First and foremost, I want to wish all of my fellow Alumni the very best for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. Additionally, thanks to all who continue to not only support the Newsletter project, with both "dues" and "stats" but also the overwhelming support of the camp in general. The continued excellence that Bauercrest provides could not be accomplished without your support.

As the title indicates above, the camp's leadership will be undergoing some changes at our annual meeting in October 2012. Dan "Bean" Rubin will be sliding over from his Executive Vice President post to take the reigns as the camp President. Thus, my 13 year tenure as Board President will come to an end. Selfishly, I had envisioned staying on as Board chair until I was unable to do it any longer. I am still relatively young and, now that my kids are grown and on their own, have plenty of time to continue to dedicate to camp. It is a job I have loved doing,... but, having discussed this with several Board members, have come to the conclusion that the camp is better off with a succession plan that involves, as Terry Francona used to say, "moving the line."

"Bean" brings a business skill set to the job that (having never had employees, nor been anyone else's) I could never duplicate. His love and dedication to camp is without question. I'm sure he'll bring some fresh ideas to the table. Additionally, per the camp by-laws, this opens up my Board seat so that we can start the process of bringing in the next generation of parents, volunteers and donors. All part of the succession plan to help keep Bauercrest strong for generations to come. The by-laws also call for the past president to stay involved as "President Emeritus" in perpetuity, with voting rights. So, I'll be able to both transition "Bean" into the role and stay as involved as I want to be for the foreseeable future.

It has been an amazing 13 year experience for me. I sincerely thank all of my fellow Board members, and you alumni, for all your support. Both are groups I am extremely proud to be a part of. A lot has happened in those 13 years, mostly good. We have significantly improved the physical plant on so many levels, culminated by the amazing Project Splash experience. We had a fantastic 75th gala at Gillette Stadium, which was a huge success both as a friend raiser and a fund raiser. The integration of so many new and talented members to our Board of Directors has been a definite plus. This includes the integration (finally!) of the first three women ever to serve on our Board. Our business model, of having a part time director, has been upgraded to a full time position, thus, we have someone whose total focus 24/7, is Bauercrest. Director Rob Brockman has done a fabulous job positioning us in the various communities, expanding our base, bringing his business background to the job, integrating the use of 21st century technology, improving relations with our colleagues and instilling the now famous S.T.A.R. principles to everyday life at Bauercrest (sportsmanship, teamwork, achievement and responsibility).
As Sinatra once sang, "Regrets, I've had a few, but then again, too few to mention." Suffice to say that the raw emotion and passion that Bauercrest brings out in me has, over the years, compromised and conflicted some both personal and professional relationships. That's unfortunate, but the positive outweighs the negative exponentially. As Michael Corleone once said in The Godfather, "It's strictly business (Sonny). It's not personal." My apologies to anyone I may have offended along the way. Please understand that my intentions were always in the best interests of camp.

NONE of this will impact how things go on the alumni front. I'll still be doing the Newsletter, Alumni Weekend, heavily involved in the golf outing, the annual fund drive and organizing Alumni Day at camp. It'll be business as usual, usual....

So, to "Bean", I wish you all the best. I'm always available for you. You'll do a great job and the camp is in good hands.

Congrats to our Alumni Man of the Year Greg Segall. Where would we be without you???

Last, but by no means least, there is no way I could have devoted a fraction of the time I have, and plan to continue to do, without the total buy in of my wife Jeri. She has truly been my "wing person" all these years. Her caring, perspective, patience and insight into camp's "issues du jour" have been priceless.

Now, on to events of 2012 you need to put in your cell phones and on your calendars:

**Alumni Day: Sunday, July 15th**

**14th Annual Cy Smoller Memorial Golf Outing: Monday, July 16th**
(Haverhill CC)

**Alumni Weekend 2012: Friday, August 24th – Sunday August 26th**
(our 28th Alumni Weekend!)....let's hope we can avoid a hurricane this year.

See you this summer,

**Mark “Bibs” Smoller**
I often conclude articles and updates with a big thank you to all. On this occasion, I’ll reverse the order a bit and start with a huge THANK YOU! All that we enjoyed this summer is the result of your generosity. We came in with a “Splash” and concluded the 2012 season with a “Splash” – and what a sight the Segall Aquatic Center is! It is safe to say that all records for General Swim attendance since 1931 have been broken!

