

The Ivy Twines
Quarterly Alumni Newsletter

Alumni Spotlight: Carl Buck -- Cathy Horne

Carl Buck is a friendly, generous, funny and humble former Mohawk camper and two-time Board Member. He grew up in the "boonies" of Branford, CT, at a time before I-95 existed, when the area was very rural, and he spent most of his time playing alone in the woods with his dog. His Mom had been a camper at Mohawk in 1937 (or so) and brought him to Camp in 1954, when he was 11 years old. He still remembers his first counselor (Howie Hockman) and how great it was to get together with so many boys his own age, and from so many different backgrounds. For the first time, he found camaraderie and a sense of fitting in.

Carl stayed at Camp for as long as he could, as a camper, counselor, unit leader, and Director of Boating, until his last year at age 23. Like so many of us, Camp became his home away from home. He says, "I learned everything there: swimming, boating, canoeing, archery, hiking, wilderness skills. But most of all, I learned how to grow up."

He has very fond memories of Tom Q. Moore, the long-time Camp Executive Director with a kind heart and a gentle British sense of humor. Tom set the standard for teaching children and young adults; treating them with respect, gentle guidance, and warmth. Even now, Carl has a similar attitude and demeanor.

Carl remembers taking campers for a hike to the fire tower in one of his later years, and uncharacteristically getting everyone lost on the way back down. He took them back up to the ranger's house and called Camp to send up the old yellow truck so they wouldn't have to walk down in the dark. Carl was embarrassed (isn't this every counselor's nightmare?), but the kids had a blast. It felt extra special because they got a private meal in the dining hall after everyone else had eaten earlier. Tom Moore's handling of this error? He told Carl he must have done it on purpose because he'd been at Camp too long, and accused him of doing it just so the kids could have fun.

Carl earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Emerson College in Boston as a Broadcast major (where his classmates were "the Fonz" Henry Winkler and Vin deBona of America's Funniest Home Videos). He spent many of his professional years working at

various large and small, private and public colleges and universities in Student Services helping students navigate the complicated systems of financial aid. He started in the field in the early 70s when it was very new and became a recognized expert as the Director of Financial Aid at Rutgers, Rice, and UCLA, and Vice President of Financial Aid at the University of New Mexico. (Ask him sometime about the day he spent with Sir Laurence Olivier while working at UCLA). He went on to serve as Vice President for Chase Student Loans and as a Senior Consultant with Discover Student Loans.

While working as the Vice President of Student Services at Peterson's College Guide, Carl connected with the CEO of Springer Books (a publisher of academic journals and books in the medical fields) who asked him to write a book. With



Rick Darvis, who wrote the personal stories, Carl wrote about financial aid from the point of view of colleges. Their collaboration, "Get a Jump! The Student Aid Answer Book," was published 25 years ago. They just published their second book, "Pay for Your Graduate Nursing Education Without Going Broke," in January 2020.

As so many things do, this newest book got its start at Mohawk. On his most recent visit to Camp in 2017, Carl met a Unit Leader who wanted to go to NYU for a graduate degree in



nursing, but was struggling with the cost. Carl said she gave him the influence and inspiration for developing his latest book.

And as for Camp, Carl said he felt such positive energy in that last visit that "it starts when you hit the Camp road" (and don't we know it!). The positivity continued with the wonderful improvements he saw and with the spirit of the staff and alumni that weekend. He's amazed at the consistency of his depth and feeling for Camp, what he described as "an ethereal feel we all have." It's one that he has had for 66 years and counting.

In keeping with his generous spirit, Carl has graciously offered to send a free copy of his newest book to any former Mohawker who is entering the nursing field and looking for help in financing college or graduate school. He can be reached at carlhuck@gmail.com.

Mohawk Co-Ed Day Camp Summer 2020 -- Karen Luttenberger

Driving to Camp I admit I had mixed feelings. Day Camp? At Mohawk? Memories of campfires, walks to the Lighthouse in the dark, the bugle in the morning, and a thousand other experiences raced through my head. Then I made the turn onto the Camp road. Inevitably, the old excitement of driving that road and the anticipation of arriving at Mohawk took over. Halfway up the road, a new sign was posted – Mohawk Day Camp. I was surprised that instead of being bummed, I smiled and took a picture.

