

# BROWN LEDGE CAMP



# ALUMNAE LEDGER

FALL-WINTER 2011-2012

[www.brownledge.org](http://www.brownledge.org)

## PAYING FORWARD AND GIVING BACK

By Kathy Neilsen

Which memories symbolize the best of Brown Ledge to you? Depending on your age and interests, they could range from fencing to wakeboarding, from swamping “joy boys” to rolling play boats. Do you think of the fabulous Mr. Silk sailing over fences or faithful Goliath lumbering through the hunt course? Does your body remember sleeping on hay bales at the riding overnights, lumpy mattresses and metal beds or the “soft” rocks of Valcour Island? Do you see the riders return with their string of ribbons from the Essex Horse Show or the swim team crashing into Sunday Ledger with the Vermont State Championship trophy raised high? In your memory, are the actors on the outdoor stage lit by a hundred flashlights? Or is Peter Pan flying across the stage? One thing is certain, Brown Ledge’s Greatest Hits lie deep in the folds of memory and are as individual as each Brown Ledge girl.

Here’s a thought about a different set of award winning moments. These are the moments that are rarely seen. They include the people who make the magic happen season after season, the great wizards behind the curtain. Those scenes would include the hundreds of you who contribute to Brown Ledge each year and the girls who benefit from the scholarships that you make possible.

Brown Ledge Camp has grown and changed while keeping philosophy and traditions intact. So, too, has the scholarship program. Though the structure of the program has changed over time, there have always been scholarships awarded to girls who would not be able to reap the benefits of a Brown Ledge summer without financial help. The current format began, according to Melissa Fishel Mauer, in the 1970s when director Barbara Winslow asked Twylla Fishel to head a committee to review applications and make decisions on financial awards. That system remains to this day and Melissa now occupies her mother’s role as the MPB (Marjorie P. Brown) committee chair. “The scholarship program was near and dear to my mother’s heart,” says Melissa, “in part because she knew both Mrs. Brown and Barbara, but even more importantly because she loved Brown Ledge and wanted to give girls the opportunity to attend.” While there have been changes made to the application process, the salient features of the program are the same. Girls are asked not only how they will benefit from their summer at Brown Ledge but how they will contribute to the community. The names of scholarship recipients are never made public and the honor system still prevails; while families are asked to provide a statement of need, Brown Ledge does not delve into family finances for “proof.”



In 1989 a new chapter of the BLC scholarship history was written. Jill Schropp had not been back to Brown Ledge since her second JC summer in 1962. After being contacted by an alum from her era, Jill came to Alumnae Camp in August. She was “overwhelmed” by the wonderful reception and reconnected with former bunkies and friends almost instantly. When Claudia Crawford, then president of the board, talked to her about the camp’s financial needs, Jill asked her where money was needed most. The answer? Scholarships. And when the idea of an annual scholarship for a second year JC was brought forth, Jill thought, “I want to do that. I want to make that work.” Jill says that the whole thing was a leap of faith. “I really didn’t know where that money would come from but I knew that I cherished my time at Brown

## BULLETIN BOARD:

- Contact Liz Bell with your email address if you want to be added to the monthly Brown Ledge enews to keep in touch with camp! Be sure to inform Liz Bell of any address changes.
- We now have hundreds of pictures loaded on our smugmug page so that you can see photos from camp! Newly featured is a gallery from the BLC Cabaret held in NYC and the Linger a Little Longer after-party. Go to [www.brownledge.smugmug.com](http://www.brownledge.smugmug.com) and use “vista” as the password to view albums from 2011, and “summer2010” to view albums from 2010.



**BLC Cabaret in NYC**  
See page 9.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT	2
O’ FISHEL NEWS	3
WHERE ARE THE JC’S NOW?	4
BLC HISTORY RECOVERY PROJECT	5
MILESTONES	7
NEWS FROM YOU	8
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT	11
BLC INFO	12



Continued on Page 2

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Emily Maggs Orben

With a house full of Brown Ledgers, past and current, it's almost impossible to go for even a day without some kind of camp talk. It may be a countdown until the first day for the 2012 summer, or a reflection from a day during a previous summer. Either way, the boys in our house are very patient, and luckily, good listeners! Instead of me writing a typical Winter Ledger article, I thought it may be more fun for one of the two very active campers in our house to share some seasonal camp thoughts.

*The winter is a cold, sad, season for any BLC camper. You are an equal distance away from when camp ended, to when camp will start. I find myself reliving every moment possible from last summer, to try and get excited for the next, even though it is so far away, so it seems. Many of my friends say, "I miss summer," or "I want to be at the pool right now." I can't help but hide a smile when they say this because I don't understand how they find fun in, well nothing. Trust me, I've witnessed the "lets go to the pool" scenario. While they express how fun it is to stay at home and have sleepovers every night, my mind wanders to a place much more amusing, as I have given up on trying explain what camp is, and how much it actually means to me. In many ways, camp is like the hot chocolate when you come inside from a long, cold, winter's day. Just when you can't bare your*



## GIVING BACK Continued from Page 1

Ledge and I wanted it to thrive."

In a recent conversation we traced Jill's life in the "between" years. Jill Schropp left Brown Ledge and went on to direct camp waterfront programs in the Mid-West. She spent years as a newspaper reporter and editor in Duluth, Minnesota and is now a life coach in Seattle and she is on the faculty of the Coaches Training Institute. As we delve into the roots of Jill's extraordinary gift to Brown Ledge, it becomes clear that her personality and beliefs play a crucial role. Jill is not a person who is afraid to make bold steps and words like "will" and "commitment" feature prominently as she speaks. She believes in giving young women opportunities "to become leaders in their communities and the world." In addition, there was probably one turn of events that also played a role. In 1959, after two summers at Brown Ledge, Jill could not return because of family finances. "It broke my heart" she says. In 1960 things had improved enough for Jill to return to the camp she loved. Jill Schropp turned a bitter disappointment into a legacy of giving. As we talk about the future, Jill remains committed to the second year JC scholarship that bears her name. She hopes that over time, others will make similar long-term investments. Although it is a big commitment, the rewards are large too. "I didn't have a daughter to send to Brown Ledge" Jill says, but through the scholarship "it's as though I am able to send a daughter every summer."

