

# The Valley View



*PVC* Monthly Report



## Director's Update By Beth Dales



It is my pleasure to update you on the latest happenings at our beloved camp. As we gear up for the summer season, I am happy to report that sessions 2 and 3 are now full! Thank you to all the families who have registered their children, and we look forward to welcoming them to an unforgettable summer experience.

Our staff hiring is also almost complete, and we are thrilled to have such a talented and enthusiastic team joining us this year. We are still looking for a PVC Waterski Boat Driver, an Equestrian Director, an Assistant Chef (exciting news- Abiel is now our head chef as Brent has decided to give Sandy Island a go), and lastly, we need one more for the Maintenance Crew. If you know anyone who fits the bill and is passionate about working on our camp team in a fun and educational setting, please don't hesitate to refer them to us.

In other news, our Directors on Tour program was a great success. Our team visited various YGB branch locations, meeting with families and answering questions about our camp. We were thrilled to connect with so many new and returning families, and we can't wait to see them all at camp this summer.

We were delighted to welcome architect designers to our camp to begin the steps for the Mac Hall expansion. Our goal is to make our facilities even more comfortable and welcoming for our campers, and we are excited to see the progress being made.

I am thrilled to report that our recent board retreat at the end of January was a great success. Our board members came together to discuss the strategic direction of our camp and to brainstorm ideas for enhancing the camper experience, as well as plan for our 95th and 55th reunions.

One of the highlights of the retreat was our breakout sessions, where board members were divided into smaller groups to discuss specific topics and share their perspectives. These sessions were highly productive, with board members offering insightful feedback and ideas that we will incorporate into our strategic plan for the future.

Overall, the retreat was an excellent opportunity for our board members to connect with one another and to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing our camp. We are excited to put the ideas generated at the retreat into action and to continue building on our success in the years to come.

Thank you to all of our board members for their commitment to our camp and for their hard work and dedication at the retreat. We are grateful for their leadership and look forward to working together to ensure the continued success of our camp.

Thank you for your continued support of Pleasant Valley, and we look forward to seeing you all soon!

## Announcements!

### OPEN HOUSES

SUNDAY, APRIL 16TH (VIRTUAL)

SUNDAY, APRIL 30TH

SUNDAY, MAY 7TH

### 2023 Camper Session Dates:

Session 1: June 25 - July 8

Session 2: July 9 - July 22

Session 3: July 23 - August 5

Session 4: August 6 - August 19

### NW AND PVC FAMILY CAMP

AUGUST 20TH-26TH

### 55th Reunion

September 1st-3rd



"When I learn to live serenely, cares will cease"



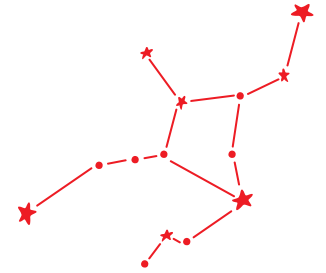
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North Woods Overnight Camp for Boys  
Pleasant Valley Overnight Camp for Girls  
Sandy Island Family Camp



# The Board Report

By Helen Jenkins (Forth)



Hello wonderful PVC family – it’s my privilege and honour to say hello from England in the cold of the winter months and to take a few minutes to indulge in everything PVC. Having been one of the first international staff members at PVC just 31 years ago! I am fortunate to be able to continue my involvement (remotely) as part of the dedicated PVC Committee. A few things have changed at PVC since my time and much has changed in the world but, the magic and legacy of camp remains the same. I can say that with first-hand knowledge as both my son and daughter have recently attended NW and PVC as campers and I’m so proud to be able to have given them that very special opportunity. As a water baby, I spent most of my time on the deck at Shangri-La, teaching swimming but I remember so vividly the skits, songs, tears and laughter that we shared and that have made me who I am today. Camp has had an everlasting and positive impact on my life as it helped me develop important life skills that I continue to use in my career and family life – listening, collaboration and teamwork to name a few. The core YMCA values of Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility are often mentioned in the Jenkins household! Just as important to me are the life-long friendships that I cherish and the joy of watching our children making friends with each other at camp - history repeating itself. I often wonder what all the PVC campers and staff, old and new are up to and it’s been great to connect with some on the alumni committee. How lucky we all are to be a small part of something so great and to rest in the knowledge that PVC continues to help young girls grow into strong, independent women. I’m coming across the pond for the 55th Reunion at PVC on Labour Day Weekend so hope to celebrate with lots of you alumni there. Peace and Taps out xxx



## D.I.V.E

### Question of the Month

You have to pick the greatest sports team for color war this summer, who are you picking and why?

## Shooting Stars

'A Camper Testimonial'  
with Ryan Self



“My name is Ryan Self. I’ve been going to camp for about eight years now. I first started when I was seven, and I’ve grown to love this place like a second home. I am always so excited to come back each summer; I mourn when I have to leave at the end. I have discovered so much about myself from camp and made some of the best friends I could ever ask for. It will always have a place in my heart.

- Ryan Self 2023 CIT

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# Linda's Loons

"The Summer Staff Update"



## Camp is a Special Place

By Ken Abrahams

Years ago, singer songwriter Joni Mitchell performed a song Big Yellow Taxi. There is a line in the song that talks about paving paradise and putting up a parking lot. Luckily the steamrollers have stayed far away from Northwoods / Pleasant Valley, and you can still visit paradise. As a matter of fact, it is less than 3 hours from Boston but a world away from the cement and steel of most cities.