The Board and I look ahead to 2012 and beyond with an open and critical eye. In planning for growth, we talk about continuous improvement, incremental improvement, and step function improvement – all in the interest of building quality into the product and processes. If I’m sounding like I’m into a lecture on manufacturing engineering and Total Quality Management (TQM), you are right. The voice of the customer is critical to our success – and there are many voices – from you our alumni, parents, and generous donors. Many of you fit into all three categories, and we want to hear and learn from you.

Thanksgiving weekend is a time to reflect, express our thanks, and spend quality time with friends and family. During this time, we gather for our annual camp reunion and re-kindle the spirit we had on the hill just months ago. For the Executive Board, fellow alums Steve Stimell, Ross Weisman, and I, there was a different type of reunion that long weekend. It was a formal presentation, review and brainstorming session. Letter writing, inspection, and league are among the tangible elements we experience during the summer. However, the work behind all of this has a true mission in mind: to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of every camper. And of course, we accomplish this mission by building Jewish Identity and Self Esteem through teaching, working, and living to the values of Sportsmanship, Teamwork, Achievement and Responsibility. While maybe easy to encapsulate into this writing, the true labor and effort is far greater.

As you are reading through this article and the pages to follow, please keep these thoughts in mind: 1.) There is no place like the Crest to accomplish this mission; 2.) This work will be ongoing and a labor of love for many generations to come; and 3.) You can feel so proud to be part of this journey.

I hope all of you can make it for an in-season visit, the Annual Cy Smoller Golf Outing, Alumni Day, and/or Alumni Weekend in 2012. It will be quite a reward to see all that you have made possible.

My best to all of you – true STARs – for the New Year and always.

Crestly,

Robbie Brockman
ANOTHER TREMENDOUS RESPONSE TO OUR OUR ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN

In 2011, we resumed our Annual Fund Campaign, having suspended it in 2010 to focus our efforts and resources on Project Splash. Through the amazing generosity of more than 275 donors, the Camp received pledges of $715,000+ to help build the wonderful Segall Aquatic Center. The Board was somewhat uncertain as to what we could expect for donations in 2011 to the Fifth Annual Fund drive, having had so many alumni contributing to Project Splash.

We are very pleased to report that our Fifth Annual Fund drive generated $90,000+ from more than 125 donors. It is evident many of our alumni and parents recognize the ongoing financial needs of the Camp for providing scholarships, making capital improvements and offering quality programming for the campers. We are listing below the names of the Donors to this past year’s Fund. The Board gratefully thanks all of you who have given. We will be moving forward shortly with our 2012 Annual Fund Campaign. We hope we can count on all our alumni and parents to be a part of this vital drive. Thanks again to all of you who help the Camp as we move forward towards our 82nd season.

~ Arthur White
Development Committee Chair
2011 BAUERCREST ANNUAL FUND

BAUERCREST SOCIETY
($10,000 and greater)

Dan Rubin
Ross Weisman

DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE
($5000 to $9,999)

Alan Feldman
Lee Millstein
Barry Rodenstein
Ken Wagner

FOUNDER'S SOCIETY
($1,931 to $4,999)

Adam Hodes
Adam Ochlis
Steven & Stacey Sands

COLOR WAR CAPTAINS
($1,000 to $1,931)

Alumni Weekend 2011
Martin Bloomfield
Jeff Gorlick
Monte and Jane Haymon
Jeff Jonas
James and Peri Kutchin & Family
Dave Mack
Herbert Phillips
Mark Smoller
Milton Solomon
Melissa and Gary Tearney
Arthur White

GROUP LEADERS
($500 to $999)

Judy Dovev
Laurie and Stephen Girsky
Michael Green
Jeff Grinspoon
Peter Harris
Todd Lehner
David Linda

GROUP LEADERS (cont.)
($500 to $999)

Mike Missle
Howie Rodenstein
Stephen and Joyce Schultz
Joseph Smith
Ross Weintraub
Ron Weiss

BUNK CAPTAINS
($250 to $499)

Rick Alpern
Amesbury Industrial Supply
Scott Barron
Lawrence and Leah Berson
Peter Blank
Barry Bloom
Reed Brockman
Louise and David Citron
Scott Farmelant
Arthur Fox
Jay Goldman
David Gorlick
Alan Hertz
Ricky Kaplan
Jay Kessler
Eric Kessler
Dave Lepes
Glenn Levine
Faith and Howard Levy
Jeff Marlin
Steve Marlin
David Novick
Bob Ogan
Cheryl and Corey Peyser
Mike Reiss
Relia-Tech, Inc.
Jon Salon
Robert Simon
Larry Stein
Neil Todreas
Robert and Janet Wagner
Jennifer and Steven Wolfberg
Herb Wyman
FRIENDS OF BAUERCREST  
(Up to $249)