*freezing cold fingers, and your tired limbs, you can run inside and after drinking the entire cup, you are good as new. At the end of the year, I am always tired of the same routine, everyday. I can escape to Brown Ledge for 2 months, and come back rejuvenated, and ready to see my friends. Who then always proceed to tell me that I have missed nothing. Which I have known all along, but as any Brown Ledge knows, you only understand camp if you have experienced camp. So, as this snowless winter continues, just remember, there is always a cup of goodness waiting for you when you need a break.*

**Grace Orben, 2008-current**

Be well everyone, and have a super winter! Please don't forget to check out the progress we are making towards our fundraising goal for the theater lights at [www.brownledgetheatre.org](http://www.brownledgetheatre.org). Whatever part you can do to make the curtains open would be greatly appreciated!



## QUOTES FROM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

"I would not be the same without every wonderful year I've spent here. Brown Ledge has taught me how to be a good teacher and friend. I've gained a sense of responsibility that couldn't have been achieved any other way. It is an absolute honor to be able to return year after year due to the scholarship. Now that I've progressed into the realm of being a JC, I can only hope that I am able to give back to BLC for all they have given me."

~~~~~  
"For giving me an opportunity to become a leader in the Brown Ledge community, for allowing me the chance to reach for new goals, for giving me the most memorable summers of my life, all I can say to the scholarship committee is thank you. I have spent every summer at Brown Ledge since I was ten and can truly say that it is the place where I've done the most growing up. I'm so grateful to the scholarship for giving me the opportunity to continue my growing process summer after summer."

~~~~~  
"I feel so lucky and blessed to be able to go to a camp where scholarships are available. Many of my friends go to camps where there are no scholarships available or everyone knows who the scholarship kids are and I can't imagine that kind of environment. That is so not Brown Ledge. Getting the Jill Schropp second year scholarship allowed me to go back to Brown Ledge for my last year as a camper and really allowed me to complete my Brown Ledge cycle. After spending six summers at Brown Ledge I couldn't imagine not going back for my seventh and last summer. Getting a Brown Ledge scholarship was truly the best gift I have ever received. This past summer all the second years became so close and I couldn't imagine my life now without these friendships. I am so eternally grateful to Brown Ledge and I cannot wait until I am able to donate to the scholarship fund!!!"

## O'FISHEL NEWS



By Melissa Fishel Mauer (otherwise known as Fish)

I've been asked to continue the O'Fishel News and so, I will. I'm still trying to figure out how my mother did all the things she did, including raise 3 children, work as a teacher, run the swimming department at camp, chair the scholarship committee and write the O'Fishel News for the alumni ledger! Wow! She was something! I've decided to tackle this article chronologically. So that would mean covering alumni camp and my mother, Twylla's, memorial service first.

What can I say. Alumnae Camp was great fun. It was well attended and seemed more relaxed than some previous alumnae camps, even with lots of kids running around having a grand time. On Sunday, in the Brown Ledge theatre, we remembered, honored and gave thanks to Twylla Fishel, who loved Brown Ledge Camp and all of us, like no other. The service, in my humble opinion, was perfection. It amazed me how those speeches that eulogized her just flowed from one to the next. How touching to have a star named after she and my father. To hear the cello playing, share laughter and tears, see the wonderful video of my mother around camp and our family over the many summers. I can't thank everyone enough for attending and honoring my mother. What a special tribute to her and I was so happy that my father was able to attend. It meant so much to him to be there, to see everyone, and to spend one last bit of time in a place that was so significant in he and my mother's life.

One of the biggest honors to my mother have been the contributions made to the MPB scholarship fund in her name. She was the chair of the scholarship committee since its inception. She loved camp and knew what it meant to so many. She, the athlete, believed in the physical opportunities offered at camp. She promoted the independence and confidence gained and the relationships formed. The thought of someone not being able to return or have the opportunity to experience camp due to financial reasons was upsetting. The scholarship offers that opportunity. I am happy to follow in her footsteps as chair of the committee.

My father has moved in to the assisted living portion of Abingdon as he is no longer able to live independently. He wanted to stay where he knows people and feels comfortable. He has settled in to a routine and doesn't need much help, but it is comforting to know that he has help if and when he needs it. I see him several days a week and talk to him everyday. He chose to bring only a couple pictures to hang in his new room, one of he and my mother and the other of the waterfront at

camp. Here is his new address and phone number. I'm sure he'll welcome cards and calls:

**Fred Fishel**  
**10685 SW Stony Creek Way Room 7103**  
**Port St. Lucie, FL 34987**  
**(772)-345-4813**

I enjoyed a great get together in New Hampshire in October hosted by **Alena (Arent) McDonough** and attended by **Debbie (Fox) Roderer, Betsi (Fox) Oliver and Robin (Manookian) Fleck**. We had fun and were joined at dinner one evening by **Molly Flavin**, whom we had not seen in years and hasn't changed a bit. She's still involved with horses. I flew in to Burlington and I was looking down at Vermont from the plane, a flight I've made dozens of times, and I thought to myself that something looked different. Then I realized that it was the peak of fall and instead of everything being green, I saw a sea of red and orange. I had not seen camp or Vermont during the fall season in many years, so it was a very special treat for me.