If you have kids, grandkids, nieces or nephews or you have friends with kids there is no better place to spend a summer than at these two magnificent camps. Unfortunately, I found camp when I was too old to attend as a camper but worked 4 wonderful years as a staff member. Both of our sons went to camp there and for more than 40 years it is where I spend Memorial Day weekend.

Where else can you swim in a beautiful spring fed lake that offers a whole host of other activities. Learn to sail or take a kayak out. Go waterskiing or simply sit on the beach and take in the incredible scenery. Camp allows kids to be kids. It is a place where they can learn, grow, make new friends, get their hands dirty and create memories that will last a lifetime.

If you are an alum come back and see the place. Yes, it has changed but for the better. What hasn't changed is the lake is still cold, the Loons can be heard at night and the stars are amazing. You are always welcome to visit and even more welcome to lend a hand. During the summer I am a frequent visitor and love meeting new staff and seeing campers doing some of the same things that the campers I worked with were doing more than 40 years ago. Camp is a special place and I am lucky that I have great memories from my time there in the 70's and 80's and more memories as recently as last year. Yup, camp is a very special place.

## Welcome to our 2023 EC Staff Team

Beth Dales Director

Anna Kuklinski Assistant Director

Holly Mowbray Program Quality/Mentor

Anna Feloni Middler Village Leader

Evie Boulstridge Junior Village Leader

Sarah Huckman Senior Village Leader

Alex McArdle CIT Director

Bella Morant LIT Director

## Radio Check

Returning Executive Council Member:

Sarah Huckman

Hi y'all I'm Sarah Huckman (She/Her), I am from Ossipee NH, but I am currently living in Durham NH finishing up my senior year of college at UNH studying Communication. I'm so excited to be working my 7th summer at camp as the Senior Village Leader! My favorite camp activities are drama, dance, and hanging out on the waterfront. When I am not at camp I enjoy photography, filming, and singing! I'm super excited to be back this summer and can't wait to make more memories with yall!



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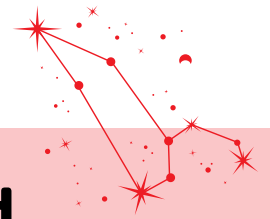
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# Pleasant Valley Camp Improvement Fund

Pleasant Valley Camp for girls was founded in 1969 offering an environment where campers and staff come together to create a community of respect, teamwork and self-discovery. For all campers – but especially campers in need, camp is a safe space to learn and grow. Camp offers programming rooted in tradition and focused on improving both physical and mental health while empowering campers to be the best they can be. A gift of ANY size to our Annual Fund supports camper scholarships which eliminate access barriers to our programming to our most deserving campers. This year, we have also developed a special fund called the "Pleasant Valley Camp Improvement Fund" which will allocate funds to two very vital projects at camp:

## Project 1: The Expansion of Mac Hall

Mac Hall is too small for our growing community. Last year we had to split our camp between Mac Hall and swing-space located underneath to meet fire code. We need to get our campers all back together during meals for the singing and chanting and for the sense of ONE community that comes from gathering the camp together.

## Project 2: The Renovation Completion of Shangri-La

Your help truly matters and will ensure these projects will happen and that our camp is better than ever for the generations to come.

**Thank you for choosing the Pleasant Valley Community for your charitable support!**

Donate Here



# 55th Reunion

September 1st-3rd

We are thrilled to announce that registration is now open for the 55th Pleasant Valley Camp reunion! This is an exciting opportunity for all of us to come together and celebrate the rich history and legacy of our beloved camp. For nearly a century, Pleasant Valley Camp has been a place of growth, learning, and friendship for thousands of campers and staff. This reunion is a chance to reconnect with old friends, share memories and stories, and rediscover the magic of camp.

The reunion will take place on September 1st-3rd. We have planned full days of activities and events that will allow you to relive some of your favorite camp experiences and create new memories with old friends. You can look forward to:

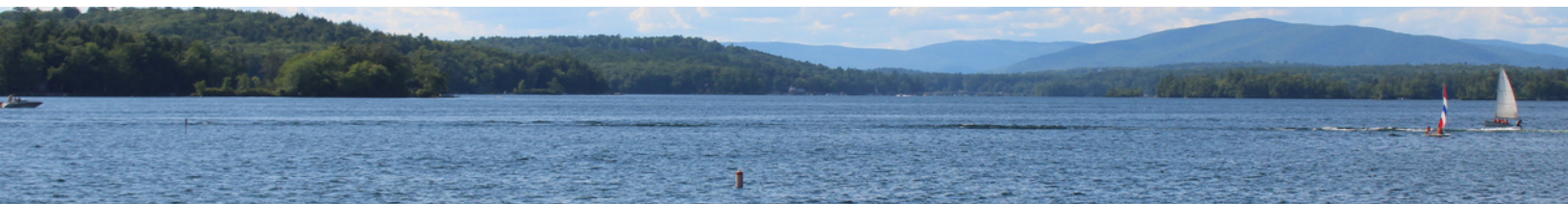
- Hiking and exploring the beautiful grounds of Pleasant Valley Camp
- Participating in classic camp activities, such as archery, canoeing, and arts and crafts
- Enjoying a delicious barbecue and Mac Hall dinners
- Sharing stories and reminiscing with fellow campers and staff from all eras

Registration is easy and can be done by following the QR code link provided in this newsletter. We encourage you to register as soon as possible to secure your spot and ensure that we have an accurate headcount for planning purposes.

The cost for the reunion is \$115 per person, which includes all activities and meals. Other options on pricing is available, please check the link.

We cannot wait to see you all at the 55th Pleasant Valley Camp reunion. This is a special occasion that you won't want to miss, so register today and spread the word to your fellow campers and staff!

## Registration is Open!



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