Scott Aronson  
Robert Barton  
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Stephen Berger  
Steve Blatt  
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Leonard Glick  
Darin Goldberg  
Jay Goodman  
Arnold Goodman  
Marc Gordon  
Keith and Deborah Gray  
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Don Grohman  
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Michael Kagan  
Paul Kanter  
Abe Kaufman  
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Ronnie Lappin  
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Eric Merrill  
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Richard Montier  
Steve Morin  
Norman Neiterman  
Mike Newberg  
Marlene Newberg  
Dick Perlman  
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Greg Radner  
Jon Roos  
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Ed Rotmer  
Dave Saltzberg  
Stephen and Joyce Schultz  
David and Melissa Schwartz  
Brian Shactman  
Mark Shankman  
Jim Shaw  
Steve Siegel  
Mark Silverstein  
Judith Slovin  
Joan Smoller  
Mike Steinberg  
Mike Tabachnick  
Roger Volk  
Martin Waldman  
Paula Weiner  
Laurence Winer  
Andy Zetlan  

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY & SUPPORT!
Your Investment Will Help Us:
> Provide Scholarships
> Improve Our Facilities
> Enhance Our Programs

Giving is Easy:
Many giving options are available:
> Bequests
> Life Insurance
> Charitable Gift Annuity
> IRA or Pension Plan

To make your commitment or to receive more information, please contact:

Alan Feldman
(215) 717-3379
afeldman@resourcerei.com

David Auslander
(508) 789-5566
david.auslander@gmail.com

or visit us online at
www.bauercrest.org

Commit to naming Bauercrest in your estate plan and ensure that future generations will reap the benefits of the seeds we are planting now.

LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS:

David & Lynne Auslander
Marc & Cindy Bello
Jeff Berenson
Robert & Marjie Brockman
Alan & Miriam Feldman
Jon Foley
Jim & Jennifer Glickman
Jeffrey Gorlick
Harold Grinspoon
Jeffrey Grinspoon
Peter & Connie Harris
Mike Levine
David Mack & Stacey Parker
David Mandell
Steven Marlin
Bob & Marci Miller
Larry & Elin Neiterman
Andrew & Wendy Rafey
Barry & Claudia Rodenstein
Dan & Karen Rubin
Andrew Schultz
William & Heather Schultz
Billy & Rachel Smoller
Mark & Jeri Smoller
Gary & Melissa Tearney
Kenny & Cynthia Wagner
Harold Weiner
Arthur & Lorraine White

* Partial List of Members

CAMP BAUERCREST
For a Lifetime

AMERICAN CAMP ASSOCIATION ACCREDITED
The Pool is Open!  Bauercrest Pool Opening Ceremonies
Alumni Day, 2011
OPENING CEREMONIES AT THE NEW POOL...
THE SEGALL AQUATIC CENTER!! (THE S.A.C.!!))
ALUMNI DAY: JULY, 2011
CREST ALUMNI NEWS NOTES

Arnie Goodman writes: Tradition never graduates from Camp Bauercrest. Continuing success to the camp on the Hill....

Mike Newberg writes: Saw the pool last summer... INCREDIBLE!... Rob Brockman and Henry are doing a great job!

David “Bento” Weintraub writes: Great take..... Father and son Color War Captain winners. Nice war Jordan! Two new knees, so no more excuses for running down those balls in center field. Regards to all.

Andy Rafey writes: The Crest is never far from my mind and when I received the “Big House” Paperweight, it reminded me to at least write a small check. As I have said to you before (Bibs), what you have done for the camp during the past decade plus cannot be measured and you should justifiably go down as the greatest President that the camp has ever had (bar none). I know it is a labor of love, and you should know this.... but “Schmimmy” is smiling down at you for what you have accomplished.

Rick Kaplan writes: My son Jeremy is a Junior in high school, and just started looking at schools. He wants to visit the University of Colorado at Boulder. Although too far away, it sounds like a great excuse for me to visit at ski season! We spend our winter weekends at Loon Mountain and all else is great. My sister’s kids, Josh and Max, will be starting their Crestly Summers this coming June. I am psyched!!

