



The

HERRLICH HERALD

A Camp Wilbur Herrlich Publication



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PAST, PRESENT, AND HOPE FOR THE FUTURE: 2008 Dinner Dance

The annual Camp Herrlich dinner dance on October 24, 2008, was an inspiring event. Attended by 160 guests, the fund-raising evening at Putnam National Golf Club in Mahopac, New York offered entertainment and a message.

The evening opened with a cocktail reception while a DVD about the camp played and guests greeted old acquaintances and made new ones. The crowd made its way into the dining room, creatively decorated with large photos of happy campers and shirts hung on a volleyball net. The stage behind the speaker's podium featured a large teepee and other typical camp accoutrements.

The more formal portion of the evening began with Barbara Nicotera, 2008 Dinner Chair,



2008 Dinner Chair Barbara Nicotera



Senator Vincent Leibell

welcoming all and introducing Camp Herrlich's board members, most of who were in attendance. She thanked the sponsors of the evening's benefit: the John Levitt Family Fund, SP Controls, Minicom Advanced Systems, St. John's Lutheran Church of Poughkeepsie, and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. A compelling invocation was led by Reverend Kathleen Koran, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Brewster and a board member. Ms. Nicotera then introduced the Mt. Tremper Outdoor Ministries Board of Directors and the camp's Executive Director, Bob Gentile. Mr. Gentile welcomed several dignitaries who support Camp Herrlich year after year, including State Senator Vincent Leibell, Putnam County Deputy Executive John Tully, NYS Assemblyman Greg Ball, District Attorney Adam Levy, Town of Patterson

Supervisor Mike Griffin, Town of Paterson Councilwoman Ginny Nacerino, Superintendent of Eastchester (and formerly Carmel) Schools Dr. Marilyn Terranova, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Personnel at The Carmel Central School District Andy Irvin, Putnam County Sheriff Don Smith, and Putnam County Court Judge James Reitz. Senator Leibell followed at the podium, speaking about his admiration of the camp.



Keynote speaker Joe Ausanio and Program Director Jessica Vanacoro

Messages of Growth and Joy

Both Mr. Gentile's and Senator Leibell's messages emphasized how the positive attitude of those involved with Camp Herrlich and its acceptance of all children regardless of race, color, religion, or wealth has not changed over the years. The camp's dedicated staff, including younger members who were campers not too long ago, was introduced to applause.

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**Mt. Tremper
Outdoor Ministries
Camp Wilbur Herrlich**
101 Deacon Smith Hill Road
Patterson, NY 12563
845-878-6662
fax 845-878-2030
www.campherrlich.org

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In Memory of Timothy Philip Haar July 7, 1959–April 5, 2008

“The rocket never reappeared... Tim must have caught it in Heaven.”

(Words spoken after the rocket launch at Timothy Haar's memorial service held at camp)

Family and friends of Timo (as he was affectionately nicknamed) gathered at Camp Wilbur Herrlich last April to say goodbye to the camp's Rocket Man. Tim had been affiliated with the camp for more than three decades, working countless hours in all sorts of positions. The son of the late director and founder of Mt. Tremper Outdoor ministries, Harold Haar, Tim was part of the “Whatever It Takes” crew, working as kitchen manager, arts and crafts director, and environmental education instructor over the years.

Timo will be most remembered for his countless hours of rocketry offered to school children, campers, and retreat groups at the camp. Our trees are littered with the remnants of many a rocket launch done under the strict guise of our professional rocketeer, Timo. Quiet walks in the Herrlich woods will no doubt bring him to mind, as the parachutes are everywhere in the canopy of the trees.

We lost a wonderful friend and brother. His obituary read:

Tim Haar, 48, beloved son of Ruth Haar and the late Harold Haar, went to be with the Lord on Saturday, April 5, 2008, surrounded by family and friends in Smithtown, New York. Tim was a shift manager at MacDonald's for Tri-Mac East Management, an avid rocketeer, talented musician, camp cook, and true friend. He was a beloved brother to two sisters, Sue (and Bob) VanDerzee of Durham, Ct. and Wendy (and Bob) Gentile of Patterson, NY; four brothers, Ken (and Marcia) Haar of Southwick, MA, David (and Patti) Haar of Patterson, NY, Jonathan (and Claudia) Haar of West Edmeston, NY, and Christopher (and Kara) Haar of Bridgewater, NY. Tim was also one of the world's best uncles to his 22 nieces and nephews. He had several beloved cousins and a host of wonderful friends, including the Morecraft and Norris clans and S. J. Swaine. He was predeceased by a sister, Amy June Haar.