The field is the same, albeit with no cars anywhere and lots of orange cones marking new lanes. Rec Hall – check. Pond through the trees – check. Office – check. All the same. It was



lunchtime on Friday, August 21, the last day of Mohawk Day Camp. It was so quiet, and it was a most beautiful day – no humidity, sunny and 80 degrees. Apparently, everyone was in the dining hall and so I waited a bit before entering the office to meet up with Alison Irwin. I just took in the beauty of the place. The stream was dry but, in my mind, I saw raging water and mattresses – you know who you are! On a table next to the bridge over the stream many creative arts and crafts projects were displayed. Walking into the office, Maggie (securing her facemask, mine already on) seemed genuinely happy to see an old Mohawker. The “new” office (which I had first seen at the 100th reunion) still smelled like fresh sawed wood. It was so nice to be greeted as an old friend. That’s no surprise – it is Mohawk, after all.

Alison Irwin came in. My instinct to hug had to be reined in then and so often while I was there. We decided to walk up to the dining hall so that I could speak with a camper or counselor. We chatted on the way. As I suspected, it was almost impossible for Alison to compare Day Camp with Camp as usual. Just different, yet somehow the same. It is my belief that before Day Camp at Mohawk, Alison, with Mariah, had already run her own brand of Day Camp via Instagram – Mohawk Madness. These daily (at times twice daily) virtual events were seen by so many campers over the four months from the start of the pandemic through the start of Day Camp. Let me take this opportunity to thank these two women for keeping this going. Daily activities, announcements, tours, conversations with Patrick Marchand and others allowed Mohawkers (of all ages) and potential Mohawkers to stay connected during a very trying time. It was a selfless and kind task to undertake and I am certain it made a tremendous difference to so many girls.

Arriving at the dining hall, I heard the exact same sounds that I always heard there – laughing, talking, and singing. The tables (fewer of them) were a little farther apart and the groups of campers were smaller, but I was surprised that somehow it was all OK. There were three lines of tables from the fireplace/platform to kitchen. Counselors were seated at the tables running down the center, while campers were at tables to the left and right. It seemed wide open and airy because the screens along the outer walls had been removed. Patrick (masked) was about to make an announcement so of course, everyone sang “Announcements, announcements, announcements...” and yes, I began singing along without even realizing it. All I could think of was this: everyone, EVERYONE, was so happy. I have not seen that many happy, smiling people of any age since this pandemic began. It was a wonderful feeling.

Some of the campers were younger than we alum are used to. The Chipmunks are five and six. From youngest to oldest, “units” are Chipmunks, Racoons, Beavers, Ravens, Snappers, Eagles, Bobcats, and Bears. Oh – one other difference – boys! Why not? Mohawk was once

for boys and girls (though during different sessions). Alison told me that actually there were more boys than girls; the number of campers totaled 229 between the ages of 5 and 14. The Day Camp ran from June 29 through August 21 and all groups were co-ed. There were a few siblings. These campers were all local; parents drove them every day. Patrick later told me that this local focus has presented good opportunities for Camp in terms of reaching the surrounding communities, which fall into the service area of the Northwest YMCA. Because Day Camp did not conflict with services offered by the Northwest Y, Camp was able to advertise locally for the first time.

I had a conversation with a couple of campers. One 8-year-old girl gave me the best description of how to shoot an arrow – acting out every movement while beaming with excitement about her newfound love of archery. (She was wearing a strand of Mardi Gras beads that Alison had taken off and placed around her neck moments before when the camper had commented on them. Yup. Mohawk.) Lila, the archery lover, loves Camp and has been here all summer. Another camper, a 10-year old boy said, “This is the BEST camp.” Agree. And another – “I’m going to miss this camp SO much.” I know the feeling. Incidentally, not one camper seemed to miss cell phones, which are not allowed.

On to the counselors. I spoke with a counselor who had been coming to Camp since 2009 as a camper, CIT and counselor. I asked her about evenings and nights at camp. She said it was so different, but still camp. She did mention that she gets to leave at night if she chooses. All in all, it seemed to me that it was Camp as we know it, missing that overnight connection, but her outlook was so positive. She was enjoying every minute and buoyed by the knowledge that overnight camp is right around the corner. Another incredibly happy person. Her smile was infectious.

While I was talking to campers, Fran Marchand came up to say hi. Again, not being able to hug just infuriated me for a quick second, yet somehow it was calming to see him and know he is there. How wonderful the noise in that building, the excitement as campers anticipated what was next. There is no rest hour at Day Camp – the few cabins being used are only a place to store backpacks and things. After lunch, the campers hop right into the next activity. Often, they don’t know exactly what that activity might be, so they are so excited to be surprised at what is coming. I saw and felt that as they all raced to wherever they were going.