Herbert “Bert” Wyman writes: Happy New Year to all. Just celebrated our grandson’s (Jack) Bar Mitzvah (10/29/11) and Kyle (Rusty’s son) returns to the Crest as a 3rd generation camper.

Steve “Fish” Marlin writes: Thanks to the 2011 Alumni Weekend Committee for another great event! Kudos to Josh Ziskin (of La Morra Restaurant, Brookline) on another all-star BBQ extraordinaire.... and to Andrew Schultz for all his help on the weekend. Thinking ahead to summer 2012, if you have any interest in helping out with Alumni Weekend, please contact myself (smarlin@ureach.com) or Bibs (bibssmol@aol.com), Billy Smoller (wsmoller@gmail.com) or Andrew “Shmu” Silver (andrewsilver@gmail.com). We are looking for a few volunteers to help plan the upcoming event and welcome your support! Old and young alumni..... please reach out and join us to keep the tradition going! All the best in 2012, and looking forward to future alumni events. And just in at publication...Congrats to Jon Fisch for his recent standup appearance on Late Show with David Letterman. Well done!

Michael Winston writes: Thank you Bibs, for all your hard work! I routinely cross paths with fellow campers from the Crest and whether it’s been 5 years or 30 years since we last spoke, the connection and fellowship is instant. It’s great to have lifetime friends.

Dave “Gor” Gorlick writes: Hope all is well...Missed the greatest of the year...will be there in 2012.

Steve Rothenberg writes: All is well. My big news is that I am getting married to Kimberly Hannon in August of 2012....Exciting time.

Mark “Spoon” Silverstein writes: Great job Bibs! I wish more alumni from the 50’s would say hello.

Dr. Jeffrey Snow writes: Great to read the Newsletter. Would like to see more people (such as Joel Bernstein) connected to the Crest here in the Ft. Lauderdale area.

Marc “Bucky” Gordon writes: I hope that everyone has a happy and healthy 2012. Let’s hope that the Patriots can keep it going!

Barry Milberg writes: Can’t believe I will actually have a child in college (she’ll be attending Lehigh) next year. All is well here and same old same old. Wishing everyone a happy holidays.
Dave “Aussie” Auslander writes: All is well here in Hopkinton. Stephen is psyched for camp as usual, and I’m very excited to be joining the Board of Directors. Wishing Greenie and Jake Sydney a speedy and complete recovery.

David “Little Lefty” Phillips writes: Greetings from the West. Sorry for being out of touch but things have been hectic of late: just won major litigation developing a widely used 3-D technology and currently putting together another sequel to the “Almighty” franchise. Hope everyone forgives me but gotta pull for the underdog this weekend in Foxboro. The past few years watching and working with Tim have been like a 3-year Color War experience minus the Friday night challah. Check out the ESPN doc I recently Executive Produced called Tim Tebow: Everything in Between. Tim has heard all about the Crest as well. Regards to the family & GB squared! (God Bless & Go Broncos)

Peter “Scratch” Harris writes: Nothing much new to report. Continuing to enjoy my “transition lifestyle”, working 3 days a week. Made my first trip to Hilton Head in September for a week of golf and heading to San Diego in March for another golf trip. Enjoyed catching up with fellow waiter Mark Mizner one day last summer after 40+ years. Hope to see more of the 1970 waiters next summer.

Mike “Greenie” Green writes: Everything is going well with the family and work. Thanks to all the alumni who sent “get well greetings” during my recent accident. Looking forward to Summer 2012 and hoping we can add a few upgrades to the Hillside. As far as Bunk Games are concerned, I can remember an Alumni Weekend when Evan Crocker took out a sink in a game of pitching fast ball. Another game that is no longer played is the “upside-down hanging game” from the rafters. For some reason it just faded away.

Jim “Shimmy” Shaw writes: The Pool is terrific... a great addition to the Camp! Great to see everybody at Alumni Weekend, although it was painful to leave a day early, to beat Hurricane Irene. My son Brad will be back again as a counselor, and I wish I could trade places.

Ken Reisman writes: All is good - Golf game getting better. Hello to all.... Marvin, Arthur, Ted, Arthur, Shpiel, Todd, Bento, Enzo, et al!