A memorial service was held on April 20, 2008 in celebration of Tim's life at Camp Wilbur Herrlich. The Outdoor Chapel was filled with friends, old and new. Leading the service was Reverend Russell Norris of Barnstable, Massachusetts, a past Board member of MTOM. Several family members and friends remembered Tim by sharing passages from the Bible and personal memories. Those gathered heard “Patience in the Palace,” a tribute song written by Ken Haar that was a special song played many a time by Timo at camp.

Donations in Tim's memory may be made to the Spina Bifida Association (4500 MacArthur Blvd. NW, Suite 250, Washington, DC 20007; www.spinabifidaassociation.org) Camp Wilbur Herrlich Scholarship Fund, or the Harold E. Haar Hauppauge Scholarship Fund (c/o Camp Herrlich, address above).

Submitted by Wendy Haar Gentile

Summer Camp 2008

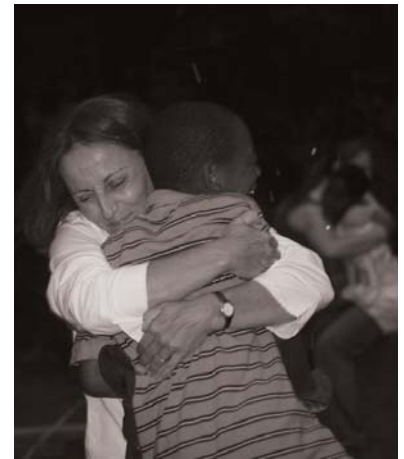
Our summer season this year was fantastic! With two jam-packed Resident Camp sessions and eight weeks of Day Camp, we had anywhere from 250 to 400 children on the property at a time participating in their own summer camp adventure. This summer we had upwards of 90 staff members from around the Putnam and New York area and from exotic places like New Zealand, Australia, the United Kingdom, Russia, the Netherlands, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Romania, and Illinois. From the rousing and raucous campfire during orientation, we knew that this group of staff was special. Each one lent their unique background and talents to the Herrlich family. These talents created a beautiful and supportive and fun environment for each other and the children who participated in the programs.

Resident Camp children came to us from the five boroughs, Newark New Jersey, Long Island, and even Brewster and Poughkeepsie. Partnerships with the Family Service League, Partnership with Children, Family Consultation Services, New Communities, and Camp Discovery allowed children who need camp to be able to experience it here at Herrlich. Some of the favorite activities this summer were, of course, fishing and frog catching, boating, battling it out in sports and water competitions during the Summer Games and Pirates sessions, Campfire, DJ party, and the scary-but-not-too-scary Burma Trail. Helming the Resident Camp sessions were Kye Weaver and Sara Soeprasetyo as resident camp directors. Their expertise with the children, creativity with programming, and excellent communication skills with parents and other staff members helped make our five weeks of Resident Camp great.

Day Campers flooded into Camp Herrlich from miles around. Some of the themes, special guests, and activities they enjoyed were the Carnival, Archery, Summer Olympics, Wild West Week, Gold Rush, Creature Feature week, Animal Show, Bird Show, Improvisational Comedy Show, and much, much more. We offered six travel camp options over the course of the summer, organized and run by Andrea Schiavo. Leading the way with Day Camp this summer were Gina Nicotera, Lauren Kalbfell, Peter Jones, and Laura Biagini. They had endless energy and willingness to do whatever needed to be done to keep the program going and the kids having fun.

A recent survey done on the internet site "SurveyMonkey" gave us great feedback from parents and children on what can be done differently or better for next summer. If you participated in the summer program and did not fill out the survey but would like to share your comments or suggestions, especially regarding travel camp, please e-mail jvanacoro@campherrlich.org or call the camp office at 845-878-6662, ext. 304.

Jessica Vanacoro, Program Director



Cooperative Learning Academy

On September 3rd, 2008, the Cooperative Learning Academy, otherwise known as CLA, began its second full year assisting select students attending Carmel High School. This alternative, academic/therapeutic program is designed to support students who are making poor choices and have disconnected from the learning process. After their morning classes, these students complete their day at Herrlich. CLA provides the opportunity to accrue credits in art, health, environmental science, introduction to occupations, and physical education. There is also time scheduled for students to participate in group and individual sessions with Herrlich staff members, who help them reflect on their behaviors and focus on short-term and long-term goals and ways in which to achieve them. Students also focus on assignments from their morning classes in their afternoon schedule. Those who aspire to receive a GED are provided with the individual academic support and test preparation they require.

