



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.

SUMMER 2018

THE BROWN LEDGE FOUNDATION - 25 WILSON STREET, BURLINGTON, VERMONT 05401

BROWN LEDGE

M A G A Z I N E



One day, a slightly quirky friend with a strong personality confessed to us, “You know, I’m not everyone’s cup of tea.” At the time, we smiled and silently applauded his insight. As time went on, we’ve applied that thought to Brown Ledge on a few occasions. We’ve confessed to a parent or a camper or a counselor that Brown Ledge might not be the right place at the right time for them.

“ allow the discomfort to dissipate and the magic to take hold.

The people we interview for this magazine are usually in an exuberant “Brown Ledge is a magical place” frame of mind, and our pages are full of testimonies to the wonderful ways that camp has enriched their lives. But what about the people who tell a more complicated story? What about those who think, at least initially, that Brown Ledge is emphatically not their “cup of tea?”



In this edition of the magazine, the writers of the Guest Author pieces all had reason to believe that Brown Ledge was not for them. Each describes the beginning of a Brown Ledge career that started with heavy doses of discomfort and doubt. The words or analogies they first used to describe Brown Ledge were likely a good deal stronger than “tea!”

What is remarkable about each of these people is their openness to change. Despite plenty of reasons why Brown

Ledge would never be right for them, each of the authors decided to trust and persevere long enough to allow the discomfort to dissipate and the magic to take hold, creating life-long bonds to people and place. We hope you enjoy their stories.

Bill & Kathy Neilsen

Bill & Kathy Neilsen
Directors, Brown Ledge Camp

Over the past 12 months, we have seen a societal shift in women finding their voices and making themselves heard. In watching these women bravely tell their stories, I couldn’t help but reflect upon Brown Ledge. When I think about Brown Ledgers, I think of strength and conviction. I think of women who are fiercely independent and self-assured. We are the women who speak up and speak out against injustice and who stand up for ourselves and others in the face of adversity. To Brown Ledgers, having a voice and using it is nothing new: it is a part of our culture and imbedded in our philosophy. And so, in this coming of age for women in America, this time of #MeToo and #TimesUp and #SilenceBreakers, I see Brown Ledge as more relevant than ever. When it comes to women’s rights, our camp is, and always has been, ahead of the curve. We cultivate courageous women, equipped to face the world’s challenges head on, and as we move into the future, I have no doubt that you will see Brown Ledgers leading the charge towards positive change. The names and faces in this magazine represent and remind us of the strength, inspiration, and hope inherent in each and every Brown Ledger.

Robyn Sonis
President, Brown Ledge Board of Directors

Robyn Sonis



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spanning generations

by Kathy Neilsen



We have a confession to make.

For decades there's been a wealth of reporting in every form of media imaginable about "generations," and we never paid attention. We knew that we were Baby Boomers, born to WWII-era parents, and after that it all became fuzzy...and irrelevant (a fact that may confirm what they say about "Boomers" who think of themselves as the center of the universe!). Recently we made up for lost time and spent hours and hours on a Google search that led us down a rabbit hole consuming us for days.

What we learned (or what we think we learned) is that while the US Census Bureau agrees that Baby Boomers were born between 1946 and 1964, there's no agreement about the so-called generations that follow. It is

easy to find information -- albeit conflicting -- about Generation X, Millennials (also known as Generation Y), and Generation Next. Because it's all up for debate -- names, time spans, characteristics, beliefs, work habits, and everything else -- we decided to write to you, our alumnae, to ask about your generation. What world events do you remember? What songs did you listen to over and over again? What slang words did you use? Above all, we wanted to know what made Brown Ledge important to you and what did you learn there? Thank you to all who helped with our research by completing the survey. We are happy to add your data (in your own words in bold face) to the generational debate, and we hope that as you look through the pages that follow, you enjoy rekindling memories from your childhood. Don't be surprised if you find yourself singing a song that you haven't thought about in years!



WE SAID...

grody to the max while sporting our big hair and even bigger shoulder pads (*like...oh my god!*). We told people to *mellow out* or *take a chill pill*. *Totally, cool, sweet, rad*, and *for sure* were positives and *gnarly* and *gag me* (with or without a spoon) expressed disgust. We were also heard to say *dub* (or *no dub*), *psych, dude*, and *my bad*. *As if* came from the valley and when we wanted to keep something private, we kept it *on the DL*. If you were from Massachusetts, everything was *wicked* no matter what generation you were from!

WE REMEMBER...

national crises including the AIDS epidemic, the Challenger disaster, the riots in L.A., the Oklahoma City bombing, the downing of flight 103, and Desert Storm. Courtroom-style drama kept us glued to our (now color) TV sets as we watched the Clarence Thomas hearings and the OJ Simpson trial. We mourned the loss of John Lennon and Jerry Garcia, and we cheered when Apartheid ended and the Berlin Wall came down. President Reagan was shot and Nancy Reagan championed a war on drugs as crack cocaine ravaged our cities. For fun, we listened to music on our Walkman (later Discman) and we watched the latest music videos on MTV, or played Pac-Man on our first personal computer.



GENERATION X



WE LOVED BROWN LEDGE BECAUSE...

of the exposure to different sports and skills, the "try everything" atmosphere, friendships, having older girls to look up to, and being able to do what we wanted (including things that we weren't allowed to do at home!). We could have safe crushes on male counselors and make connections through shared experience, and we were given the gift of trust along with a lot of responsibility. We had traditions that we cherished that helped create a sense of belonging and community. We felt comfortable and at home at camp, and it was a place where we could be ourselves. We were in a bubble -- physically and socially safe -- but with so much freedom!

WE SANG ALONG TO...

Madonna, Prince, Michael Jackson, Men At Work, Rush, and Phil Collins (we remember that *Sussudio* was changed to *Stustudio* for theatre announcements!). Songs like *What a Feeling*, *Total Eclipse of the Heart*, *Take on Me*, and *Girls Just Wanna Have Fun* will always bring back camp memories. Some of our favorite groups were The Indigo Girls, Duran Duran, James Taylor, Cat Stevens, Billy Joel, England Dan and John Ford Coley, The J Giles Band, Def Leppard, Fleetwood Mac, The Violent Femmes, and Bob Marley. We remember that we didn't want our parents to hear the words to George Michael's *I Want Your Sex* and that heavy metal music always seemed to be blasting from the back of the camp kitchen!



AT BROWN LEDGE WE LEARNED...

to respect people for who they are and to see the best in them. We learned to be resilient and flexible and to be unafraid to try new things. We found that we could work hard and have fun at the same time and that we could complete things and experience the joy of accomplishment. We discovered that if we put our minds to it, we could do almost anything. We practiced how to make and keep friends, including how to say goodbye and hello again while learning that lifelong friendships are priceless. We learned about humor and the power of song and storytelling, and we came to understand that community is everything.



Generation



The next generation is alive and well at Brown Ledge.

They are creating their own words and phrases and listening to their own music on their new devices. They appreciate Brown Ledge for all of the same reasons that campers from past generations did, while adding their own riffs to a familiar

song. Our research shows us that while things change – often dramatically – in the world at large, Brown Ledge remains a powerful force in the lives of girls and young women and that the lessons learned here last a lifetime.

Photo: David Seaver



Liz "Whoopee" Kiggen and her dog, Sophie



Volunteer Appreciation *by Kathy Neilsen*

Our corner of Vermont is the perfect place to witness the dramatic and colorful transformation that occurs each spring in Northern New England. At Brown Ledge, Liz Kiggen has long been giving Mother Nature a helping hand.

Liz (known as Whoopee throughout her Brown Ledge career) first came to camp in 1973 as a shy 13 year-old from Shaker Heights, Ohio. She learned about Brown Ledge through fellow riders at home, including Beth and Karen Marken and Betsi and Debbie Fox. Liz was signed up as a July camper that first summer but before Switchover came, the Shaker contingent went into action, cramming into the camp phone booth to call Liz's father to beg him to let her stay. To Liz's relief, the strategy worked.

Though she dabbled in a few other activities at camp, Liz came to Brown Ledge with a passion for horses that never wavered, and the barn was her home. She studied animal science in college and to this day, animals are an

important part of her world. Liz brings her therapy dog, Sophie, to nearby nursing homes and she is helping to develop a program that will care for the pets of terminally ill patients.

How did Liz become a gardening enthusiast? Several people influenced her though she remembers her grandfather, who was the only male member of the Montclair (NJ) Gardening Club, as her first gardening mentor. (Ask Liz about the jar of ladybugs that he kept in the refrigerator!) Liz became a Master Gardener through a University of Vermont program in 2006, and she brought her considerable skills to the first Brown Ledge Work Weekend in 2009. In addition to leading a weed-ing and landscaping brigade at Work

Weekends, Liz, who lives just down the road from Brown Ledge, supports camp by planting, pruning, dead heading, and watering throughout the summer. Her morning walks with Sophie take her past the sign garden, and she takes the opportunity to tend to the flowers before anyone at camp is awake enough to notice. And to be clear, it's not just a love of flowers that keeps Liz motivated; she believes the sign garden is symbolic of what lies ahead.

"I think about the impression the sign garden makes on campers and their families as they make the turn onto the camp property. Campers are arriving at such a happy place, and I want to make sure that the entrance to camp reflects that joy."



Molly Boyle, United Kingdom in Washington, D.C.

by Kim McManus



In April 2017, President Donald Trump sent shockwaves through the camping community when he issued executive order, “Buy American, Hire American.”

This order, in part, directed federal agencies to review immigration rules to protect U.S. workers and “their economic interests.” The order sparked concerns through a range of businesses, small and large, that employ seasonal foreign workers who require a non-immigrant visa to enter the U.S. Of specific concern to summer camps was a proposal to reduce or eliminate visas within the Exchange Visitor Program, also known as a J-1 visa. “Major reductions” were reportedly proposed to five of the J-1 Visa programs: Summer Work Travel, Interns, Trainees, Au Pairs, and Camp Counselors.

The J-what?

Toward the end of the Cold War, Congress passed several pieces of legislation to improve international relations, two of the most well-known being the Peace Corps Act and the Fulbright-Hayes Act, both enacted in 1961. The preamble to the Fulbright-Hayes Act, formally known as The Mutual Education and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, summarizes its purpose succinctly:

The purpose of this chapter is to enable the Government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between

the people of the United States and the people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchange; to strengthen the ties which unite us with other nations by demonstrating the educational and cultural interests, developments, and achievements of the people of the United States and other nations, and the contributions being made toward a peaceful and more fruitful life for people throughout the world; to promote international cooperation for educational and cultural advancement; and thus to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic, and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world.