Haskell Jaffe writes: Hard to believe I’ll be 70 in January! The older I am, I appreciate the time spent at Bauercrest all the more. Joanne and I are spending more time in Florida than we used to, and enjoying the Sunshine State immensely. Tennis is great and golf is not so great. Where are you Butch (Arthur) Selby, Butch (Dave) Barron, and Richie Segal? Love to hear from one and all.

Josh Ziskin (Chef/Owner of La Morra Restaurant, Brookline), along with his Asst. Chef Billy Schultz, leading the All-Star Saturday night BBQ!
ALUMNI WEEKEND 2011 POOLSIDE

>>>SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO HELP OUT WITH ALUMNI WEEKEND 2012<<<
HELP MAKE THIS YEAR’S EVENT THE BEST YET!
CONTACT MARK “BIB’S” SMOLLER FOR MORE INFO!
2012 ANNIVERSARIES!
CELEBRATE & RETURN TO ALUMNI EVENTS!

1972 WAITERS: 40TH ANNIVERSARY!
Andy Rafey, Bruce Bornstein, Dean Kloner, Michael Kuhnberg, Bruce Boynick, Michael Sklar, Gary Zakon, Howie Pearlman, Steve Blatt, Howie Goldstein, Alex Riseman, Steve Solomon and Phil Goldberg Staff: Marvin White, Dave Tabachnick, Bob Schmidtt and Brian Walsh

1977 WAITERS: 35TH ANNIVERSARY!
Jordan Dickstein, Mike Uretsky, Brad Starobin, Adam Hodes, Adam May, Stu Briefer, Matty Hochman, Robbie Brockman, Rick Goralnick, Kenny Wagner, Jon Weiss, Richie Hurwitz, Jon Bass, Barry Finn, Randy Kaye, David Cope, Steve Stimmell, Marc Gordon and Eric Silverman.
Staff: Dave Graham and Steve Toltz.
2012 ANNIVERSARIES!
CELEBRATE & RETURN TO ALUMNI EVENTS!

1982 WAITERS: 30TH ANNIVERSARY!

Staff: Steve Stimell and Steve Berman

1987 WAITERS: 25TH ANNIVERSARY!

Jeff Siegel, Dan Wiseman, Jon Factor, Marc Bello, Larry Stein, Josh Penn, Lee Galkin, Mike Feldberg, Jon Fisch, Jeff Rosen, Lee Goldberg, Doug Krinzman, Billy Schultz, Steve Faberman, Steve Berman, David raider and Jim Barnett
Staff: Lou Weihrauch and Milty Morin
2012 ANNIVERSARIES!
CELEBRATE & RETURN TO ALUMNI EVENTS!

1992 WAITERS: 20TH ANNIVERSARY!
Adam Binder, Todd Evans, Craig Feld, Brian Feldberg, Jason Feldberg, Jeff Fisch, Scott Goldberg, Alex Gould, Martin Israel, Marc Korenberg, Scott Odess, Adam Price, Jason Rosenstock, Scott Seider, Andrew Weiner, David Weiner and Josh Zwicker
Staff: Andrew White and Mike Kamin

1997 WAITERS: 15TH ANNIVERSARY!
Michael Altman, Aaron Ross, Phil Casper, Matt Cotton, Evan Fieldman, Dan Gold, Paul Golder, Jeff Gordon, Mike Langer, Brett Lubarsky, Brian Miller, Andy Nechtem, Jon Orenstein, Robert Rosen, Eric Rosenberg, David Shaw, David Siegel, Jonathan Steiner, Lev Tannenbaum and Jeff Tanner
Staff: Marc Abelson and Josh Goldman

2002 WAITERS: 10TH ANNIVERSARY!
Alex Bard, Danny Bernstein, David Brownstein, Ian Cox, Jesse Davis, Jon Gillick, Jared Gillman, Matt Glazier, Ben Goldberg, Ben Jaffe, Josh Keezer, Harrison Levitsky, Matt Lutchin, Josh Rotman, Aaron Salter, Matt Selbovitz, Harley Seligman, Sam Shoolman and Matt Starr
Staff: Marc Walkin and Jeff Sneider
ROSE ARBOR
2011
RAFTER BALL MEMORIES

by Mark Sklar (additional comments by Dave “Lips” Lipof)

We played a lot of rafterball back-in-the-day, mostly with the old ABA (red, white and blue) ball that someone had in our Bunk. One of my proudest moments that summer was throwing a “sitter”, and someone took a picture which I may have somewhere.