An additional goal of CLA is to have students personally experience their community from new perspectives. In the early part of October, we toured Putnam Hospital to explore the support this facility provides and also to survey the variety of vocational opportunities available. At the end of this month we will be visiting Cascade Farms in Patterson in hopes to commence our community service component.

Since the program's conception on March 26, 2007, more than 25 students have been part of the CLA family. In addition to their involvement in enriching educational experiences and additional emotional group support provided by Putnam Community and Family Services, students look forward to the daily "Herrlich magic," where they enjoy the peace and serenity that the natural surroundings affords; void of negative external stimuli and influences. CLA provides a structured yet simple lifestyle, establishing boundaries, providing nourishing, positive feedback, and encouraging students to examine and change their internal processes.

Sherry Pecoraro, Cooperative Learning Academy Director



Before and After School Programs

Camp Herrlich's Before and After School Programs are off to a great start for the 2008-2009 school year. We have welcomed two new creative and enthusiastic directors to the programs, Heather Duben and Brian Teagle. Heather Duben, site director for the Kent Elementary School, comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and experience in programming and working with children. She has a degree in Recreation Leadership and Management and experience in both the day care world and the resort world. Brian Teagle, site director for the Matthew Paterson Elementary School, has worked with children in educational, recreational, and therapeutic settings. He has a degree in Psychology with a concentration in Mental Health Counseling. We are very excited to welcome them into the Herrlich family.

This fall, the After School Programs will take their annual trip to Cascade Farms in Patterson for pumpkin picking, hayrides, apple cider tasting, and scarecrow making. In addition to the regular after-school programming, special guests from the local fire departments and board of health will be visiting to do workshops with the children and we will also be starting a sign language program.

During the month of November, all of the school-age programs will be collecting supplies and raising funds for the Putnam County Humane Society. We will send a delegation of students to the Humane Society at the end of the month to present what we have collected and tour the facility. If you are interested in donating, please contact Jessica at the camp office for more information.

We're looking forward to a fantastic year!

Jessica Vanacoro, Program Director



Golf Outing 2008

On May 13, 2008, 92 golfers gathered at Centennial Golf Club in Carmel, New York to enjoy a round while supporting our great camp. Participants in the scramble format afternoon were treated to a box lunch, cart, cocktail hour, and dinner. Prizes were awarded for the longest drive, closest to the pin, and first, second, and third-place teams. There was a silent auction and a raffle. No one won the hole-in-one contest of a BMW, courtesy of BMW of the Hudson Valley. 100% of the net proceeds went to the Camp Herrlich Scholarship Fund—\$9,000 made many campers winners!

Camp Herrlich thanks the following event supporters:

Event Partner—The Rotary Club of Carmel

Hole/Tee Sponsors—BMW of the Hudson Valley, Camp Herrlich, Garrett Hewitt International, Gavin Cabling Systems, Inc., the Hollander Family, Keane and Beane, Attorneys at Law, the Knox Family, the law offices of Kathleen M. Valletta, Carmel, M&T Bank, Maco, Pepsi Lipton Sponsorship, the Rotary Club of Carmel, and Scott Yale Auster, Esq.

Gold Level Sponsors—Martin Anderson, Mike Balkind, Cargain Funeral Homes, Bob and Wendy Gentile, Dave Haar (in memory of Timothy Philip Haar), Ruth Haar (in memory of Timothy Philip Haar), Jim and Mary Lou Jacobs, Senator Vincent Leibell, the Merwin Family, and Putnam Federal Credit Union

Golf Event Contributors—Scott and Liz Auster, Beekman Country Club, Bob and Wendy Gentile, Lodgeworks, Laura McDonald, Tina McMaster, Barbara Nicotera, and Pepsi-Cola

The next golf outing will be in May of 2009—so practice when you can and keep posted for the details.

Details provided by Ed Knox, event coordinator



ENVIRONMENTAL ED Survival Courses

In a world struggling to “think green,” we want to remind you that at Herrlich, we live that way. Our unique classes can be tailored by our highly regarded educators to fit your curriculum and student needs. See www.CampHerrlich.org for more information.