The Act was signed by President Kennedy and, as a result, the Exchange Visitor Program (J-1 Visa) was born. It started with visiting scholars and doctors who came to the U.S. to teach and conduct research. Over time, the J-1 Visa extended to additional programs to promote cultural understanding, such as Summer Work Travel, Interns, Trainees, Au Pairs, and Camp Counselors--the five programs currently under scrutiny. Last year, 300,000 foreign visitors from over two hundred countries traveled to the U.S. on a J-1 Visa to live, work, and explore the U.S. A third of the J-1 visa holders participated in either the summer work travel program or the camp counselor program. In New England, the program sponsored 8,110 counselors in the summer of 2017. Foreign visitors on a J-1 Visa are permitted to stay in the country for the duration of their specific camp program. At the completion of their camp job, a J-1 Visa holder may stay an additional thirty days in the U.S. before heading home.

Brown Ledge, and the greater summer camp community, has a long history



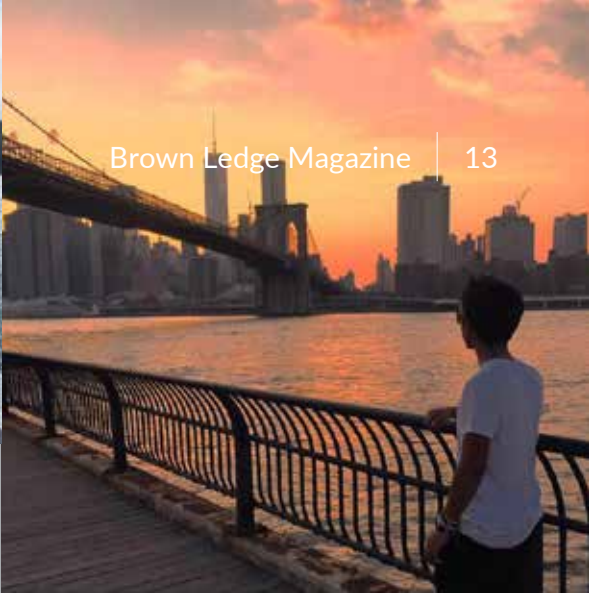
Alejandro and Sebastian Zepeda, United Kingdom in New York, N.Y.



Jana Kolinska, Czech Republic and Aimee McSherry, New Zealand on San Francisco Bay, CA



Left: Fran Moore, United Kingdom and Gemma Barnes, United Kingdom on Maid of the Mist, Niagara Falls, N.Y.



Above: New York City skyline via the Brooklyn Bridge - a popular post-camp travel destination.

J-1 300,000 participants 86% are 30 years old or younger
8,110 New England participants **2,583 total J-1 in VT**
412 in VT, J-1 Visa camp counselor program

What now?

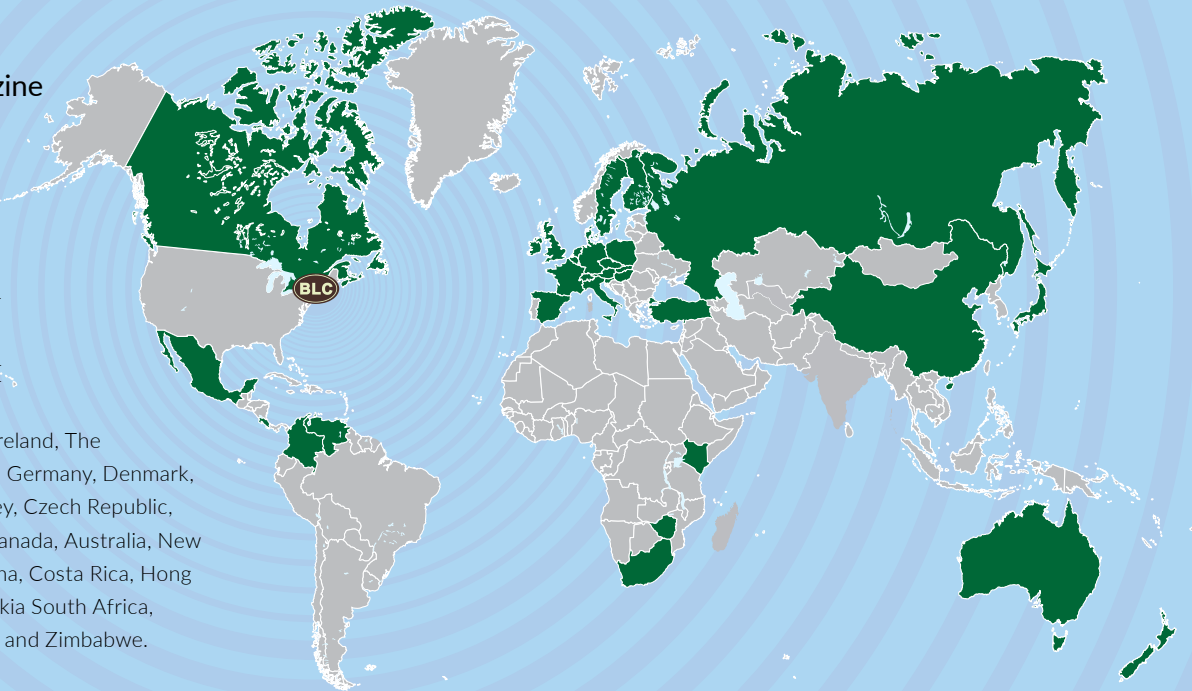
The American Camping Association (ACA), and the camping community at large, responded swiftly and loudly to the J-1 Visa reduction proposals with coordinated phone calls and e-mails to congressional representatives and key staff members within the White House. To date, it appears that the Administration has reversed, or at least delayed, targeting the summer camp-related J-1 visas: the camp counselor program and summer work travel program.

However, the future of the programs remains on shifting sands. The Administration has issued conflicting statements as to whether future policy decisions may impact the J-1 programs. Staffing for this summer has not been impacted but we remain alert. We are committed to our international staff and our ability to hire amazing individuals who add value to our camp. We hope that the Brown Ledge community will stand with us to protect the Exchange Visitor Program, protect our international staff, and protect the current, and future, global bonds created on Malletts Bay.

BLC CONNECTS
WITH THE WORLD

OUR WONDERFUL STAFF
COMES TO US FROM ALL
CORNERS OF THE GLOBE

The United Kingdon, France, Ireland, The Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, Germany, Denmark, Russia, Poland, Hungary, Turkey, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Mexico, Columbia, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Austria, Belgium, China, Costa Rica, Hong Kong Italy Japan, Kenya, Slovakia South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe.



STABLE CREW (L-R)
Blazka Subic, Slovenia; Barbara Repas, Hungary;
Lucie Borakova, Czech Republic; Sonia Niemyska,
Poland; Jana Kolinska, Czech Republic

A Couch in Every Country

After camp ends, our J-1 visa counselors take full advantage of the extra time allowed on their visa. While New York City consistently ranks as the top spot to visit, counselors have traveled up and down the East Coast, bused across the country, walked over the Golden Gate Bridge, and cruised along our coasts. Some counselors arrive at camp with definite travel destinations in mind, going to locations that they have dreamed of visiting for years. Often counselors plan their post-camp travel around who they meet at camp, traveling with fellow staff and staying with Brown Ledgers--both campers and counselors--along the way.

Our anecdotal evidence (provided by postcards and e-mails after camp) confirms that the goals of the Fulbright-Hayes Act are realized every camp season – that participation in the J-1 Visa program provides our international counselors with a greater understanding and appreciation of our culture.

By and large, counselors leave camp, and the U.S., loving camp but, as importantly, also thinking and feeling positively about Americans...and America.

The cultural exposure is, of course, a two-way street. One of the most amazing benefits of the J-1 Visa program for Brown Ledge is the affirmation that the world is full of friends--it's full of Brown Ledgers. BLC alums have picked colleges, selected study-abroad programs, and chosen international jobs based on the proximity of known Brown Ledgers. How many Brown Ledgers have been hosted by the Pepins and Nilssons while studying abroad in Europe? How many parents feel better signing off on their daughter's semester abroad in Australia knowing that there is a squad of Brown Ledgers down under? Traveling to Columbia? Mexico? Turkey? South Africa? Czech Republic? Japan? There's a Brown Ledger there who will reminisce with you about camp at her kitchen table while helping you plan the rest of your trip.

The bonds of friendship created among our staff and campers each summer allow us to believe, and to move around the globe believing, that the world is a friendly and safe place to travel--where we can find a helping hand in any corner of the world because of our common BLC bond. That's the world that the Fulbright-Hayes Act hoped for in 1961, and that's the world that we see every summer.



WATERFRONT STAFF (L-R)
Front Row: Amelia Norton, Australia; Molly Boyle, UK;
Henley Shull, USA (VA); Charlie Smith, USA (MN); Lilas Humen, USA (NJ); Olivia Pepin, Denmark; Cate Chase, USA (MA); Erica Mellon, USA (CO); Samantha Newbery, UK; Sam Kellett, Wales, UK
Back Row: Myra Johnson, USA (MA); Kate Pastore, USA (VT); Eva Nilsson, Sweden; Anna Steckler, USA (MD); Noa Cohen, UK; Santiago Amaya Rincon, Columbia; Reilly Morin, USA (SC); Andreas Landin, Sweden; Hans Nilsson, Sweden; Caitlin Applin, USA (MA); Sarah White, UK



KITCHEN STAFF (L-R)
Anglie Delgado, Columbia; Angelica Milan, Mexico;
Fernando Galaviz, Mexico; Mariana Mendez, Mexico;
Nela Loskotova, Czech Republic; Serai Karagel, Turkey;
David Workman, USA (VT); Liza Piteran, Russia

Longing
for Home

2017 was my 12th summer at Brown Ledge Camp,
and my first in a new role: Mama Skunk.