You scored points when you threw the ball up and it nicked, grazed, rolled or bounced on the top of the targeted rafter, and went over to the other side. If the ball bounced more than once on the rafter before going over, each bounce was counted as a point. If the ball bounced (X times) and then returned to the shooters side (called a “chink” as in Chinese, as in “backwards”), those points would be deducted from your score. A “sitter” (such as the one I remember) resulted in an “instant victory” (amounting to the full 21 points).

Dave Gorlick and I recall that there were a total of 5 points awarded for a “roller” (when the ball rolled laterally along the top of the principal rafter before going over to the other side). For a more challenging match, David Linda and I recall playing rafter ball with a tennis ball. David Linda also recalls the additional challenge of playing “double rafter ball”, where the ball was shot over one rafter before landing on the newly assigned principal rafter.

The game was so “intoxicating” that to this day I have found myself throwing balls in my apartment building onto wall moldings to see how many bounces I could get..... You can take the “kid” out of Bauercrest - but you can’t take the “Bauercrest” out of the kid.

I don’t know whether the attraction was the nuances of the game’s rules, or the scientific nature of a game which is based upon Newton’s Laws, but Rafter Ball lives on in our hearts and minds.

*******************************************************************************

Robbie Brockman at the Big House with Ira Goldapper - back at the Crest for a visit
Most Bauercrest Alumni may be unaware of what has come to be known as “The Secret of The Grove” (AKA “The Smoller Chapel”). It may come as a pleasant surprise to learn that the large deciduous trees which are found encircling The Grove are one of the principal ingredients in root beer - the Sweet Birch (*Betula lenta*). This is the simple secret.

When I first arrived at The Crest back in 1972 as Nature Counselor, one of the very first things I did was a survey of the various fauna and flora on the camp’s grounds. Ever the consummate scientist, my examination extended to all the senses, and when I picked off a small branch of these huge trees (such as the one pictured above) a quick sniff of the end of the branch revealed the pleasant sweet aroma, so reminiscent of root beer.

In those days, “Nature” was an elective activity which campers chose, along with “Arts and Crafts”, “Photography” and “Archery” (to name a few). I recall that I had three Senior campers who chose Nature in the first month that summer. These three were Scott “Tito” Mirliss, Richard “Dunch” Dunkless, and David “Gore” Gorlick. As we departed the confines of the Nature Cabin, one of the activities I had the boys do was called “The Secret of The Grove”.

This activity basically had three parts. The first part was for the campers to discover this “secret” in a similar way that I had first discovered it. I provided hints (as necessary) along the way. The second part of the activity was to compare the Sweet Birch with other types of trees..... to determine whether they also had a sweet smell in their stems. The third part was to use the Sweet Birch stems to make “sweet birch tea” - an idea that Uncle Saul (Nechtem) didn’t readily embrace. As Camp Director he was more concerned about keeping the Infirmary free of “sweet birch stomach aches”, than the pursuit of “hands-on education”. Uncle Saul also was quick to point out that the Big House was also ringed with Sweet Birch trees, growing as bushes. They are still there today, proving that this “secret” is not simply associated with The Grove, but with the Big House as well. Perhaps I should have quickly renamed the activity “The Secret of The Crest”.... but of course that would have left the solution much more enigmatic.

One thing I learned about this and other activities which I had devised as Nature Counselor was that the kids seemed to enjoy them.... and seemed to click well with me. It wasn’t a quantum leap for me to quickly conclude that I wanted to become a teacher..... and I did! It wouldn’t be easy for me, since U-Mass Boston in those days had no School of Education..... not even an Education Program. I had to work with my advisor to devise a course of study which would qualify me to receive credit for student teaching (at Brockton High School). In retrospect, I might well have been the very first student to graduate from U-Mass Boston and go on to become an educator. I started teaching in Wareham, MA the following year (1973) and never looked back. My 35 year career as a Grade 7 science teacher was characterized by this “hands-on” activity oriented approach which I had discovered as the Camp Bauercrest Nature Counselor.

“The Secret of The Grove” was an activity which I also had the next generation of campers engage in more than 30 years later. I had returned to my role (albeit part-time) as Nature Counselor, with Steve “Toots” Toltz as Program Director. I recall that even a generation later, the kids, many of whom were the sons of my earliest campers, were still thrilled to discover “The Secret of The Grove”.