We spent Thanksgiving at my in-laws in Bucks County and managed to have lunch with **Lori Angstadt** at Peddler's Village, another special treat. Had dinner with **Nancy O'Day** the other night. Continue to regularly see and get lots of support from **Andy Broido** and **Marilen Hartnett**. Got word from **Don Sharp** that he and his wife and 3 children have left Japan and moved to the US. Saw

**Greg Donoghue** today just hours after he ran the Miami Marathon. He



came all the way up to see my father and we (Andy, Marilen, Greg, my father and I) enjoyed a dinner out.

On to an upcoming event. I am a member of the Association of Camp Nurses (yes, there really is such a thing) and am looking forward to the annual symposium, this year in Atlanta. I'm excited about the opportunity to network, to tour the CDC and to, hopefully, learn things that may improve the day to day functioning of the infirmary. And I am really looking forward to having dinner with Liz Bell.

There are Brown Ledgers everywhere! What a special place it is and such a part of so many lives, especially the Fishel family!

### DID YOU KNOW?

Brown Ledge grants between \$65,000-\$70,000 in scholarships each summer and many of the scholarships are awarded to the daughters of alums.

## A DIFFERENT KIND OF SCHOLARSHIP

By Kathy Neilsen

In the early 2000's Emily Neilsen was a mentor for a young woman in Saratoga Springs, New York. As part of a college volunteer program, Emily visited with her mentee regularly, went on outings and participated in organized events. Emily was happily paired with a young woman who was bright, engaging, motivated and perfect for a certain camp on Malletts Bay. We took the chance and the rest, as they say, is history. A different type of scholarship program was born and Brown Ledge and The Saratoga Mentoring Program have now enjoyed a ten-year relationship.

The purpose of Saragota Mentoring is to provide a consistent relationship for children so that they can "gain experiences that they otherwise would not have had, as well as an adult whom they can trust and depend on. Our mentors give the child the insight into a way of life that the child may not have known before." What better place to continue those relationships and experiences than at Brown Ledge.

Brenda Shinn, director of Saratoga Mentoring, says that there are a number of factors that she considers when recommending a girl for Brown Ledge. "In general I try to select children who would be able to take their experiences and apply them to their daily lives." Some of the girls from the mentoring program have had very limited experiences and some, according to Brenda "need to experience a little independence in a safe and enriching environment."

Both Brown Ledge and Saratoga Mentoring benefit from the relationship and among the campers, the friendships made are often long lasting. According to Brenda, "the girls that get to experience Brown Ledge leave there immediately anticipating next summer when they can go again. They talk about the activities that they have done and dream about taking each activity to its next level. The girls come back with more self esteem than they left with and they all seem to know themselves a little better as well."

## WHERE ARE THE JC'S NOW?

**Name:** Taylor E. Strimble

**Interviewed by:** Liz Smith Strimble

**Birthdate:** December 31, 1985

**JC year(s) at BLC:** 2001

**JC Department(s):** Canoeing/Kayaking

**College attended:** Pennsylvania State University – graduated in 2007

**Degree:** Majored in Journalism, Minored in English, Sociology and International Studies

**First employment after graduating:** I continued to work for the event planner I worked with throughout high school and college. I became a full time employee – planning B'Nei Mitzvahs, weddings and corporate events. I even had to hire an elephant (more than once!) for events.

**What you are currently doing:** I moved to New Jersey in the fall of 2010 and started my own event planning company in January, 2011. *Events Custom Tailored* is a full service event planning business and has been keeping me busy. Besides planning my own wedding (March 17, 2012), I have helped plan many B'Nei Mitzvahs, weddings and birthday parties. Of which I planned a big wedding at The Plaza in NYC back in May 2011 and had two large B'Nei Mitzvahs labor day weekend.

**Has BLC helped you pursue this path? If so, how?** Absolutely. BLC taught me that I was in charge of my life. My future, lifestyle, friendships, ideas...everything. BLC taught me to become an independent woman and to take charge of everything that I do. After my first year at BLC I realized how important it is to be able to stand on your own feet. I'm comfortable going out to meet potential clients and sign big

deals. BLC was the only place that taught me to go out and make new friends/try new things/speak my mind, basically be myself.

**Any future plans?** Continue to grow my business, get married in March 2012, and send my future girls to BLC, of course!



### CAMP DATES 2012

**WORK WEEKEND JUNE 9 & 10**  
**CAMP OPENS JUNE 28**  
**THREE ACT JULY 21**  
**JULY HORSE SHOW JULY 24**  
**SWITCHOVER JULY 25 & 26**  
**PHONE-A-THON AUGUST 4 & 5**  
**BLC STOCK SHOW AUGUST 11**  
**HORSE SHOW AUGUST 18**  
**MUSICAL AUGUST 19**  
**AQUACADE AUGUST 20**  
**BANQUET & AWARDS AUGUST 21**  
**CAMP CLOSURES AUGUST 22**

## BLC HISTORY RECOVERY PROJECT

**Name of Alumnae interviewed:** Susie McKallor Holic

**Interviewed By:** Liz DeOreo

**Date of Interview:** December 17, 2011

**Birthday of Alumnae:** January 21, 1946

**Years at BLC:** Camper: 1956-1961, JC: 1962 & 1963

Waterskiing, Sr. Staff: 1964-1966 Waterskiing

**Basics:** Waterskiing, aquaplaning, swimming, diving, sailing, archery, tennis, riding, housekeeping

**Intermediates:** Waterskiing & aquaplaning

**Vanguards:** Waterskiing

**Bunkies/Friends:** Jackie Kent (deceased), Toni Ladenburg, Jill Schropp, Robin Weaver, Claudia Daub, Bobbi Collins, Gwen Andrews, Val Topper Sartz, Susan Craig, Joan Wildebush, Gerry Kent, Brady. Susie is grateful to have known many Brown Ledge legends: (HEB, Mrs. Brown, Barbara Winslow, Freckles and Bill Palm, Twylla & Fred Fishel, Pat Farrell, JoAnne Bedenk, Toddy Hagans, Richard Currie, Paul & Charlene Dahlquist, Bill & Pat Godard, Kathy and Bill Nielsen) and delighted to have reconnected with many of her old friends at Alumnae Camp 2011.