There are six activity periods a day. There is no horseback riding, sewing, or ceramics, but the great thing is that most activities are offered just like sleepover camp. Each counselor pretty much directs what the group will do on a daily basis. There is a meeting every morning and afternoon to plan and review. There are no swim lessons per se – there is a daily free swim and another water time for fishing, boating and canoeing. Sometimes lunch is at the new Treehouse. There is also a closing circle at the end of each day, which connects all campers and staff. I asked if campers sang many of the usual Camp songs and was happy to hear that they do.

A special event happened the night before I visited – Movie Night. Campers stayed late (until 9:00 p.m.) and had pizza and watched a movie outdoors, *Abominable*. This night was a huge hit for those campers who participated. I am guessing that being at Camp in the evening is a wonderful preview for so many who will turn this summer’s Day Camp into next summer’s sleepover camp. The Day Camp is a great “feeder” for regular, sleepover over camp. In past years, most campers although from not that far away, were not from the



local area. This will probably change. The campers I saw will jump at the chance to return to Mohawk and will want overnight camp. How wonderful.



As I said, I visited on the last day of Day Camp, but there is more. A stroke of greatly needed brilliance – Camp Care. This is a flexible day program for kids who may not be in school every day of the week or whose parents need childcare for their kids when they go to work. Mohawk ran this program for these parents and kids from August 24th through Halloween. Children were in groups of ten with two counselors. While I was walking with Alison, two campers had to leave a little early and I was surprised they were so happy saying goodbye as it was the last day. Ah – Camp Care – they

were not saying goodbye; they were returning Monday. This is one great idea. The impact of Day Camp, Camp Care, and the opening of the Lighthouse showers to locals who were so impacted by recent storms and lack of electricity is powerful. We can be so proud of the way Mohawk has adapted to help others while finding creative ways to sustain itself. I know I am.

I started to drive back down the Camp road with tears in my eyes. That is nothing new – leaving Mohawk is always sad. I stopped and got out at the Camp Mohawk sign (at the end of the road as Camp comes into view) we all know. I took a selfie – I never do that. Ever. I just had to remember and have one more moment. I got back in the car and as I drove, I realized the tears were sadness at leaving Camp, frustration that overnight camp could not be this summer, but real happiness that Camp Mohawk remains and will continue. That Mohawk Spirit cannot be erased, no matter the circumstances. Day Camp has been a success – how could it not be? It's Mohawk. As Alison told me, "We're keeping it true to camp."

I would like to thank everyone at Mohawk, especially Alison, Maggie, Patrick, Mariah, and the many campers and staff for taking the time to talk with me, especially on the last day of Day Camp. The hard work, flexibility, and positive energy of all staff is astounding. You are all wonderful and cherished.

CEO Corner—Patrick Marchand

It seems as though since I've started writing these updates it's been rough news to report. I can't wait to share all the positive news about camp and what an impact we are having in our community. I can't wait to share our future plans of upgrades and needed improvements. I hope those types of CEO Corners come soon. Unfortunately, we are not there yet, we are still deep in a financial hole, and things are still looking grim for the near future. The goal is to not just have enough income to open up properly for this coming summer, but to do so without taking too much out of our capital reserve fund. The reserve fund was built up over 30 years to pay for capital improvements and large necessary equipment purchases such as a lawnmower or a steamer in the Dining Hall. Every year we budget to put some money away in this fund.

Day Camp, Camp Care, and Family Camp helped keep us from tapping into that fund for months, and new relationships in our community and local grants helped greatly. We started the Relief Fund to help with operations and we have increased our annual giving total by 23% compared to last year! We just recently made a push for an end of the year campaign and I'm hopeful we will continue that fantastic trend. There has been such wonderful support in gifts as well as kind words from donors and alumni. Just today we received a note from a donation. It was a daughter who donated \$50 of her own to help us and her mother matched it. She went on to explain how this was the young girl's idea and how much Mohawk had meant to her during her first summer in 2019. I want to thank all of you that have helped in any way through this and I hope we can start to thrive again soon.

It is the recommendation of the Y-USA Camping cabinet that overnight camps focus on opening with major restrictions again this year. It is harder in CT as we weren't allowed to open in 2020. I am focusing on advocacy at the state level. Through this I've been lucky to work closely with local legislators. I hope to help convince the state to let us be part of the conversation when making decisions about overnight camp. We do feel that we will know by the end of March. We continue to hire staff and prepare as if we will open. I believe we'll be able to open overnight camp this year, and I know our campers will be ready.