Rose Lovshin, Mama Skunk Extraordinaire, if you're reading this, don't worry – the irony is not lost on me either. This position was not one I seemed destined for during my first summer at camp. But fifteen years later, I was thrilled to have the privilege to again spend a summer on Malletts Bay. I spent the summer of 2017 employing my own intimate knowledge of the terribly homesick, up-all-night, no-basic Skunker experience. As a nine-year-old first-time camper, I arrived with my purple trunk full of britches, riding boots, swimsuits, and sunscreen, but never once got in the lake. Any time not spent teary-eyed and down was spent in the barn, but I was so deeply afflicted by my insidious homesickness that I never got my basic. And yet, though I cannot recall a lightbulb moment where things changed, here I am years later, a Brown Ledger through and through.

2002 was my first summer at camp. I vividly remember driving along the winding road between Winooski and Burlington in the back seat of my Mom's rental car (two towns with distinctly odd names to my ears) and then peeling off the paved road to make our way into camp. My Mom made my bed, hugged me tightly, and that was it: she flew back home. And so there I was, nine years old and ready to horseback ride as much as possible, but terrified of four long weeks away from home. I do not remember a lot from that summer, but I do remember sitting with Kathy, crying to Mary Murphy, and knocking on Mama Skunk's door nightly. I

would go to meals, I would go to my riding lesson, and I would cry because I was homesick. Things were made worse when one of my bunkies went home: I have no doubt our homesickness fed off each other's and grew, radiating outward through the whole cabin.

Homesickness is a fickle thing: some days and most nights it tore through me, preventing me from enjoying even the most exciting things Brown Ledge had to offer. And at those times, each hour felt so long I was certain I would not survive the rest of my days there. The moments where homesickness left me felt few and far between, but there were moments where I wasn't begging Kathy to let me go home, or staring sadly into my counselor's face while I refused to accept her comforting words. But I have to assume something, maybe just for a brief moment, clicked for me during that first summer, because two years later, I returned to camp. Today, my memories of BLC are doused in the deep love and reverence I have for it, and that homesick Marjorie is a camper I can only see as if I am looking at her from very far away. She was a little girl who was not ready or able to understand camp yet, to let go of her need for routine and familiarity, and get swept up in the newness and opportunity. When I look back on that first summer, I know it was painful – perhaps more for the staff who had to endure my stubborn sadness – but I also recognize it as a vital part of my camp experience. The severity of my homesickness then is dwarfed only by the intensity of my appreciation of camp now.



Mama Skunks 2017,
Sari Meltzer and
Marjorie Isaacs

What changed?
I found my place.
I found my people.

My later summers at Brown Ledge were much more formative for me, because of those two things. I learned that the Brown Ledge Barn was a place where I could work hard and see the merit of my efforts. It was a place where I could push myself to become better as a rider and horsewoman, and I would be rewarded with more information, more opportunity, and more support. At camp, I found a safe place to try, to fail, and to succeed. In addition to finding my place, I found my people. In my bunkies, I found people who I could laugh with, lean on, and learn from. Today, the women I grew up with at Brown Ledge are still my closest and strongest support system.

Since day one, BLC has always managed to evoke a strong reaction from me. In 2002, it was a deep longing for home. Today, in many ways, it evokes the same thing, though now I long for my summer home on Malletts Bay.

Our Home on the Range

by Dicky Hayward

Q: Did you enjoy yourself?

A: Yes

Q: Was it different from what you were expecting?

A: (pause) Yeah!

I don't know when I began asking these questions as a riflery instructor, but for a long while now it's been a habit of mine to have some variation on this conversation with almost every beginner I teach. "Did you enjoy yourself" is a natural question for an instructor to ask: it confirms that you've done your job to some reasonable degree of success. The second question came about, as far as I can remember, because the answer to the first question so often came as a small revelation to those answering it and the "yes" had a tone of the incredulous to it. It's almost as if I'd offered someone a food they'd always assumed they would hate, and instead they found themselves saying, "You know what? That's not bad!"

There is no avoiding the fact that to the layperson, firearms are often unpalatable. This is understandable as they are undeniably dangerous in the wrong hands. (I've seen many people come to the range just to confirm that we were using real guns!) While the perceived risk of riflery is very high, the actual risk

at Brown Ledge, with its strict protocols and routines, is very low. Our safety record speaks for itself: I've opened the first aid kit, referred to as the "boo-boo box," just a few times for scraped knees or blisters. The perception that target shooting is a violent sport is constantly being challenged as shooters quickly realize how much patience, concentration, and control is required for success. I once taught a college friend who said afterwards, "That was exactly like Pilates except I was holding a rifle."

Despite the fact that riflery can provoke high levels of apprehension and that it is an activity that has been disappearing from summer camps for decades, it is not an exaggeration to say that it is thriving at Brown Ledge. Riflery is frequently oversubscribed as a JC choice, three young women earned their Vanguards in both 2016 and 2017, and campers routinely race the bugle to be the first to get to the range after rest hour. But what exactly is the appeal of target shooting for Brown

Edie Plimpton Fleeman, longtime Brown Ledge and champion of the riflery department



Above: The riflery staff 2014: Mark Nations, Quinn Silva, and Dicky Hayward

Right: Dicky Hayward scopes for Ibby Anda



Gwen Ruescher, 2016



The rifle range in 2017

everything I just said, and that is coaching. Watching a young student experience the aforementioned feelings is the closest I have ever felt to true fulfillment.” Nikki is not alone.

For many of us, the teaching aspect of riflery is the biggest draw. Without a doubt, I owe my own decision to choose teaching as a career to my experiences on the rifle range.

At Brown Ledge, teaching and mentoring are an important part of the JC experience. In riflery, teaching often starts early and many girls start instructing years before becoming a JC. There is a communal learning environment at the range and on a typical day, a visitor would have to spend a few minutes really watching and listening to work out who is teaching and who is being taught.

It is probably not a big surprise to learn that fostering responsibility is key to perpetuating riflery’s appeal to each new generation of young women at Brown Ledge. After all, skills like decision making and learning from mistakes are essential to the learning of responsibility and central to our camp values and philosophy. It is no wonder that this “different” activity is thriving at our “different” camp.

Writing this article has helped me look at what shooting has taught me personally. Riflery has forced me to examine myself constantly and to be honest about what I’ve discovered. I’ve found that by immersing myself completely in the task in front of me, I achieve the larger outcome; but the moment I focus on the outcome, my immersion dissipates and success becomes elusive. Finally, shooting reminds me that when I think I know everything, I soon discover just how much more I have left to learn.

Author Dicky Hayward looks at the essential elements of the Brown Ledge program to find...

The Keys to Riflery's Success

Focus: The program offers a single shooting discipline and all the coaching, equipment, and knowledge are devoted to that discipline.

Equipment: Campers use exactly what competition shooters use, albeit on a smaller budget! Our rifles are not new, but they are of high quality and they are meticulously maintained.

Knowledge: Brown Ledge instructors benefit from years of accumulated experience. I originally learned from my British instructors and then learned exponentially more from Edie Plimpton Fleeman, an immensely talented shooter and coach. In those first summers, JCs were often teaching me too. Many senior staff members rose through the BLC ranks, while others come from collegiate shooting programs. In addition to being experienced in the sport, our instructors bring their own specialties. Because of this, we provide high quality and consistent shooting instruction and we are often able to teach other relevant skills such as rifle maintenance, ballistics theory, and risk management.

Environment: The welcoming environment at the range is the most important key to our success. From the first day on the range, I was made to feel accepted and I saw the same courtesy extended to everyone else. We strive to make first-time shooters feel like their time is as valuable as that of a JC or Vanguard candidate. We never treat requests to learn with skepticism or assume a camper is not ready for something. We will advise them on the steps necessary to reach their goal and do our best to guide them through it. I have been to so many ranges and rifle clubs where newcomers, especially women, are treated with indifference and even hostility. I firmly believe that much of riflery’s appeal at Brown Ledge is due to the staff - junior and senior - making every camper feel that she truly belongs.



Ledgers? Last fall, I decided to reach out to campers, JCs, and staff members from throughout my time at camp to ask them what drew them to the range and, more importantly, what kept them coming back. My conversations about the appeal of riflery at Brown Ledge revealed a recurrent theme: responsibility. This theme was expressed in three important but very different ways: first, the responsibility of learning to handle a firearm safely; second, the responsibility for improving; and finally, the responsibility of passing on the knowledge you’ve been given to others.

The Responsibility for Safety

Being comfortable handling a firearm is not something that comes overnight. At Brown Ledge, all campers must learn safety rules before touching a rifle for the first time. We are careful to enforce the rules in a positive and encouraging manner, but we are also firm in communicating just how crucial it is that the rules are followed. Even as staff grants increased responsibility to shooters as they gain experience, there are always several pairs of watchful eyes at the range. Age and experience are no excuse for complacency. We all – including campers – hold each other accountable. Having each camper participate fully in

safety procedures sends a clear message: When you hold a rifle, you will determine how safe we are all going to be. That level of responsibility is empowering. As Olivia Tandon said, “You knew you had a big responsibility – it is a firearm after all. But as a young woman, it was hugely motivating to know that I was trusted.”

The Responsibility for Improving

One of the appeals of target shooting is that results come quickly, and it is relatively easy to see how to improve. Lauren Mottle made a comparison between horseback riding and riflery at Brown Ledge: The gap between “riding in the small (beginner) ring and the large (advanced) ring is only conquerable over years of riding. With shooting, you can potentially go from (being a) complete beginner to (becoming) quite accomplished in a summer or two.” However, the further you progress, the more you have to work for those improvements. At the highest levels, the sport ceases to be purely physical and becomes a test of psychological fortitude. The actions have long since become muscle memory. When you are at that final shot that you know could give you a “century” (a perfect score) or complete the “aggregate” (arguably the

hardest requirement for the Vanguard), the margin of error is measured in fractions of a millimeter. Discipline of the highest order must be called upon. If you fail, there is no avoiding facing the reality that you did something to cause the failure and it is up to you to find the solution. Conversely, when you are successful, you know that you made it happen, that the score could not have occurred by chance, and that you have persevered where many would have given up.

The Responsibility for Teaching Others

One of the most eloquent descriptions of the shooting experience came from Nikki Schachman: “I was hooked. The slight waver of the sight picture as I pushed out the last bit of air from my body and finally saw the target’s ‘eye’ stare right back at me, the silence that hung in the air right before the crisp feeling of a trigger click beneath the tip of my index finger, and the feeling of yet another perfect shot leaving the barrel with the satisfying release of the empty case from the chamber and the fleeting plume of dissipating gunpowder: these feelings were everything to me.” As profound as this experience was, Nikki concluded her testimony by saying, “Yet there is something even better than

A Brown Ledge Journey

Many years ago, we had a conversation with a dear friend about the notion of sleepaway camp for our children. Neither my husband nor I had attended camp, so the thought of sending our children was not even a consideration. Our friend (who happens to be a BLC alumna) suggested we reconsider.