These are some of our most popular Environmental Education courses:

Edible Plants: Walk the fields and forests with a plant expert. Learn which plants are edible and which are not. Eating wild plants is a great way to connect with nature.

Orienteering: We have two courses. One is a map reading course that winds its way over the trails and through the woods. The other is a challenging compass course that tests your ability to take bearings and count your paces. On either course your students will be taught how to read a topographic

map and how to use a compass to navigate through the course. Please specify your course choice.

Snowshoe Making: Using sapling splints and bits of rope, we make our own survival snowshoes. If you are ever caught out in a blizzard, you can make these snowshoes to get you home to safety.

Survival Skills: What are the three things every animal must look for in order to survive? You are all alone in the middle of the woods. You do not know where you are. What do you do? How do you stay warm? What should you be thinking about? How should you prepare ahead of time? These questions and more are answered.

Tracking: How can you tell where wild animals live? Can you tell if an animal has been running or walking? How to get close to an animal? Whether your purposes are to hunt or to take pictures, this is the class to take if you want to learn about the movements of animals.

If You Have One True Friend You Have...

This is the story of a true friend--Broadway Joe, our lab/collie/Shepard mix of a dog that graced us at camp for fourteen years.

Before I begin, I want to say that this article can not be written. The newsletter is late getting to you because everyone agrees that something must be said about Broadway, but no one can find the words.

Broadway was a stray off the streets of the Bronx--thus his name. A Good Samaritan teacher from our neighboring town who worked in the Bronx use to bring up the strays to the country and find them homes. Broadway's home was with our family. Our family's home is at camp.

Broadway was both a product of the camp he so loved and a personification all the attributes that we try to sustain at camp and teach to one another and our campers. Broadway grew into his role over the years he spent at camp. He had a great 75-foot run that we used only when absolutely necessary. The camp was his run and his leash was of love.



Not everyone can understand that, but he really never went off the camp property, not in fourteen years. An occasional jaunt down Deacon Smith to visit his favorite friends and his yearly trips to the vet—that's it. Otherwise his job was a camp.

He brought out the best in everyone who took even the smallest moment to bend to pet him. To those of you who loved him, your gifts were received tenfold. He protected each of us from the wilds of the wood. The stories of his escorting people to and from their cabins, lying in the field at night until all the staff was in for curfew, the skunk attacks, and the bobcat escapades all flow effortlessly from our lips. He was patient, kind, happy always, sick rarely, at peace, frantically funny, caring, loving, and persistent. He never made anyone mad at him. Broadway Joe greeted everyone on the camp for all those years. Our retreat groups would request that Broadway be in their pictures. He would be shared by the day campers and resident campers each day. There were sign-up sheets for which campers would take him for a walk. He would lie in church with all of us. He was always a step ahead or behind me. I couldn't supervise in my sneaky style unless I had him on a leash, for where Broadway was, so was Wendy.

Fourteen years is a long tome to be involved in such a love affair. The empty spot he left for all of us goes far beyond emotion and escapes my attempt at words. We love that we buried him with the utmost honor, surrounded by our students and campers and staff, at the Chapel in the Whispering Woods at Herrlich. He is in his favorite part of camp, and his perfect spirit will forever be a driving force for all of us who were blessed to be in his tremendous circle of life.

I know that he was received in heaven with scrubbing, scrunchy hands scratching his perfect head. And I know his beautiful eyes, his always-wagging tail, and his jumpity spirit will greet all of us when we make it home.

JET Foundation 2008

In 2008, Camp Herrlich celebrated a second year of the Carl Gallo Scholarship Fund. The fund was established in 2007 with a gift of \$25,000 from the JET Foundation. This year, the \$25,000 enabled 50 at-risk children from the inner city to attend summer resident camp.

Carl Gallo was the nephew of Thomas Elmezzi. Tom, who at a very young age worked his way from humble beginnings to the Worldwide Head of Production for Pepsi-Cola, and his wife Jeanne established the JET Foundation in 1996. The foundation's mission is to "encourage and support programs that directly provide assistance to individuals who due to either environment or circumstance have not had the opportunity or ability to live independent and productive lives." One of the foundation's areas of focus is Youth Development/ Youth Services, "to provide growth and support to socio-economically disadvantaged youth through mentoring, arts and after-school programs that focus on academic achievement" in the tri-state area.*

Camp Herrlich more than fulfills the foundation's goal. Before and After School programs and the Cooperative Learning Academy are only two examples of the powerful ways in which the camp goes far beyond typical "fun" to reach those in need of support. The camp is grateful that Nancy, Carl Gallo's wife, chose to honor her husband's memory by sponsoring this annual gift, and were delighted that current foundation chair José Rivero, another nephew of Tom Elmezzi, considered it a pleasure to make a donation to something as worthwhile as the camp in Carl's name.