**BLC accomplishments:** Brown Ledge Drill Team; bottom row of the first 5 and 6 person skiing pyramids; Special Merit JC; member of the Brown Ledge Perpetuators and served on this board.

**Memories:** Susie remembers the waterfront very well. She specifically recalls classic Chris Craft ski boats, homemade slalom courses that drifted out of alignment over one night, and the arrival of shoe skis built by the handyman of the day. We laughed about aquaplaning (i.e. basically putting three kids on a piece of plywood and dragging them around the lake!). She reminisced that when she was a camper, the last cabin in Skunk was a bathroom and that Fred & Twylla's cabin was at the end of Skunk. Although the theatre was still in the clubhouse, Susie remembers that the BLT used an outdoor stage once a year down by large ring and staged a production of "Annie Get Your Gun" her first year. The current stables and theatre were built during Susie's years at BLC.

Ledger was originally on the Point; anyone was welcome to submit articles and Barbara read them all. Susie said "I was initially appalled that Ledger had been moved into the theatre! We all used to listen and laugh and sing right there under the stars." Her opinion has mellowed however, and she is impressed with the amount of talent in the articles performed at alumnae camp ledgers.

Susie's Mom learned about BLC from a friend after Susie declared that unlike her siblings, she wanted to go to a 'horse camp'. "From that moment on, I lived summer to summer; looking forward and looking back." Susie started out "as a good little barn rat" but found waterskiing quite by accident. During the second week of her second summer, she broke a collar bone (fell off a horse) and "after high level negotiations between camp and my parents, I was allowed to

stay. For the rest of the summer, I rode around in the ski boat. Later, I discovered I could ride AND ski, and, in retrospect as I got older, realized I could avoid being in the sweat and dirt all day!"

She recalls an Aquacade themed The Wizard of Oz where she played the tin man. The costume was large tin cans with the tops and bottoms removed worn on her arms and legs, large kitchen funnel on her head, and a bathing suit painted silver. She was launched into the crib in a row boat, and, at a specific time she was to jump in the water and the plan was that the cans would all fall off in order for her to perform. Fred was there behind the boat the entire time "to save me in case the cans didn't come off. " This has always been a fun memory for me (and Fred) and I realized later that no matter what, camp always made sure you were safe."

One of Susie's fondest memories just happened at alumnae camp this past summer. She said she knew Robin Weaver was going to be there and hadn't seen her since their JC days. She found Robin on the Vista, and, after a hug, "picked up right where we left off 45 years ago!" When specifically asked about memories of the Fishels, Susie responded, "my generation thought we owned the Fishels because we were young kids when they started and we sorta grew up together." Of Toddy, "[her] first year was my last camper year. We introduced her to Brown Ledge, a bit of a strange planet for her in the beginning. I stayed in touch with her for a long time."

**Most significant positive experience at BLC:** "My last year at camp was 45 years ago. All my memories are precious and nearly all very positive. From my perspective as an old lady, I never stop appreciating the genius of the Brown's belief in what young women were capable of doing. Who knew that making choices is what life is all about? I have three older sisters who are still discovering that they could have made different choices if they'd realized they had any. All the 'freedom plan' and 'different camp for different girls' was/is huge!! I often think of how important it was to learn to appreciate and respect those who made different choices and to celebrate their choices as you celebrate your own."

**The impact BLC has made in your life:** "Life is far reaching and continues." Since camp, she has had at least one horse and still does. Until a few years ago, she participated in small drill teams – "It really is the most fun mere mortals can have together on horseback." In her job at IBM and many volunteer positions, "I have been involved with all generations of people for years; having fun while doing well, which is what camp is about."

This past summer, Susie's great niece, Grace Nimmo, was a first year camper and she loved it. Susie stated she talked to Grace's parents and "all the right things were happening for that girl at camp. Camp is the most important thing you can do for a child!"

## THE EVER-GROWING JC PROGRAM

By Kim McManus

Pictured below are 25 JCs from 2011 on a hike near Jeffersonville, VT. Twenty or thirty years ago, this picture would look like a combination of first year JCs AND second year JCs. While individual summers would vary, on average throughout the 1960s-1990s, there were twenty-five to thirty JCs in total. This past summer, we had twenty-seven first years and



sixteen second years - **forty-three JCs!**

In the last ten years, the average number of JCs has risen from 30 to 36. Last summer, Brown Ledge had 43 girls enrolled in the Junior Counselor Leadership Program. This summer, we have 46 JCs enrolled and 5 girls are on the JC waitlist (that includes two second years and three first years). If housing was not part of the equation, we could enroll potentially 51 JCs for the summer of 2012. Last year, we had to house JCs in Lakeside, in addition to Roadside and Annex, to accommodate all the first years.

Is this a fluke? Looking at our enrollment trends, we think the growth over the past few years will continue with JC numbers averaging between 42-46 JCs. One of the major differences that has developed over the past decade is that the majority of our campers are one session campers. This has been creating a pool of last year campers that is almost double that of decades past. While there are many more choices in the world for sixteen and seventeen year old girls, we have sixty or so last year campers each summer who want to come back as JCs. And in the last few years, approximately 75% of last year campers do enroll in the JC program. →

## ALUMNAE COMMUNICATION SURVEY

By Kim McManus

Just after the New Year, our development office sent out an electronic survey to our e-newsletter recipients. The survey focused on how the Foundation is communicating with alumnae and how its various solicitation methods may impact your choice to donate to the Brown Ledge Foundation. There was an immediate response from close to 200 alums. The survey results will be available in our next E-News and on our website. If you do not receive BLC E-News but would like to take the Communication Survey, please e-mail [Liz@brownledge.org](mailto:Liz@brownledge.org) and she will send you the survey link.

