy
Cara Beston
Richard & Donna Brown
Carl Erickson
Alan & Sue Harding
Jill & Chris Larsen
William & Lisa Laskin
Robert Mackie & Family
Steven & Mary Weeks
Nelson Yu
Alliance Bernstein, gift match for Nelson Yu

$250 - $499
Jay & Cathy Buck
Bill & Karin Coutts
Jon & Seana Crellin
Elizabeth Larson Dills
MFS Management, gift match for Elizabeth Dills
Matthew & Wendy Foley
Jon Friedman
Bob Gallagher
Lucy Hancock
Beatrice Handy
John Hancock, gift match for Beatrice Handy
Paul & Pam Helleren
Richard & Sandra Jenkins
Matthew Keane
Susan & Douglas Kelly
Paul & Patricia King
American Water Charitable match for Kristina McGee
Volunteer Hours
Tom Myers
Betsy Roguet

Up to $249
John & Rachel Anastasio
Amazon Smile
Anne Chapman Bailey
Steve & Jane Bailey
Patricia Baker & Phil Dunn

Up to $249 continued
Bruce Barton
Vivian Brocard
David Cancian
Frances Carl
Joe Caruso
Peter Case
Pam Chmiel
Rick Clark
Peter F. Cleary
Arthur E. Curtis
Craig & Sandra Curtis
Thomas Diehl
Jonathan & Sarah Engram
Hugh & Diane Fredrick
Nancy & Bill Gaver
Laura Geary
Lynda Goldkamp
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Thomas Gorman
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Michael & Elizabeth Hayes
Rob Hendrickson
Margaret Heuss
Jeff & Karen Higgs
George & Ann Hill
Jordan Isele
Laurie & Jim Kean
Ann & Jay Kirby
David & Louise Kress
Thomas & Christine Lane
Howard Lubinger
Pat Luongo
Dennis Ceru & Roxanne Lyman
Laura Macs, IMO Allen Pineo, former Trustee
Bill & Jennifer McCabe
Scott & Phoebe McChesney
Les McDowell
Terry Merriam
Jon Lilienfeld & Pamela Morgan
John & Robin Mullin, Pond neighbors
Andrew & Katherine O’Conor
Julia Perlman
Geoff Peyton & Julia Chwasz
John Rudberg
Bank of America, gift match for John Rudberg
Richard Rush
Mark & Judith Smith
Peter M. Smith
Anthony & Susette Stigliano
Jeffrey Stump
Rob & Ann Swan
Glen D. & Bobbi Taylor
John Thorndike
Tootsie Roll, gift match for Diana White FY’17 gift
Susan Tritell
Peter E. Warren
Patricia Wesolowski
Do Something Next Summer - Bring a Friend to Camp!