Please go to <http://jetfoundation.org> for more information on the Thomas and Jeanne Elmezzi Foundation.

*Foundation Mission and program description © 2005-2007 JET FOUNDATION

Mr. Gentile finished his remarks with the camp's hope for the future: to continue their mission and provide safe, quality programs for children and families; to expand their facility in order to service a larger population; and to award scholarships to more deserving campers and students whose lives might be changed by the chance Hope Camp and Herrlich gives them.

Wendy Gentile, program consultant, then asked a thought-provoking question: "What brings you joy?" Families? Children? What brings Wendy joy is camp, and she expressed her passion by leading a lively sing-along with the humorous refrain, "I don't want to go to Camp Wilbur Herrlich; gee Ma, I want to go home!"

The keynote address of the evening was by Joe Ausanio, former New York Yankees relief pitcher



Keynote speaker Joe Ausanio

and relative newcomer to Camp Herrlich. After joking a bit about expecting to address a room full of children and having to ditch his "just say no," speech, Joe made some effective points about the positive and lasting effect that camp has on children, and how the camp experience is one of the few that offers everyone, regardless of socioeconomic situation or background, the chance to expand personal horizons.

A Special Announcement

Following this address, Mr. Gentile had the pleasure of introducing William G. Sayegh of Carmel, New



New Director of Philanthropic Giving for Camp Herrlich William Sayegh

York. He met Bill Sayegh through a board member who thought that the local attorney was the type of man who might be interested in helping the camp realize its goals for the future. After meetings at Mr. Sayegh's office, walks at Camp Herrlich, a few dinners, a radio show appearance with his dad, a trip to the ball park, a backyard visit, and countless emails and conversations via the phone, Mr. Gentile realized that Bill Sayegh is the kind of man that you can rely on with a handshake. When he met Bill's dad on his Hudson Valley Radio Network show, he understood more about who Bill is and where he came from. He is a compassionate and caring man who has dedicated his life to serve people and care for his family.

These words welcomed Mr. Sayegh to the podium, where he made a very special announcement



Wendy Gentile and Allison Norris Connors

regarding his new role as Director of Philanthropic Giving for Camp Herrlich. Emphasizing the importance of community ties and the need to help out, Mr. Sayegh discussed his plans for building the future of Herrlich financially and his belief in "passion, love, warmth, and friendship." The new "Campaign for the Future and Bridge to Tomorrow" fund-raising drive headed by Mr. Sayegh hopes to raise several million dollars in the next five years. One of the specific goals of the campaign, which has been spearheaded by an anonymous donation of \$250,000 from a life-long resident of Putnam County, is to construct a new multi-purpose building on the camp's campus. According to Mr. Gentile, the official kick-off of the campaign will be announced soon, which will allow the continued and expanded existence of the "dynamic learning and leadership center to be used by people of all ages from children through senior citizens."



Dancing the evening away

The evening ended with some guests on the dance floor enjoying the tunes played by DJ Steve Goodenough and others happily collecting the 44 silent auction items donated by many local businesses, five individuals, and four of the camp's student site/programs. The auction raised \$3745 and the event overall raised over \$35,000, which will provide summer camp and after-school program scholarships to those in need. "Autumn in Putnam" might have lasted just one evening, but its effects will last all year.

Submitted by Amy J. Finney

Calendar of Events 2008-2009

December 1	Summer Camp 2009 Registration Begins
December 29-30	December Vacation Camp
February 15	Open House and Pancake Breakfast
February 16-20	Winter Vacation Camp
March 1	Last day to lock in 2008 prices for a full summer of camp
April 6-10	Spring Vacation Camp
May 15-17	Work Weekend
May 31	Open House
June 1	Balance Due for Summer Day and Resident Camps
June 25	Last day of Before and After School Programs
June 29-July 3	Summer Staff Orientation
July 5-August 8	Summer Resident Camp
July 6-August 28	Summer Day Camp



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Patterson, NY 12563
campherrlich@comcast.net
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