Aside from the logistical issues of staging a 43 person Moldy Dollies Preview Time number, we are thrilled with the growth in our JC program. The Junior Counselors continue to be the bearers of our traditions and as a group, revel in their collective role as the spirit of BLC – showing campers and counselors that we can balance responsibility, freedom, and outrageous fun at Brown Ledge Camp.



## 2011 2ND YEAR JC'S

We welcome the 2011 graduating JC's to the Brown Ledge alumnae group. What a great group of young ladies who are wonderful additions to the alumnae clan for Brown Ledge Camp!



**TOP ROW:** Emma Tames, Gwynn Ballard, Ashley Dubois, Morgan Brown, Grace Devlin, Lane deCordova

**CENTER ROW:** Kelly Quinn, Amelie Naudascher, Sally Evans, Claudelle Anderson, Nikki Schachman.

**BOTTOM ROW:** Ally English, Quinn Silva, Eliza Robson, Ani Webb, Elizabeth Courtney.



**Ann Domit (80's)** recently announced her engagement! Her fiance, Jim is an RN who works in a minimum security prison. We are thinking of a mid to late July wedding.

## MILESTONES

**Amandine Poncet (91-96)** & Olivier de Nantes welcomed their son, Cyprien, who was born on July 1st, 2011.

**Mireille Millette (86-93)** announced the birth of Dylan Joseph Millette Glass at 12:23 am on December 7, 2011. "Eight pounds and 20 inches of perfection!"

**Lynda Hutchinson (90s & 00s)** happily announced the birth of her son. "Alexander D. Fraser arrived on schedule on Monday, January 9, 2012 at 1:07 am."

**Annie Schwartz Myers (76-82, 87)** welcomed Emma Ruth into her family on September 27, 2011.

**Jen Mijangos Spencer (80s)** and husband, Ted, welcomed their



daughter Kate into the family this past spring. "The four of us are doing well & busy as ever. Theo is a great big brother to Kate and I'm keeping my fingers crossed that the two of them will stay this enamored with each other. We were sad to miss alumnae camp this year but unfortunately it just wasn't in the cards."

**Meghan Donoghue (90s-10s)** and Michael Bustamantes were married on October 15, 2011. Many of Meghan's

bunkies pictured below attended the festivities!



**Josh Podvin (03-06)** and Erin Thompson (pictured to the right) were wed on October 29, 2011.

**Meghan O'Brien (96-02, 04)** and Christopher Morrissey were married on October 22, 2011.



**Julia Rumford (00s)** was married to Richard Bethune on October 8, 2011. Her sister, **Grace Rumford (00s)**, was her maid of honor! **Congratulations to these Brown Ledgers for their babies and marriages!!**

## REMEMBERING TODDY

By Lori Angstadt

Over the past 85 years, there are a handful of people who have been a solid part of the foundation of what Brown Ledge has become. The Browns, Barbara, Fred & Twylla, Toddy, Richard, Bill & Kathy. These people have spent most of their adult lives at camp and given so much of themselves and their talents to all of us. On Saturday during Alumnae Camp, a bunch of us



gathered in the chapel to remember Toddy. She died in late May at the age of 73. Memories were shared and heartfelt stories were told remembering the impact that

she had on so many lives. There was laughter, tears, and, of course, a song because Toddy would have wanted it that way. Richard Currie shared "that Toddy and her guitar are responsible for grove sings. In the 60's and 70's she would sit in the grove in the evenings and sing folk songs. *Swinging Along the Open Road* was one of her favorites. I think that the grove sing after a jon raid can be traced to Toddy. Those were wonderful days."

Toddy first came to camp in 1961 with her husband, David Hagans. The next summer they brought Richard Currie & Judy Hallberg to BLC. In 1963, Toddy, along with Richard and Judy, brought Charlene Pfalsgraf, where she met Paul Dahlquist, the golf counselor. Toddy went to Otterbein College in Ohio. Her first job at camp was as tennis counselor. Charlene Dahlquist shared "We laughed a lot about that because she had never played tennis and knew nothing about it. However, she only worked with the itty bitty ones and did know more than them. Plus she was always a good teacher." For most of her years at camp Toddy was the JC Director. She also worked in the Costume Shop for the theatre and was the type of person who pitched in wherever there was a need. She helped Barbara in the office and during the winters, as well.



Continued on Page 9

## NEWS FROM YOU

**Grant Neale (80s & 90s)** & his wife, LeeAnne, "have arrived safe and sound in New Hampshire ready to begin rehearsal this evening for PRIVATE EYES by Steven Dietz. If you happen to be in the vicinity of Enfield, NH between Jan.26-Feb. 12 come see us at Shaker Bridge Theatre!"

**Kate Dee (80s)** was listed as one of the top Diagnostic Radiology doctors in Seattle for 2011 in Seattle Met Magazine.

**Stephanie Zimbalist (70s)** performed in "The Lion in Winter" with the Ensemble Theatre Company in Santa Barbara, CA during the month of December, 2011. She also performed in Steel Magnolias August 24 – September 18, 2011 at the Rubicon Theatre in Ventura, CA.



**Mary (Putman) Eckstein** wrote in August: "I was in southern VT visiting family last week so we took a drive up to BLC the day before the Event Derby (which we used to call the Combined Training Event). We decided NOT to come that Saturday because I knew it would be something of a madhouse! Walked up the hill to the Grove and enjoyed seeing the inside of the lovely dining room. I don't think I would miss those long cramped tables from the "old days", and the 'fun' of delivering coffee and tea to the counselors while trying not to spill it on someone.

I was impressed with the landscaping- so different from the indigenous evil roots that threatened to amputate campers' toes. The wood chips looked a lot softer to fall on! But everything else looked the same. Stopped into the theater, which was put up the second year I came. One of my favorite places every Saturday and Sunday night!