She explained that she looked back on her camp experience as defining who she is today more than her school or home life. She told us that camp was a place of exploration -- from activities to relationships to challenges and goals -- all of which proved invaluable in the maturation and confidence of a young woman.

Years later, our daughter, Emma, declared that she would “most definitely like” to attend sleepaway camp and, after an extensive review, we determined that BLC was the place for her. Now three years in, we’ve gained some interesting insights about camp, and BLC in particular. Adolescent girls are adolescent

girls, and the same dynamics that happen at home still occur at camp – especially in the microcosm of the cabin. The resources at BLC help the girls learn how to navigate through those challenging dynamics, giving them the opportunity to develop new skills, tools, and personal reflections. As a result of these rich experiences, girls gain self-reliance and confidence while filling many summer days with exciting moments and creating unique life stories.

Teenage girls are still filled with insecurities even if they are at an idyllic camp on the water’s edge. There are no phones or social media, but “drama” still exists

when four relative strangers live together in a cabin. (Thank goodness BLC saw the wisdom in having a community bathroom. Imagine four girls sharing a sink and one mirror!) Issues about who said what about whom to whom can still dominate. That is one of the wonders of the camp experience and living together that we lose in the SnapChat world. At BLC, no one can hide. The girls must figure out the interactions and relationships within their cabin – for themselves – with no overly concerned parents offering their advice. The “bunkies” must learn how to function as a unit to exist for those four or eight weeks. And, miraculously, mostly they do! It’s

not necessarily seamless or simple, and it won’t inevitably result in everyone being lifelong friends or even session-long friends, but this interpersonal learning is part of the fascinating maturing process that BLC promotes.

We were not always so certain about the benefits of camp nor that Brown Ledge was the right match for Emma. Our moment of doubt came when we picked her up after that first summer and weren’t sure what to expect. We had spoken to her a few times, but very briefly. We had evidence of lots of activities, little homesickness, and a good time. The 8-hour ride home

Left: Emma riding.
Right: Emma (R) at the swimming dock with Emma Moore (L).



started with those pleasant pursuits – camp life, the span of things done, great counselors, and number of brownies and cookies consumed per day. Before long, though, we wandered into the confounding, challenging recollections of “the cabin.” The conversation became all about “bunkies” as she tried to make sense of the short but intense “pleasure” of living with three other teenagers for four weeks. Her first-year bunk had been filled with many highs and lows, reaching its low point when one bunkie purposely hurt another bunkie. Then it became our turn

to feel a jumble of emotions and the press of a hundred questions. We tried to stay cool while Emma explained what had happened, how the injury was minor but the intent of the perpetrator clear, how their counselor intervened, the immediate meeting with the directors (it was 10 pm when this happened), and the results. Emma explained how the adults and campers talked it through and that the directors and counselors helped the girls better understand the dynamics that led to the incident. We felt somewhat comforted that the camp leaders handled the situation quickly and appropriately.

This tale turned out to be only one of several stories that came pouring out as the miles turned. All in all, it seemed that the cabin wasn’t such a pleasant place. It seemed like a bad place amidst all the beauty. Fearing the worst, and a quick end of our relationship with BLC, we waited until the stories slowed down to ask Emma what she concluded and whether she would entertain camp in the future.

In what seemed almost incredulous to us, she declared, “Oh, I’m going back to BLC next summer.”

Our relief was palpable as we realized just how profoundly good the camp had been for Emma, how happy so much of her experience had been, and that the cabin, as crazy as it was, was just a part of the process. As we like to say here in Philadelphia these days, “Trust the process.”

After attending BLC for three years, Emma would most definitely declare that camp is her “happy place.” While each year has had its share of interesting cabin dynamics and personal highs and lows (like getting her diving intermediate and then falling in the horse show), the many amazing experiences win out. The brief episodes of unhappiness or disappointment melt away, and camp becomes a place of hilarious moments and fond memories that are part of our daughter’s history. BLC encourages our girls to be more, exhausts them with success, and leaves all of us with those happy-sad tears as we drive south after another great session. We are grateful our daughter has had these beautiful summers and look forward to those still ahead. What a magical place we have found in Brown Ledge Camp.

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1. First and full session campers and counselors of 2017 who are the next generation of BLers in their families. 2. Three generations of BLers at Alumnae Camp 2013: Dawn Schwaiger Adams (86-87), Sue Daniels Schwaiger (63-67), and Ashleah Adams (14-18) 3. Second session campers of 2017 who are the next generation of BLers in their families. 4. Tiffany Haick (84-88) with daughter, Izzy Haick (17-18) at Alumnae Camp 2017.

5. Stephanie Lane-Kerman (Buff Ledge '70s and mom to Zabette, 10-17) with her mom, Banana (Lynn) Benoliel Jacobson (43-50) at Work Weekend 2013. 6. Alumnae of the '80s reunite as they drop off their campers in 2015: Britta Schasberger, Jamie Ouellet, Dart Schmalz, Cara Jacobstein Zimmerman, Lori Angstadt, Annie Solberg Sarnblad, Sarah Smith Rossmassler, and Aimee Murdock Burke. 7. Renee de Lyon Peiser (68-69 and daughter of alumna, Lois Ruby, early '30s) and her daughter, Caroline Peiser (14-18) at Alumnae Camp 2017. 8. Marie Ouellet (83-88) with daughter, Amélie Bureau (18) at Alumnae Camp 2017.

Bringing Up Brown Ledge Babies

There's no question that photos and stories about mothers, daughters, granddaughters, and nieces sharing the experience of Brown Ledge could fill an entire magazine.

For the past six-plus decades, the opening day of camp every summer has included alumnae - moms, grandmothers, aunts, and sisters -who are delivering the next generation of campers for their first day of camp.

Often they are joyfully hugging other moms on that day who were *their* bunkies at BLC, and the impromptu reunion that erupts is filled with joy and energy that rival the squeals of delight when campers are reunited.

Last summer was no exception. Ninety-five campers in 2017 were here as the 2nd, 3rd, or 4th generation of their family to come to Brown Ledge. That's one-third of all campers, many of whom had been singing camp songs and hearing stories about Brown Ledge

Camp as long as they could remember. Some had also attended alumnae camp or work weekend as an introduction to the Brown Ledge experience so they had some sense of where they were headed on their opening day as campers. Many campers and JCs have talked of the comfort it brought them in the first days of camp to already know the words to a song or to find their mother's or aunt's name inscribed above them in their cabin. One third-generation camper shared, "Brown Ledge became my home before I even came to camp from my mom telling bedtime stories about her experiences."

The combination of new, returning, and next-generation campers varies each summer. Each camper brings some personal element to the community

that evolves over the summer weeks. The perspective of first-time and first-generation campers is equally important to a healthy mix of campers, counselors, and staff. The opportunity for the campers who have grown up with BLC to orient those not yet familiar with the Brown Ledge ways and traditions is a tradition in itself. Cabin assignments are made with this mix in mind so a camper spends little time feeling "new."

When asked why it was important to share this experience with their daughters, granddaughters, and nieces, several alums remarked that having this space where they were welcomed and accepted for who they were had a significant impact on the women they've become and the life choices they've made. Alumna Tiffany Haick says, "I had so much fun as a kid at BLC. I grew up so much each summer, gained so much independence and mastery, and absolutely loved the idea of passing that down to my daughters. I so love the idea that my camp has become their camp."

The anticipation of sending a daughter to her first summer at camp after so many years of telling stories and singing camp songs can create a nervous excitement for both mother and daughter. Marie Ouellet, an alumna who was a camper and JC from 1983 through 1988, will be bringing her daughter, Amélie, for her first summer in 2018. Concerns about making friends or fitting into the cabin can be somewhat eased with stories about her own first days when she was a camper. As it gets closer they talk more about which activities she'll go toward, and Marie encourages her to try everything at least once. But the bottom line for Marie is this: "Part of me wants Amélie to remain my little girl forever, but I also want her to be a strong, responsible, kind, independent woman. Brown Ledge wants that for its girls too. At BLC, Amélie will be in a safe and positive environment where her mind and heart will grow. As a mom, this warms my heart."

Describe a shared connection or moment that you've enjoyed together:

"My favorite part of them going to camp is that they call me on the way to camp on the first day and on the way home on the last. It may be that their parents make them, but I like to think that they do it on their own; that they know I understand the excitement and emotion of it all. And somehow, through the conversations, I end up reliving my own emotions and memories of first and last days, and usually days in between."
– Dart Schmalz (83-88, 90-94, 97-98)
(Daughter of alumna Babby Leetch Schmalz (46-55) and aunt to current campers, Ruby and Olivia)

"Every once in a while, we'll head out the front door, feel the cool, crisp air coming up from the river near our home, and one of us will comment, 'This feels like a Brown Ledge morning.'"
– Kris Stone (78-81) (mom to current camper, Zarina)

Have you been surprised by anything about her/their experiences at or feelings about camp compared to your own?

"It has to be singing together and being able to join them in the songs (honestly, it makes me feel like a cool mom which I don't get the chance to feel like all the time)."
– Tiffany Haick (84-88) (mom to current campers, Izzy and Ava)

"It's interesting how Mia is making BLC her own. She does not allow me to make suggestions about what she should try or do at camp. I was really worried about leaving her there her first summer, yet I was the only one who cried! She immediately went off with her new bunkies and didn't seem to mind the separation at all!"
– Kathy Roberts Snedeker (76-82) (mom to current camper, Mia)

"Catherine's feelings for camp run deeper than I could have expected. It is part of who she is. One thing that surprised me (but shouldn't have because it is what makes BLC great and unique) is that despite the fact that we share experiences like the songs, Ledger, etc., our daily experiences are very different because we chose such different activities to focus on. I loved riding, canoeing, riflery, and overnights to Mount Mansfield. She spends every day on the sailing dock now, and spent a lot of time at waterskiing and diving in earlier summers. I don't even know how to sail!"
– Emily Wilson Burns (81-83) (mom to current camper, Catherine)

"Nope! Anna has LOVED camp, just as I did, and just as I knew she would! Anna attended Alumnae Camp at the age of five for the first time. That Saturday morning in August of 2005, she awoke to the bugle outside our Point cabin and sat up in her bunk (her bunny in her arms) and said, "I LOVE it at Brown Ledge!"
– Polly Atkins Moretti (74-80) (mom to new alumna, Anna)

Dart Schmalz with
Krista Irmischer

Transition

The summer of 1983 was a milestone year at Brown Ledge. Not only was it Bill and Kathy's transition year, but it was also my first year at camp.