Written by Dave “Lips” Lipof.... Wareham Public Schools (1973 - 2008)
THE LEGEND OF THE STICKMAN

Back in the Summer of 1973 Bauercrest scheduled a fabulous 3-day overnight trip to Mount Washington for our oldest campers. As Nature Counselor (at that time) I was privileged to be a part of that trip.

For me, it was more than a privilege......it was setting the record straight. Nearly 10 years earlier, when I was a camper at the West End House Camp, a similar 3-day trip was scheduled, and I feigned sickness so that I wouldn’t have to face the challenge. I regretted that decision......and so, when Uncle Ted accepted the plan put forward by David “Bento” Weintraub and his cousin Ross Weintraub, I was eager to be included - I wanted to set the record straight.

The trip was a stunning success. We climbed to our base camp by the end of day 1, reached the summit of Mount Washington on day 2, and returned to the Crest by the end of day 3, without so much as a blister to show for our effort, even though we descended Mount Jefferson on the perilous Six Husbands Trail (so named for the Native American legend).

Our hearts in our throats, we proved our metal on the “Six Husbands Trail”. I was totally exhausted by the time we reached the trail head at the base of Mount Jefferson, and I found a stick there to assist me with the remainder of the trek back to our base camp. Known for chronic “bad wheels”, this stick came in handy as a makeshift crutch......if for mainly psychological reasons.

Upon our return to The Crest, I still had the stick with me (we had traveled by car, and so I threw it into my trunk along with my gear), and following a refreshing dip in Lake Attitash (the most enjoyable I can ever remember), I unloaded my gear back at the Bunk, and thus began “The Legend of The Stickman”.

Always looking for a neat subject for an after taps bedtime story for my campers, this “stick” offered a tantalizing opportunity to fabricate a delicious tale of mysterious terror to help the kids get off to a pleasant sleep. My stories, for those of my former campers who remember them, had a common theme running throughout - the simple phrase “in any event, but never the less”. It got to the point where whenever I paused to conjure up the next twist in the phony story, the kids, in their great anticipation, would themselves chime in, “in any event, but never the less”. I would chuckle, and then go on with the story.

My legend began to spread from August of 1973 into June of 1974, and everyone wanted to hear this “Stickman” story. Before long I found myself making guest appearances after taps in various Bunks around the Hillside. Despite having told the “Stickman” story many times, today (more than 30 years later) I cannot relate a single detail about it. Oh, I am sure it centered around some deranged, escaped mental patient, who wandered off into the forests of the White Mountains, and used this very same stick to terrorize and dispense with his helpless victims, and so forth......but, the unspoken moral of the story brings me back to the conflict which I addressed earlier. My fears back in 1966, which prevented me from experiencing Mount Washington as a 15 year old, were unfounded, as is the case with most things that we fear. As the “Stickman” story teaches us, fear exists within each person, waiting to be tapped and released. Through the experience of facing up to our fears, we can all achieve great things.

While surviving the “Six Husbands Trail” might not have been the greatest accomplishment of a lifetime (some might rightly say that the drive up to New Hampshire and back was statistically a lot more dangerous), it certainly did seem that way at the time. We had faced our deepest fears, and we had conquered them, as surely as we conquered the trail on that afternoon. From that point forward, we learned to approach life as one “Six Husbands Trail” after another - no need for fear.....just watch your step, and enjoy it while it lasts!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Arnie Goodman
Dr. Steve Levine
Mickey Rabinovitz
Ken Sachar
Ken Borkin
Andrew Wagner

Dr. Barry Zienstein
Irwin Novack
Mike Reiss
Brian Schachtman
Joseph Kybo

Buddy Jacobs
Stephen Phillips
Steve Rothenberg
Dr. Jeff Snow
Dave Tiselbaum
Dr. Bert Wyman

David Linda
Houston, TX

Greg Redner
Westwood, MA

Peter Harris, CPA
Marblehead, MA

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13th Annual Cy Smoller Memorial Golf Outing
THE CAMP BAUERCREST ALUMNI NEWSLETTER is a free publication prepared solely for the members of the Camp Bauercrest Alumni Association, which is affiliated with Camp Bauercrest, Inc., a non-profit organization.

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We need your assistance for our next issue. Please send articles, photos, and memories to Dave "Lips" Lipof at coverscape@comcast.net, or mail to Dave Lipof, P.O. Box 1381, Sagamore Beach, MA 02562.