My sister-in-law thought it was an amazing place and wished there had been a camp like that for her sons when they were teenagers. Spoke briefly to Bill Neilsen on the way out. He told me there are now 180 campers! Wow!

The part that kind of bothered me was all the development in the area around camp. Too many people-sigh-but at least when you turn into the Brown Ledge road it's still the same gravel and dust that it's always been."

**Chris Nee (80's)** sent along news about her latest work project. "I'm looking for all the eyeballs I can get for my show on Disney Junior. We finally have a launch date of March 23rd. It's called Doc McStuffins. I created and Executive Produced it, and I'm really proud of it. Would love to have BLC watch along." For more information, go to <http://www.c21media.net/archives/74726>.

**Debbie Fox Roderer (70's)** sent along this message: So there we were, tooling around in the middle of nowhere, North Carolina late on a Saturday afternoon in the fall. Why?

Because we were bunkies and had agreed to join **Edie Plimpton Fleeman** in some kind of a ladies' shooting clinic. It seemed like a good idea when it was floated back in the spring.

WOT or Women on Target - We had no idea what that was when we signed on to do this last spring. We figured that if it involved BLC bunkies and friends it would be fun. According to our resident expert, Edie Fleeman, Women On Target is a program of the National Rifle Association designed for women with little or no experience with firearms, giving them basic instruction. Some ladies say they signed up because they were afraid of guns. They go home from the event with a new comfort level and feeling very proud of themselves. Many of the ladies then further their education in the shooting sports, becoming proficient enough to become instructors at WOT events themselves!

After fortifying ourselves with massive amounts of local BBQ, we presented ourselves at the Sir Walter Gun Club in Creedmoor, North Carolina at 7:45 (that's a.m. for you first bugle people) for what ended up as a two generation Brown Ledge activity. On the receiving end were **Debbie Fox Roderer** (Richmond, VT), **Ann Hunt** (Raleigh, NC) and **Di**

**Glossman** (New Hope, PA). Dishing out the instruction for 60 ladies from all over the place included Edie, and her crack family team of **Bill**



**"Soupy"**

**Reynolds and Katie Reynolds, and Amy Roderer. Lisa Smith-Rice** was in the WOT. She had a blast too. Her father-in-law is VP of the club and was her squad leader. The highlight for the weekend, other than being with bunkies and BLC folks, and shooting pistol, small bore, high power (ok, that was very loud) and skeet, was having a couple of women come up to us who had "heard our story." When we told them we had gone to summer camp together and knew each other since 14 -- just yesterday, that is -- they were impressed and probably a bit jealous. They were awed that bunkies from camp were coming together from far away to share an experience. And that's what Brown Ledge is all about: helping to create lifelong friendships.



## SATURDAY NIGHT AT BROWN LEDGE...IN NYC!

By Liz Bell

October 29, 2011 will long be remembered with smiles - we had our first major fundraising event in another city. The Cabaret, held at the West Bank Café in Manhattan, was a fabulous evening filled with spectacular performances from so many Brown Ledge Theatre folks! A great time was had by all - even amidst the blizzard that hit New York that afternoon. The weather was gorgeous the day before, and gorgeous the day after -- but the weather that Saturday was brutal! Close to **\$5400** was raised that evening to go directly into the Theatre Fund toward our goal.



The evening began with **Bill Neilsen** calling counselor announcements and **Richard Currie** coming on stage to discuss the lights. And then the cabaret began! **Stephen Randoy** and “**Musical Steve**” **Bednasz** played the piano exceptionally well, and the performers were amazing. Performing in the show were **Steven Bednasz, Sarah Bell, Richard Currie, Laurel Devaney, Judith Dry, Bob Gilbo, Sarah Hampton Bielman, Jessica Higgins Palden, Grant Neale, Stephen Randoy, Beany Richter, Tammy Shaw and Franny Shuker-Haines**. We finished the show with the entire group (performers and audience) singing the BLC Goodnight Song together.

From there we all battled the storm and walked a block over to the Pinnacle Bar at the Hilton, where we were joined by other Brown Ledges who weren't able to make it to the show. It was just perfect!

Special thanks go out to **Katy Robbins Reitz**, for chairing the event and to **Polly Witker** for organizing our silent auction; to **Sarah Bell** for directing the show; to **Bob Gilbo** for managing the after-party; and to **Katie Heller** for her artistic talent on the invitations.

We now have pictures loaded on our smugmug page so that you can see photos from the cabaret, as well as photos from the Linger a Little Longer after-party. Go to [www.brownledge.smugmug.com](http://www.brownledge.smugmug.com) and use "vista" as the password to view the



### → TODDY Continued from Page 7

Charlene also added “I met her when she and David lived in an apartment across the hall from me and I locked myself out of my apartment and had to wait 4 hours for my apartment mate to come home. We kind of ran around in a pack while she and David and I were in graduate school at Ohio State. I was also teaching high school. At age 21 I bought a farm and David and Toddy moved in with me about 30 miles from Columbus. Don't know if you know much about The Pfarm but we thought we were going to be rural Gertrude Steins and have literary soirees. We did have a lot of parties which lots of BLCers traveled many miles to attend. It was quite a mix of BLC folks, local folks and grad students. What fun! How did the years since pass so fast! She and David moved to Marquette, Michigan and taught at Northern Michigan University. Then she moved to Burlington.”