I was 11, and was a full-season, second-generation camper. My mother, Barbara (Babby Leetch) Schmalz, had been an avid Brown Ledger in the 1940s--enthusiastic camper, committed junior counselor sailing staff member, and recipient of golf and sailing Vanguards. Having a mother who had flourished so well at camp added some self-imposed pressure on me to do the same.

As the first day approached, I had mixed emotions of excitement and anxiety: I fretted over the length of time I'd be away from home, whether I would pass my crib test, how well I would do on my riding assessment, and who my "bunkies" would be, but I was excited to be following in my mother's footsteps.

My bunkies in Cuckoos Nest were all first-year campers too, but they were only staying for the July session. We explored activities together, went to Valcour Island and Mt. Mansfield, and giggled in our cabin between meals and activities. I dreaded the arrival of switchover, as it meant their departure and the arrival of a whole new cabin. The morning they left, I went swimming for something to fill the void.

When I returned, I opened my cabin door to a whole new situation; the new girls had arrived and everything was different. I burst into tears and the homesickness swept over me like a tsunami.

I don't remember the details of my homesickness that summer very well, but to hear Bill and Kathy talk about it, I would get up very early in the morning before reveille and cry (loudly allegedly) in the Grove. I have fond memories of a special few who were patient, putting up with me well beyond what should have been expected of anyone. Barbara, Bill and Kathy, Lori Angstadt, Twylla, and Chris Nee come to mind, and I received at least one compassionate but firm Fred Talk (which at the time I didn't know was a "thing," but proved to be the first of many over my years at Brown Ledge).

My new bunkies had all been to Brown Ledge before. But I wasn't open to friendships with any of them. I was inconsolable about the departure of my previous crew, and adding to my despair was that one of my new bunkies was also homesick, so much so that she went home. One afternoon, I got permission from Barbara to call home, and I joined

the throng of other campers sitting on the odd plywood bench next to the pay phone. When it was my turn, I eagerly dialed my home number only to catch my mother on her way out the door to play golf. "Why are you calling?" she asked. "To say hi, I love you, and see what's going on at home," I said. "And besides, everyone else is calling home... there's a long line waiting for the pay phone." She supportively replied "If everyone's in line for the pay phone, that means no one's at the sailing dock. You should go sailing!" We continued with a brief exchange of love and support, and then I went sailing.

The morning of my birthday, just a week or so before the last day of camp, I woke up and was done. Being homesick was getting me nowhere, and I had only a few days left. And just like that, I was a happy camper, running around mostly independently (having probably estranged everyone at camp from wanting to be in my company), but no longer displaying homesickness - a rather sudden and dramatic change. Maybe it was just a matter of turning 12.

When my parents asked me if I wanted to go back the next year, my response, to their surprise, was a resounding Yes! I returned for another 8 weeks in 1984 and found new friends and discovered archery, which quickly became "my" activity. I realize now that the friendships I had with my first bunkies, the departure of whom triggered my homesickness, was built only on the immediacy of our cabin assignment. Though I never found a solid group of friends as a camper, I floated easily from group to group, and practically lived at the archery range and--to my mother's pleasure--the sailing dock. As a JC, I found a group of women who, though I'm in touch with only a few of them now, inspire me to this day. I'm proud to count myself among the JC class of such incredibly intelligent, successful, funny, and vivacious women. My best camp friends, however, were created during

my years as a counselor. Today, the men and women who I came to know while we worked long hours on the waterfront and in the field are the people who know me best and who give me strength and confidence when I see them at reunions, meetings, Work Weekend, and Alumni Camp and with whom I stay in touch through the luxury of the internet. Perhaps it was this network that afforded me the honor of being selected for the BL Board of Directors in 2002.

The summer of 1983 exists in my memory as an anomaly, a strange association between the young first-year camper and Brown Ledge.



I didn't know then how I would come to treasure the incredible place and people whose support and friendship now mean so much to me, and who remind me that my best self is my Brown Ledge self.

Brown Ledge Spirit Never Dies!

2017 Review of Giving for The Brown Ledge Foundation

Each summer the campers, counselors, and staff of Brown Ledge create a community together. As the days and weeks progress, they develop their own rhythm of enjoying and learning from each other. The Brown Ledge Foundation also provides a sense of community with the alums, families, and friends of BLC who give back to camp through philanthropic gifts and donations of time and energy.

We're grateful for this giving spirit shared by the nearly 600 donors, listed on the following pages, who supported the 2017 Annual Campaign. Because of you, we're able to respond to

requests for camper scholarships, and maintain and improve camp facilities and equipment. The unique experience that the girls and young women of Brown Ledge have each summer is directly impacted by your generosity.

Many alumnae, parents, grandparents and friends of BLC have helped to make this celebration of our 91st year possible.

Maria Moore
Director of Development

Thank you!



2017 Board Members:
Tom Pastore, Mary Barton, Katy Robbins Ritz, Carol Blanton, Nancy Weaver Jones, Kris Stone, Bill Neilsen; Sitting: Ginny Sharp Williams, Robyn Sonis, Tara Francis; Not pictured: Tim Harkness, Rachel Lincoln Grindrod, Annie Solberg Sarnblad.

Brown Ledge Foundation BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our Board of Directors is an amazing group of dedicated volunteers! They are charged with the following mission: **The Brown Ledge Foundation oversees the operation, perpetuation, and educational mission of Brown Ledge Camp. The Foundation exists to support Camp's current and future programs and preserve its natural setting on Lake Champlain.**

The board members come together three times per year and work consistently throughout the year on governance, fundraising, and various committees to ensure that camp is well positioned for the future. Board membership is a wonderful way to stay connected, help BLC thrive, and learn about what goes into running camp. If you have questions for the board or would like information about joining, please send an email to foundation@brownledge.org. Read each board member's bio on the Brown Ledge website, www.brownledge.org.

We are so grateful for the time, energy and support that all board members – current and past – have given over the years. Thank you!

19th Annual JC Phone-a-thon

JULY 10-13, 2018

The 19th Annual JC Phone-a-thon will be the evenings of July 10th through the 13th. You can call into the Clubhouse, or receive a call from a JC. Watch your mail for a postcard with details. This is a perfect time to support the JCs and make your gift to the Annual Campaign!



2017 Giving to Brown Ledge Foundation:

\$333,280 to the BLF Annual Campaign for Operations, Facilities and Scholarships
\$2,000 to the BLF Endowment Fund
\$335,280

Beehive Campaign

Brown Ledges rallied around an effort to rebuild our beloved Beehive cabin during the summer of 2017. It was a wonderful showing by more than 400 alumnae from nearly every decade, plus parents and family members, so that we could breathe new life into this story-filled 60+ year-old junior counselor cabin. With a friendly fundraising competition between the decades - the 1980s reigned supreme in dollars raised, and the 2000s brought out the highest number of new donors - our goal was surpassed and the rebuilding work began in September. The JCs of 2018 will be the first group to spend the summer buzzing in and out of the renovated Beehive, with its new foundation supports, new interior walls and shelving, and rewired electrical. Donors

who supported this campaign are included in the listing on pages 27-31. We also could not have been successful without the help of the following volunteer leaders who were the cheerleaders for their respective decades and kept the momentum and excitement going: **Lyda Blank, Riki Von Stroud, Liz Smith Strimple, Margy Campbell Lamere, Ginny Sharp Williams, Cara Jacobstein Zimmerman, Hilary Strimple, and Sarah Middleton.**



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- Continued on page 28

A Legacy for Future Generations of Brown Ledgers

The summer of 2017 represented the 91st season of Brown Ledge Camp. As we reflect on the nine decades past and think ahead to celebrating our 100th season and beyond, we would like to recognize and thank the following Brown Ledgers of the Planned Giving Circle who are helping to ensure that we'll be a thriving, stable organization well into the future.

By including BLC in their long-term estate plans with a charitable bequest or other planned gift, the alums and parents listed here are providing a legacy for the future of Brown Ledge Camp. We're honored to have their support in such a wonderful and lasting way.

Their enduring commitment to provide the incredible experiences of Brown Ledge to future generations is a testament to the impact that BLC has had on thousands of girls and young women.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP, GENEROSITY, AND THOUGHTFUL SUPPORT (* NAMES ADDED IN 2017):

Lori Angstadt	Susie McKallor Holic
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If you've chosen to extend your love and support of BLC beyond your own lifetime and would like to be included in the Planned Giving Circle, please notify Maria Moore, Director of Development, Brown Ledge Foundation, Inc. at (802)862-2442, maria@brownledge.org or BLF, 25 Wilson Street, Burlington, VT 05401. Thank you!