Toddy visited Paul and Charlene in Hawaii in 1989 and moved there in 1990. Charlene explained “she taught writing and Women's Studies at University of Hawaii-Hilo, taught Head Start, worked for an employment agency and at last for a community health center. The important part was she was intensely involved with each job and enjoyed each to the fullest. Her memorial was attended by the staff from each place who had developed a personal connection with her. She really had an impact on many people here. She was helping a coworker take college courses to get a teaching degree. She

was also trying to make it possible for the 13 year old daughter of another coworker to go to Brown Ledge. She was a loyal alumnae of BLC and its philosophy entered many of her conversations. Over the Christmas holidays all three of Toddy's sons, Mark, Jonathan, & Kevin, Janet Koppelman, and Mark's Family



(Kristen, Connor, Ethan, and Carsyn) came to Hawaii to scatter Toddy's ashes with Paul and Charlene Dahlquist, Kristine Dahlquist, Steve Rouelle and Andy Dahlquist.

We all had a wonderful time doing all sorts of things (wouldn't Toddy have loved to see it all!!!) and topped it off paddling in outrigger canoes to do the ash scattering in Kawaihae Bay. Afterwards we had lunch and watched whales jumping like crazy -- Toddy used to love watching whales so we can only assume the whales were welcoming a kindred spirit to their domain.”

## BECOMING A BROWN LEDGE BOARD MEMBER

Are you interested in sitting on the board for Brown Ledge? We can send you a brief outline of a board member's responsibilities, along with where to send your resume and cover letter. Sitting on the board gives you an opportunity see all that goes into running camp and keeping Brown Ledge in top shape. It also lets you meet other Brown Ledgers from different eras – and make new friends!

A board member term is three years long, with the chance to run for a second term. After two consecutive terms, you are required to take a year off before running to sit on the board again (if you choose to do so). The board meets three times a year – fall, spring and summer.

You can learn more about the board by contacting Bobbi Degnan Atz at [atzdegnan@gmail.com](mailto:atzdegnan@gmail.com). She looks forward to answering questions, providing information and encouraging you to submit your resume to the Nominating Committee of the Brown Ledge Foundation.

### FEATURED BOARD MEMBER BIOGRAPHY

**Name:** Nancy Weaver Jones

**Birthday:** October 25, 1955

**Current Job Title:** Mom; Brand Manager; Philanthropy

**BLC Years: (Camper)** 1963-1966

**Did you ever receive a vanguard?** No

**BLC Accomplishments:** I was only able to go to camp for one month sessions, so my accomplishments were receiving basics in things I had never done before.

**Quote:** "Brown Ledge Camp is a gift and legacy of a lifetime for girls and women. Certainly the greatest gift my two girls have ever received. A gift of confidence, team spirit and a want to try and do things – opportunities laid before them." (Three generations of BLC'ers in Nancy's family!)

### SIGN UP FOR A 2012 BLC COMMITTEE !

There are some wonderful ways to volunteer your time so that BLC doesn't lose touch with its enthusiastic group of alumnae. We have the following committees that you can consider joining this year:

\* **Alumnae Affairs** – -- help us continue to grow our various ways to keep in touch with BLC alums. Perhaps host a regional reunion or conduct some interviews with other alums for the next Ledger.

\* **Acknowledgment** - write personal thank you notes to donors; send a "Brown Ledge Baby" bib to new babies; send a congratulations card to newly wed alums, etc.

\* **Solicitation/Phone-a-thon** – help with the solicitation of past donors; participate in the 2012 phone-a-thon in August; conduct some research that will help us grow our constituents.

## ADDRESS UPDATES

The following people have made a change of address since the previous Ledger. If you would like contact information on any of the alums listed below, please contact Liz Bell at [liz@brownledge.org](mailto:liz@brownledge.org) or 877-252-2586.

Alex Ames (90s)	Annie Murawski (00s)
Catherine Ashley Muskus (60s)	Jennifer Myers (90s)
Missy Badger (70s)	Sarah Ordover (60s)
Caroline Bell (90s)	Torrey Pasternak (00s)
Didi Bender Romley (80s)	Julia Porcino (00s)
Barbara Bigelow Roy (50s)	Julia Proctor (90s)
Jordan Boughrum (90s)	Ellie Prowell (00s)
Molly Buermann (00s)	Ann Ropulewis Erickson (60s)
Abigail Cain Zorn (90s)	Jenny Schermerhorn (00s)
Lisa Caliendo	Faith Shuker-Haines Manary (00s)
Reece Carter (90s)	Reeves Sinnott (90s)
Liz Clark (90s)	Kate Slattery (90s)
Liz DeOreo (90s)	Ariel Slomka (90s)
Wendy Doherty Douglas (60s)	Stephanie Smith Feuer (00s)
Amanda Edson (00s)	Rachel Swett (00s)
Bob Fardelmann (70s)	Lucy Taft (00s)
Katie Frank (90s)	Olivia Tandon (00s)
Karin Gander (70s)	Tanya Tarar Oblak (80s)
Mary Beth Gruber (70s)	Mollie Thurman (00s)
Jennifer "T-Spoon" Hart	Jessica Von Suck (00s)
McLaughlin (00s)	Travis Walker (90s)
Katie Heller (00s)	Ashley Ward (90s)
Jessica Higgins Palden (80s)	Michelle Weinmann (00s)
Anne-Fleur Labbe	Ellen Weis
Galen Laserson (90s)	Kevin Welch (90s)
Marie-Claude LeClerc (80s)	Ellie Whiteford (00s)
Alex MacDonald (70s)	Tina Wieboldt (00s)
Meghan McElheny (80s)	Jenny Wilkinson (00s)
Charlotte McCorkel (90s)	Polly Witker (90s)
Kitty Mears (00s)	Chelsea Woodcock (00s)
Alison Mixon (90s)	Arielle Zuckerberg (00s)
Olivia Moskowitz (90s)	
Daniela Mottle (00s)	

### WORK WEEKEND – JUNE 9 & 10, 2012

Mark your calendars for the new tradition that has become part of the yearly season at BLC. Last summer's work weekend was a wonderful success and we look forward to hosting a great group of alums and a handful of the 2012 Senior Staff as we all weed, mow, clean cabins, move boats, fix screens, and more in preparation for the campers. We'll keep you informed of the plans for Team Trivia Night, which not only helps raise funds for the annual campaign, but also allows plenty of laughter and competitive battles between teams as we share our knowledge and clever minds! We hope you will join us!

## NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

By Liz Bell

### 2011 Annual Campaign for the Brown Ledge Foundation (January 1, 2011 – December 31, 2011)

The 2011 Annual Campaign for Brown Ledge Foundation came to an end with a strong closing and wonderful gifts pouring in. What an exciting year we had – with Trivia Night, the phone-a-thon, alumnae camp, the silent auction and the spectacular Cabaret evening in New York, the Brown Ledge Foundation had a successful year and closed the campaign with sincere appreciation for all the generosity and support!

As you know, we had a special fund this year to raise the money needed for the new lighting system in the Brown Ledge Theatre. A huge thank you goes out to all who helped us get close to the \$60,000 needed for the project. Although we haven't yet met that total amount, we are moving forward and hope that we will raise enough money in 2012 to cover the costs.

Brown Ledge thanks all of you who participated in the 2011 campaign!

#### **Grand Totals for 2011 (433 donors)**

Mr. Mac Operational Fund: **\$99,453** (199 donors)

MPB Scholarship Funds: **\$37,186** (161 donors)

Theatre Fund: **\$38,900** (plus \$3000 donated in 2010)

**Financial Total: \$175,539**

Gifts In Kind: **\$27,521**

**Grand Total: \$203,060**

---

## ONCE LOST, NOW FOUND. WELCOME BACK TO BLC!!!

These folks have reconnected with Brown Ledge via the web site or through other alums. We're always happy to welcome back lost (but now found!) Brown Ledgers!

Emilie Adams (00s)  
Susan Aylward Brown (50s)  
Maggie Carpenter (80s)  
Laurel Folsom Person (70s)  
Karen Gunter Robertson (70s)  
Jennifer Harrington (00s)  
Johnna Hooban-Roberts (90s)  
Heather Lane Spehr (80s)  
Josh Phelps (90s)



### 2012 Annual Campaign for the Brown Ledge Foundation

As you read this Alumnae Ledger, the kick off for the 2012 campaign is already in progress. You will be receiving exciting news about the plans for the year and be given the tools to make a pledge or give a gift for the 2012 campaign.

#### **Making a donation on the BLC Website**

If you don't want to wait for the official kick off of the campaign, you don't have to! You can give a gift on the BLC web site ([www.brownledge.org](http://www.brownledge.org)). Scroll to the bottom of the home page to see the "online donation form" link. Once that opens up, you can securely send in a gift via Visa, MC, Amex or Discover. You can also note if you want your gift to be anonymous, or if you want it to be in memory or in honor of someone. It's an easy way to give back to BLC. Please contact Liz Bell if you have any questions.

#### **2012 Phone-a-thon**

The 2012 phone-a-thon is scheduled for **Saturday, August 4 & Sunday, August 5, 2012**. Not only is it a great way to give your pledge toward the campaign, but it allows you to experience that feeling you had at rest hour – talking to a JC and learning more about BLC. Liz Bell will keep you informed of more details as the summer draws near. If you haven't ever received a call, and you would like to be on the calling list this summer, please send Liz your updated phone number(s) and she'll be sure to include you. Likewise, if you prefer not to be contacted during the phone-a-thon, let Liz know so that she can remove your number from the calling list. Send an email to her at [liz@brownledge.org](mailto:liz@brownledge.org).



#### **Divide your gift payment throughout the year**

Perhaps the amount of your desired pledge would be more comfortable if it was paid in installments throughout the year? You can give make a pledge and ask that we divide the charge over a monthly schedule. It allows you to spread your payments out over a specific amount of time, as well as provide the ease of not having to write a check, or receive a monthly invoice. Just fill out your pledge card or on-line donation information and let us know how much to charge per month, and for how many months. If you are making your pledge on-line, you can include a note in the "comment" section of the page. It's an easy way to give a gift to BLC!



**THE  
BROWN LEDGE  
CAMP  
MISSION  
STATEMENT**

Brown Ledge is a non-profit camp that exists to develop community, self-discipline, responsibility and achievement in girls and young women, through self-directed participation in varied activities in a high quality summer program.

**BROWN LEDGE CAMP**

**DIRECTORS**

**Bill & Kathy Neilsen**

Summer Address:  
Brown Ledge Camp  
71 Brown Ledge Road  
Colchester VT 05446

Winter Address:  
Brown Ledge Camp  
25 Wilson Street  
Burlington VT 05401

Phone: (802) 862-2442  
or (800) 246-1958  
Fax: (802) 658-1614  
E-mail: [blc@brownledge.org](mailto:blc@brownledge.org)

**DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT**

**Liz Bell**

Brown Ledge Foundation  
136 Peachtree Memorial Drive NW  
Unit #MA-6  
Atlanta GA 30309  
Phone: (877) BLC ALUM or  
(877)-252-2586  
E-mail: [liz@brownledge.org](mailto:liz@brownledge.org)  
Please send all address changes to Liz Bell.

**ALUMNAE LEDGER NEWS**

**Lori Angstadt, Editor**

9334 Buckhorn Road  
Fogelsville PA 18051  
Phone: (484) 504-1044  
E-mail: [LoriBLC10s@aol.com](mailto:LoriBLC10s@aol.com)

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

[www.brownledge.org](http://www.brownledge.org)

**KEEP IN TOUCH WITH BLC!**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
BROWN LEDGE FOUNDATION**

Emily Maggs Orben, President  
Sarah Maggs Riley, Vice President  
Liz Smith Strimple, Secretary  
Bill Neilsen, Treasurer  
Sarah Ashworth  
Abbey Dodd  
Gregg Donoghue  
Fred Fishel  
Josh Podvin  
Greg Snedeker  
Nancy Weaver Jones