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Delta and Molly the BLC ponies

- Continued on page 29

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- 7 Karine Nadeau-Carter
- 16 Barbara Nagle Muench
- 11 Grant E. Neale
- 6 Emily Neilsen
- 8 Greg Craig & Derry Noyes
- 1 Alyx and Ducky's NYC BLC Gathering
- 4 Kathy O'Hara Napier
- 6 Marie T. Ouellet
- 2 Jamie Ouellet
- 2 Gary Page and Priscilla Schaefer
- 15 Laura Parisi
- 14 Maggie Parker Selbert
- 13 Martia Patrick Gordon
- 4 Natalia Pinto Maffett
- 19 Edie Plimpton Fleeman
- 11 Josh & Erin Podvin
- 14 Nancy Pomeroy Foster
- 3 Albert and Lyudmila Pope
- 11 Julia Porcino
- 20 Wycky Proctor
- 9 Pamela Proctor
- 1 Mary Quayle
- 9 The Quinn Family
- 12 Tammy Rayevich Leitch
- 16 Betty Resch
- 17 Sarah Resnick Lex
- 2 Katie Reynolds
- 1 Kimberly Roberts Barr
- 5 Linda Roberts Tabas
- 8 Amy Roderer
- 7 Katherine Asbeck & Ellen Rome
- 10 Rachel Ropeik
- 2 The Rosow Family
- 17 Dr. Bobbie Rowland
- 6 Bonnie Royster
- 9 Eleanor Royster Eidels
- 5 Grace Rumford
- 4 Jennifer Ryan Onken
- 3 Paula Schasberger
- 4 Sarah Schermerhorn
- 2 Dawn Schwaiger Adams
- 16 Jean Seeler-Gifford
- 4 Christopher & Debra Seiter
- 16 Marjorie Shaffer Weaver
- 1 Rylee Shull
- 8 Lauren Shweder Biel
- 8 Ariel Slomka Shin
- 9 Jo Ann, Butch, Lisa and Laura Smith
- 8 Annie Sarnblad
- 18 Stephanie Southard
- 19 Katy Spining Sinclair
- 2 Lorette and Jack St. Hilaire
- 1 Greg Steinmetz
- 19 Amy Stifel Quinn
- 9 Taylor Strimple Keenan
- 19 Kerry Stroud Green
- 10 Catherine Sword

- 9 Olivia Tandon
- 7 Anita Tarar
- 4 Katie Tracey
- 1 Ryan Traylor and Caroline Sharp
- 2 Helen Turner Murphy
- 1 Aimee Tusa
- 13 Martha Tuttle Shannon
- 1 Karen Vastine
- 12 Maria & Phil Vinall
- 13 Bob and Laurie Walker
- 10 Nancy Weaver Jones
- 1 Craig Weiner
- 17 Joan Weiterer Butcher & Bill Butcher
- 18 Macy Wesson
- 13 Bruce & Joanne Westbrook
- 6 Elizabeth Westbrook
- 2 Gala Westheimer Narezo
- 12 Joan Wildebush Berry
- 4 Susan York Williams
- 15 Janie Willis Stevens
- 13 Todd Wilson
- 1 Megan Witalis
- 11 Polly Witker
- 1 ohn Young
- 1 Arielle Zuckerberg

Gazebo Supporter (\$1-\$99)

- 10 Maureen Adams Carpenter
- 21 Merry Alderman Ritsch
- 1 Catherine Alexander
- 3 Franny Alston
- 3 Hillary Amster
- 11 Erica Amster
- 7 Carolyn Andrews Patterson
- 2 Deb Bailey
- 13 Laura Bailey Brown
- 1 Reeve Ballard
- 7 Anonymous
- 1 Katie Barrington
- 18 Sarah Bell
- 8 Bill and Shawn Lawrence
- 10 Eliza Berkley
- 12 Hilary Bertsch
- 7 Connie Beyer & Sky Sprayberry
- 7 Nancy Bigelow Sinclair
- 14 Kristin Blaser
- 1 Hanna Bliska
- 2 Kiley Boland
- 3 Jan Braumuller
- 17 Barbara Brewster Howard
- 13 Catie Brodie
- 1 Edward Browne
- 1 Melissa Browne
- 2 Ally Bruschi
- 5 Mary Brust

- Continued on page 30



BROWN LEDGE Endowment Fund

The Brown Ledge Foundation Board of Directors has established the Brown Ledge Foundation Endowment Fund, the purpose of which is to provide long-term financial security, maintain scholarships, and support future expanded programs for Brown Ledge Camp (BLC).

The BLF Endowment Fund will ultimately provide a reliable source of income where the principal remains intact and distributions can be made to fulfill its purpose to BLC. No distribution of earnings can be made until the principal reaches a minimum of \$200,000.

IN 2017 WE RECEIVED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUND FROM:

Barbara and Richard Murdock

The balance of fund as of December 31, 2017 was \$50,166.

It is a goal of the Brown Ledge Foundation Board of Directors to build on the generosity of those who have designated the endowment fund, and create a stable financial future for BLC.

For information on supporting the BLF Endowment Fund, please contact Maria Moore, Director of Development, at maria@brownledge.org or call (802)862-2442.

Raising a Toast

to our Annex Club Members

Janie Willis Stevens, Catie Brodie, Debbie Fox Roderer, and Allan Stevens.
Below left: Marilen Harnett and Robyn Sonis
Below right: Lori Angstadt and Ginny Sharp Williams

The Annex Club is how we recognize those who give to the Brown Ledge Foundation consistently. Members have made a gift to the foundation each of the past five or more years, and you can see the many 2017 members on the donor list by the red door icon next to their name.

Every gift we receive has an impact on camp and campers. With the reliable, annual giving of the Annex Club

members, we're able to make major improvements to facilities and equipment and respond to financial assistance needs, improving the experience that campers have each summer.

We had the chance to acknowledge and celebrate those in this generous club at Alumnae Camp last summer. We're incredibly grateful for those of you who are able to share your Brown Ledge Spirit through giving!



- 1 Natasha Buckham
- 1 Emily Butcher
- 1 Patricia Callahan
- 14 Margy Campbell Lamere
- 4 Hannah Campbell-Anderson
- 3 Angelina and James Carforo
- 1 Grace Rumford
- 18 Laurie Chase
- 3 Cate Chase
- 1 Alex Chiang
- 5 Xandra Clark
- 5 Tanzy Coffin
- 1 Rachel Colberg-Parsegian
- 2 Carry Cooper
- 1 Mary Craig
- 9 Dr. Whitney Crothers Dilley
- 17 Caryn Daus Flanagan
- 7 Carolyn Davis Erskine
- 1 Lane deCordova
- 1 Ruth DeFreest
- 1 Jim Pembroke
- 10 Ginger Dellenbaugh
- 2 Grace Devlin
- 6 Ann Diver Diehl
- 3 Debbie Diver Kephart
- 4 Molly Doherty
- 5 Jean Donahue McDonnell
- 5 Molly Elizabeth Leitao
- 1 Victoria JB Doyle
- 1 Ashley Dubois
- 4 Jennifer Elwell
- 3 Audrey Emerson
- 1 Sydney Emerson
- 3 Kellie English
- 10 Jenna Fahey
- 1 Jim and Jessica Fecteau
- 4 Helen Feldman
- 3 Jessica Fels
- 1 Sophia Fenn
- 1 Jessie Folkman
- 10 Anonymous
- 4 Pam Fortunoff Williams
- 2 Julia Foster
- 12 Betsi Fox Oliver
- 2 Kristina Fraites Lock
- 3 Anonymous
- 7 Amy Gibans McGlashan
- 1 Caroline Gilman
- 1 Catherine Giordano
- 1 Sarah Gordon
- 1 Robert Goulburn
- 1 Savannah Greene
- 14 Alison Greene-Barton
- 14 Lisa Greenwald & Doug Lavin
- 19 Linda Greenwald Blaustein & Robert Blaustein

- 3 Meredith Grieff Owens
- 1 Emma Gross
- 10 Mary Beth Gruber
- 6 Georgia Gruzen
- 1 Myriam Guertin
- 5 Layla Guest
- 11 Judy Hallberg
- 2 Emily Hamilton
- 3 Sarah Hampton Bielman
- 2 Catherine Harrison
- 5 Thomas Hart
- 5 Jennifer "T-Spoon" Hart McLaughlin
- 8 Elizabeth Healey Kilbride
- 5 Peregrine Heard
- 15 Ann Hedges
- 4 Katie Heller
- 4 Molly & Jacob Robinson
- 2 Frances Holliday Alford
- 15 Susan and Jane Holt
- 1 Audrey Houlis
- 14 Nancy P. Hubbard
- 15 Jessica Hysjulien Carter
- 6 Greta Hysjulien Jeffrey
- 10 Mary Lou Irvine Grant
- 1 Amy Jirsa Holt
- 1 Phylis Johns
- 1 Liza Johnson
- 1 Christina Johnson Ewing
- 15 Andrea Johnson Perham
- 4 Malia Jones
- 10 Sarah Josephs Hellewell
- 9 Melinda & Peter Kaminsky
- 4 Alenka Katsnelson
- 7 Amanda Katz
- 5 Steve Kavner
- 7 Noel Keck
- 5 Caitlin Kellough
- 15 Diana Kelly
- 2 Emily Kimak
- 10 Alison Kleger Ramsey
- 17 Jan Kline
- 2 Jana Kolinska
- 13 Karen Koppenhoefer Castelloes
- 20 Jeanne Kramer-Smyth
- 12 Annik LaFarge
- 8 Ruth Landowne Giordano
- 15 Debra Larue Hohener
- 10 Galen Laserson
- 1 Brenda and Robert Lavalette
- 1 Jim Pembroke
- 5 Cindy Lawler
- 17 Sue Lesselyong Fromhart
- 11 Annabel Lukins Stelling
- 3 Karen Maloof
- 15 Peggy Mathauer
- 1 Fred & Twylla Fishel

- 6 Kirtani Mathauer
- 1 Sarah May
- 3 Alexandra McClure
- 2 Hunter McCorkel
- 2 Kelsey McCrudden
- 5 Haley McCrudden
- 5 Allison McDonell Page
- 17 Kathleen McKinley Harris
- 3 Mary-Kate McShea
- 17 Judy Mederos Barrington
- 5 Sari Meltzer
- 7 Catherine Michaud
- 5 Sarah Middleton
- 15 Shelley Midkiff-Borunda
- 7 Anonymous
- 6 Camille Moisson Globerman
- 3 Alicia Monzeglio
- 1 Martha Moore
- 12 Susan Mountrey
- 6 Chrissy Mueller
- 2 Annie Murawski
- 3 Jeffrey Murawski
- 1 Barbara Nash
- 1 Fred & Twylla Fishel
- 2 The Elghanayan Family
- 1 Leena Newcomb
- 2 Grace Orben
- 8 Marge Orton Hanselman
- 7 Sam Ostrow & Christy Lynn
- 18 Amanda Paisner Burdette
- 2 Suzanne Parker & Josef Wille
- 3 Kira Parks
- 9 Dana Patenaude Mauser
- 5 Rachel Percelay
- 18 Priscilla Perkins Wilson
- 3 Litia Perta
- 2 Riki Ruby Petroni
- 3 Marguerite Pickett Wilson
- 10 Amanda Poole
- 6 Jennifer Powers
- 14 Julia Proctor
- 3 Mary Purdy
- 1 Katherine Ragosa
- 16 Diane Reis
- 1 Charlotte Richards
- 8 Beany Richter & Paul Livant
- 14 Sally Ross Davis
- 10 Julia Rumford
- 1 Ryan Salese
- 3 Anonymous
- 1 Blake Schnirring

Stay Connected

to the Brown Ledge Community

Alumnae Camp

August 23-26, 2019

Alumnae Camp occurs over one weekend every other year and lasts from Friday evening through Monday morning. We look forward to welcoming many alums back next summer! Bunkies will reunite and family members will finally have the chance to experience this place they've been hearing SO MUCH about. The benefit that many don't anticipate is the connections you'll make with Brown Ledges from other eras. You'll love the similarities in stories shared by an alumna who was at camp 20 years before you! There's nothing quite like having so much in common with people you've just met. Stay tuned for details at brownledge.org/alumnae.

Regional Reunions

We enjoyed connecting with Brown Ledges in a variety of places in the past year, including New York City, Atlanta, Virginia, and Washington D.C. We look forward to more opportunities in the coming year! Please share your photos when you have a Brown Ledge reunion in your neck of the woods.



Work Weekend June 1-2, 2019

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with Brown Ledge – not just the people, but the place – and help get camp ready for the campers and counselors of 2019. With a wide variety of projects to choose from such as painting, weeding and gardening, cleaning cabins, and much more, you can be part of making sure we're ready for our 93rd summer season! There will be tasks and projects for every age and ability, and you can get the added satisfaction of sleeping in the cabin you just cleaned! Saturday breakfast through Sunday lunch provided.

E-News & Mailings

Stay up on all the Brown Ledge news! You won't miss a thing as long as we can connect with you. We send occasional mailings, a monthly e-newsletter, and this annual printed publication, *Brown Ledge Magazine*. If you don't already receive them and would like to, please send your email and mailing address to maria@brownledge.org or via the Alumnae Contact page on our website at brownledge.org/alumnae.

Foundation, Corporate & Matching Gifts

- 2 Karoline Schwartz
- 1 Leslie Schwartz Powers
- 2 Erica Scott
- 2 Brittany Seraphin
- 17 Bonnie Shepherd Yocum
- 2 The Sherman Family
- 2 Amy Shinn
- 1 Samantha Shinn
- 9 Emily Silman
- 8 Adrienne Skinner
- 9 Alexandra Slack Hindle
- 13 Marty Smith Simonds
- 2 Emma Sonduck
- 6 Hannah Steckler
- 8 Susan Steele Guswa
- 12 Wendy Stifel Hansen
- 6 Barbi Stott Carins
- 1 Chelsea Straus
- 7 Hilary Strimple
- 1 Meaghan Sugrue
- 6 Lily Tandon
- 1 Monica & Brendan Taylor
- 2 Goelet Family Foundation
- 9 The Gornick Fund
- 3 Greene County Community Foundation
- 10 Hawk Rock Foundation
- 2 JJCJ Foundation, Inc.
- 2 Gail and James Kellogg Family Fund of the Community Foundation of NJ
- 2 Peter R. & Cynthia K. Kellogg Foundation
- 19 Kidder Smith Fund at the Boston Foundation
- 1 Match Point Fund of Fidelity Charitable
- 6 Meerwarth Family Foundation
- 6 Moody's Matching Gift Foundation
- 5 Network for Good
- 2 Olberg Charitable Trust
- 1 Eleanor Prowell, Ann Prowell Reihmann, Elizabeth Mitchell
- 4 The James and Nancy Pierson Foundation
- 1 Hannah Lindecke
- 11 Progressive Insurance Foundation
- 2 Stealing from Work Theater Company
- 5 The Switchback Beerworks
- 3 Anonymous
- 8 Title Family Fund of Fidelity Charitable
- 1 UBS Matching Gift Program
- 4 Viking Global Foundation, Inc.
- 9 David & Candace Weir Foundation

In Kind Gifts

Lori Angstadt
Designer's Circle Jewelers
Michael Grace
Bill & Kathy Neilsen
Emily Silman
Kari Stevermmmer & Evan Olson
Elisabeth West

- Continued on page 31

BULLET iN b o a r d



Bill Bartlett (S 97-05) and **Jean Lincoln Bartlett** (C 94-95, JC 96-97, S 04) announced the birth of Tyler on November 2, 2017, pictured here with big brother Bo.



Brown Ledges gathered at **Nat Knorr's** bridal shower. Pictured here are **Kylie Mullins**, **Isabelle Fenn**, **Xandra Clark**, **Nat Knorr**, **Hillary Strimble**, **Natalie Meltzer**, and **Alex Meltzer**



Compiled by *Lyda Blank*



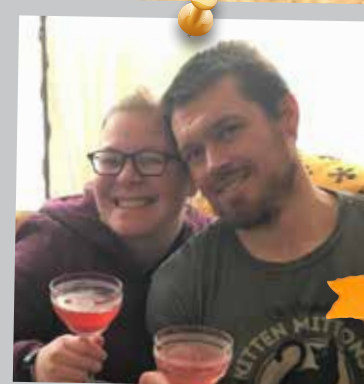
Emiko Bennet (S 07-08, 10-11) became engaged to **Andrew Chrusciel** over Thanksgiving break, 2017. A September Vermont wedding is planned.



Ellie Prowell (C 98-02, JC 03-04, S 08-10) writes, "I married my husband, **Giancarlo Parenti** in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and had seven Brown Ledges by my side," including **Jude Dry**, **Grace Rumford**, **Katharine Watson**, **Ellie Prowell**, **Steve Bednasz**, **Greta Hysjulien Jeffrey**, **Katie Heller** and **Ann Prowell Reihmann**.



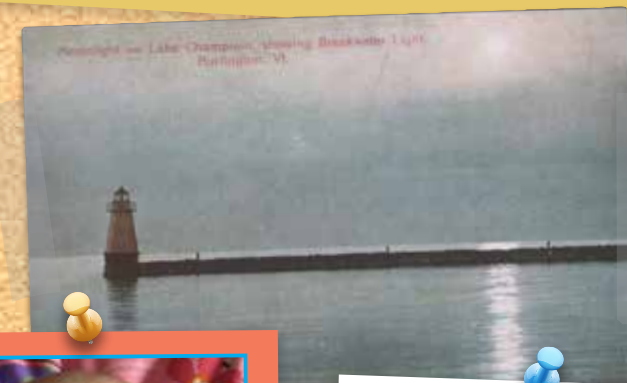
Charlotte McCorkel (C 95-99, JC 00-01, S 03) welcomed future Brown Ledger **Remi Louise McCorkel** on November 9th, 2017. **Nana Jan Kline** (C 67-71, JC 72, S 14-15) and aunt **Hunter McCorkel** (98-02, JC 03-04) are thrilled with their new roles!



Eliza Murawski (C 98-00, JC 01-02, S 04) is planning to wed **Andrew McAvoy**. "He proposed in December at our home in Graniteville VT. The wedding will take place sometime this summer."



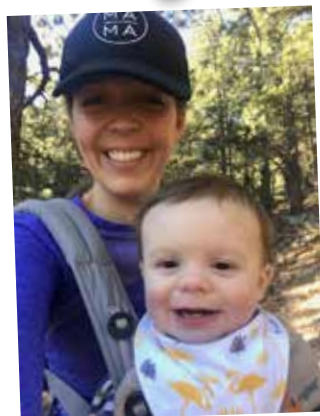
Celena McLaurin (S 99, 03, 05) tells us that **Olivia** was born March 8, completing the **Zaworski-McLaurin** family of 5 which includes older sister **Emma** (12) and brother **Zach** (10).



Fiona Claire (S 05-08) and **Robert Wands** announced the birth of their daughter **Innis Maia** on the 5th of June 2017.



Garland Middleton (C 01-05, JC 04, S 07-09) became engaged to her college sweetheart, **Max Lasky** while hiking in Crested Butte, Colorado.



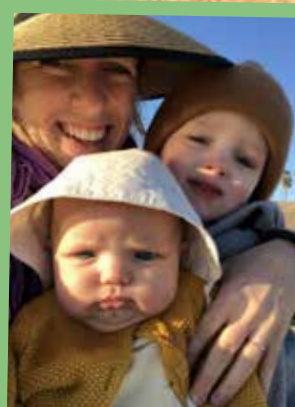
Anne Chernick Brousseau (C 92-96, JC 97-98, S 00-01) and husband **Tim** announced the birth of **William Brousseau** on June 6, 2017.



Ryan Dorety Gardner (S 01-02, 04) brought baby **Reece**, ("a future BLC rifle counselor and NCSU rifle team member") who was born to **Ryan** and **Chris Gardner** on September 16th, 2017 to a reunion with **Noel Keck** and (front) **Ann Hunt** and **Edie Fleeman**.



Noel Keck (S 06-08) writes, "my fiancé **Dirk Porter** proposed to me on August 12th, 2017 while hiking a trail in Glacier National Park. We plan to get married in June 2018 in one of our favorite places, Jackson Hole, Wyoming."



Devon Bergum (S 04-05, 07, 09) and husband **Ross Ballinger** (S 09) announced the birth of **Simone** on December 11th. Their son **Ellis** is 2.



Julia Proctor (C 96-99, JC 00-01, S 03-04, 17-18) and **Phil Aroneanu** welcomed their daughter **Orli Aroneanu Proctor** into the world on March 26th. **Orli** is very excited to be a Brown Ledge Baby this summer... and she thanks **Kylie Mullins** for the swag!



Jan and **Rachel (Lincoln) Grindrod** (C 99-01, JC 02), **Henry** (4) and **Susannah** (2) welcomed twin girls in January 2018- **Alice** and **Jane**. "Now we have 3 future Brown Ledges!"



Mona and Mike McCruden came to town, prompting a reunion that included (front row) **Barbara Bagel Muench, Mona McCruden, LeeAnne Hutchinson, Grant Neale** and (back row) **B Mann, Lyda Blank, and Mike McCruden**



Congratulations to **Julia Rumford Bethune** (C 98-00, JC 01) & **Richard Bethune** as they welcomed Elliott Lewis Bethune into their family on 2/12/18!



Hannah Fregolle (01-02) married **Michael Burdick** on January 20th in New Orleans



Dicky (S 05-12, 14) and **Chelsea Hayward** (S 11) announced the birth of their daughter **Louise Vera** on the 19th of November, 2017. She is pictured with big brother **Isaac**.



Jackie Thomas Runne (C 00-05, JC 06) writes that she and her husband **Adam** welcomed **Henry Durham Halcott Runne** on December 11th. Bunkie **Kendall Henzelman** came for the baby shower; "we are still BFFs 18 years later!"



"Our little future Brown Ledger" **Chloé Carter** was born to **Liam Carter** and **Karine Nadeau Carter** (C 92-98, JC 99-00, S 04-08) on June 17th 2017.



Sister, bunksies, and friends came to see **Peregrine Heard's** show, **Sheila, Alison Kopit, Peregrine Heard, B Mann, and Clarion Heard**.



Mills Knight Howland (S 03, 05-08) and husband **Josh** announced the birth of **Troy Ryan Howland** on October 4, 2017 "His big siblings **Margo** and **Russell** love him!"



"We just unpacked them from Amazon," wrote **John Murphy** (S 02-08) when he sent this picture of his two children, 9 month-old **Patrick** and three year-old **Cora**.



A barn crew reunion was held at the Olympia Horse Show. Pictured are **Karis Bailey** (05-06), **Samantha Reynolds** (07-08), **Fiona Laird Wands** (05-08), **Fran Moore** (06-07), and **Rachel Price** (05-07).



Elsie Lynn (C 99-02, JC 03-04) and **Oliver Parini** announced the birth of their daughter **Ida Lynn Parini** on April 1, 2018, which was both April Fool's Day and Easter. **Ida's** parents write, "We think this baby has a good sense of humor!"



Steve Fleck, who spent 5 years (91-95) as a staff kid, and his wife, **Katie** announced the birth (6 weeks early!) of **Rosalie Helen Fleck** on 10/21/17. "She and her sister **Nora** are future BLer's!!"



Proud Gramma, **Robin Manookian Fleck** (C 71-74, JC 74-75, S 91-95) holds **Hugh** and **Rosie**



Laura Fleck (C 96-01, JC 02-03, S 07) and **Peter Brannen** announced the birth of **Hugh Robert Brannen Fleck** on September 17th, 2017.



Holly Stevens (02-05) became engaged to **Matthew Lockhoff** at Alumnae Camp Ledger! They plan to marry in Philadelphia this summer.



Charles Holzem Podvin was born to **Erin** and **Josh Podvin** (S 03-06, BLF 08-14) on September 18th, 2017.



In November, **Katie Reynolds** (C 99-04, JC 05, S 8-10, 12-14) announced her engagement to **Marlon Brevé** in St. Petersburg, FL.

Dorothy Butler Adams

Dorothy Butler (Fardelmann) Adams died in Colchester, VT, on January 4th at the age of 96. Her long association with Brown Ledge began in 1938. Dorothy was a member of BLC's first drill team, she was head of Arts and Crafts, and later she became director of Camp Kiniya when it was acquired by camp founder Harry E. Brown. Later in life, Dorothy worked in the BLC winter office answering letters and served on the scholarship committee with Twylla Fishel for many years. Like Barbara Winslow, her bunkie and lifelong friend, Dorothy attended Arlington Hall Junior College. She was an avid rider and member of the mounted drill there. Later in life, Dorothy returned to school (the University of Vermont) where she received her BA at the age of 81. She continued at UVM, earning a Master's Degree in history and women's studies at age 87. She was proud to be the university's oldest BA and MA recipient. Dorothy is survived by two children, both Brown Ledge counselors. Lee Birdsey taught canoeing (1965-66), and Bob Fardelmann was the ski boat driver and head of sailing (1967-76, BLF 00-06).



ALUMNI

Jim Pembroke

Jim Pembroke was an important person at Brown Ledge Camp, yet few Brown Ledgeers know his name. In the late 1980s, Bill Neilsen convinced his winter neighbor to take on camp fix-it jobs in his spare time. What began as a post-retirement hobby became a 20-year passion that benefited us all. Jim became legendary for his steady and tireless approach to a wide array of building and fix-it jobs. The cabins were his specialty: He single handedly jacked them up and leveled, squared, and repaneled them. He fixed their screens, rebuilt their doors, and patched their leaky roofs. Jim took great pride in his work, and he wasn't satisfied until each cabin was just right. He was kind and sociable and ready to share his dry sense of humor with anyone at camp during the spring and fall, but it was no secret that what Jim loved most was the beauty and solitude of Brown Ledge in the off-season. Jim died on February 15th at the age of 96. Jim's son, Peter, spent a summer working at Brown Ledge, and his granddaughter, Gabby Pembroke, is entering her 5th camper year.

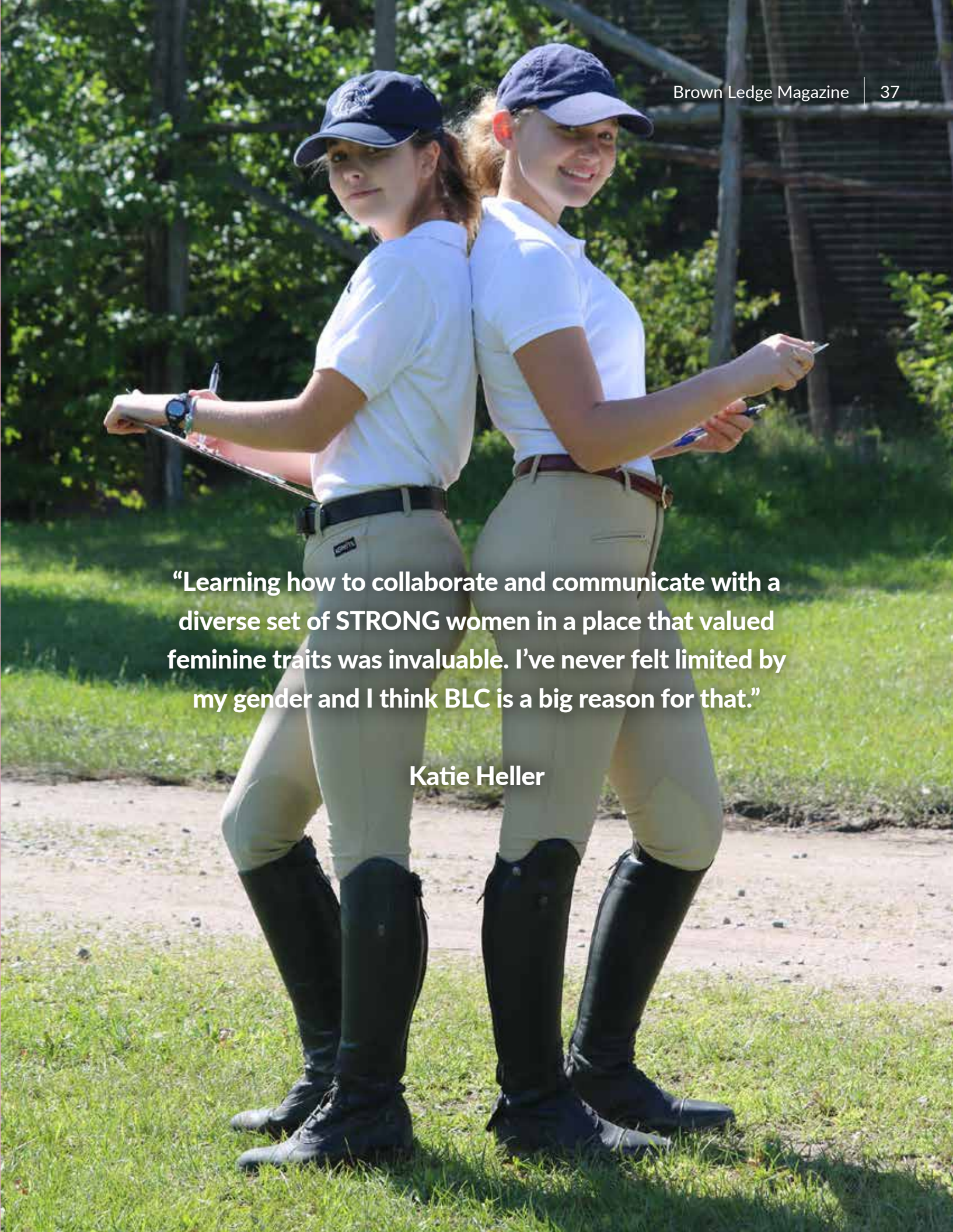
Nell Tredway Hardy

Longtime Brown Ledger, Nell Tredway Hardy died at age 59 in July of 2017 after waging a brave, eight-year battle against amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Nell spent recent years in Fairview, PA, where she founded Ridgewood Farms and trained horses. She was an active member of the Erie Hunt and Saddle Club and the US Eventing Association. Nell was diagnosed with ALS in 2009 but she remained determined to fight her disease. She founded a support group for people with ALS and wrote a monthly newspaper column (she eventually learned to "eye-type") called "Not to Worry," an introspective view of the changes that ALS brought to her and the lives of those who loved her. "Within reason, I can do anything," she once wrote. "It may take a village, but I am standing up to this disease: I will not let it squish my spirit." Nell earned the Award of Courage from the Sisters of Saint Joseph. She is survived by her sons Brendan, Connor, and Emmet Hardy.

OBITUARIES

Beth Taylor

Beth Taylor, who attended Brown Ledge in the mid-1940s, died in April 2017 at the age of 87. Born in Richmond, VA, Beth graduated from Wellesley College in 1951 and received a Masters of Education from Harvard in 1953. Early education was a life-long passion. She was a teacher and principal in England, where she transformed a village school into a renowned open classroom environment that emphasized projects, art, and outdoor activities. Beth returned to the US where she taught teachers in several different colleges and co-founded The Mission School in Roxbury, MA. Beth had many interests: she was an avid traveler, and she was passionate about local and sustainable agriculture. Upon moving to Lincoln, MA, in 1982, Beth quickly became involved in Codman Community Farms, a non-profit working farm, serving on the Board of Directors for three different terms, most recently as President of the Board. Beth will be remembered for her strong passions, consideration of others, commitment to social justice, and indomitable energy. She is survived by her husband of 14 years, Tim Barclay.



“Learning how to collaborate and communicate with a diverse set of STRONG women in a place that valued feminine traits was invaluable. I’ve never felt limited by my gender and I think BLC is a big reason for that.”

Katie Heller