Mohawk is still being maintained daily, and my family and I go up there and enjoy its beauty every week. We'll swing at the tree house, sled down the dining hall hill, and hike on the trails. There is always warmth and a special spirit at Mohawk no matter the tough times, Mohawk will shine through.

May the spirit last a lifetime,

Patrick Marchand
CEO
YMCA Camp Mohawk

Thoughts on Mohawk Day Camp

By Kathryn Krase

There's nothing like the excitement of learning you're pregnant for the first time; wondering how old your baby girl will be when she first becomes a Jawak... What year will she be a CIT?... and then it happens: The sonogram shows a pair of testicles, and your dreams are over. LOL!

Ok. It wasn't SO dramatic when I found out Jack was going to be Jack, and not Ellie. But, I'd be lying if I didn't admit to some level of disappointment at not being able to share with him all the joys of being a Mohawker. We only have one child, and he is PERFECT! (Seriously. Ask anyone, but especially his parents)! At 13, he loves swimming, archery, tennis, and bonfires... He would have been a great Jawak, Ute, Mohican, and now, Oscadee. He's got the perfect personality for a CIT or JC. He could be an awesome Unit Leader in the future. But, it's not in the cards.

Don't get me wrong; Jack has had his own share of Mohawk fun over the years. We've brought him to every Alumni family event since his birth. Jack's been with me, my mom and my sister, as we've checked-in my nieces for their Mohawk sessions. We've done campfires at the waterfront, and sing-a-longs (with, and without guitars), and he's played plenty of tetherball while waiting for me to finish up a meeting with Fran, and now with Patrick. So, as a member of the Board of Directors during the Spring of 2020, I recused myself from the discussion related to opening Mohawk to co-ed day campers, due to the COVID19 restriction against residential camps in Connecticut. There was a financial exigency that needed a response. But, my heart was more invested in the personal advantage the situation was providing. I definitely screamed and cried a little after the Board, without my involvement, approved the co-ed day camp model for Summer 2020. Jack would finally be a REAL Mohawker. He had a great two weeks at Mohawk, for sure. But, don't take my word for it...



By Jack Cahill

Before I was a camper, I always thought that it was kind of weird that my mom went to an all-girls sleepaway camp. Since I wasn't a girl, I wouldn't get a chance to experience what it was like for her. She would always take me to camp when she had a meeting there. While she was in her meetings, I usually stayed outside the Rec Hall and played tetherball. It was fun. During alumni weekends we would go to Camp Mohawk for a few days. It was fun to be in the cabins and do archery. I always wanted to challenge Fran, but it never happened. It was always amazing to visit, but it was awkward to

be a boy at Mohawk, knowing that I couldn't be a camper. Though having a Mohawk experience was cool.

My original thought when my mom told me I was going to be a day camper this summer was that it would be cool. "I'll get to meet a lot of new people, and make new friends". Since I had been there before, I knew the counselors were really nice and that I would be treated well.

As a camper, we got to do archery and play paint tag. It was upsetting, because our team lost, but it was a really fun experience. Inflatable Gaga-ball and 9-square were my favorite activities. I didn't get to challenge Fran in archery, but I got to challenge Alison and Patrick. I beat them both. (You're next, Fran...)

I felt like I was at home at Camp Mohawk because I wasn't the only boy there this summer. It was weird for the girls who were used to it being just a girls' sleepaway camp, like my cousins Amelia and Isa. Every summer I would see them leave for their two-weeks at Mohawk. Then this summer of 2020, I got to go with them. But it was still awkward. Now that I'm a Mohawker, too, Camp Mohawk is even more fun than I thought it would be. I know that Mohawk will be an all-girls camp again after COVID, but I still hope there is a future for boys at Mohawk.

The Treehouse

2020 postponed the official debut of Mohawk's newest building, the Treehouse. Located off the main campus, the Treehouse is an aerial cabin boasting swings, a catwalk and observation platform.

Future plans for the site, which is a 10-minute walk from camp and accessible from Clark Road by car, include built-in bunks, a campfire circle and bathrooms. These amenities will make the Treehouse an ideal destination for cabins to camp overnight. Although overnight guests are still in the future, Mohawk's day campers gave the Treehouse site and its swings their seal of approval this summer.



From the Archives -- Kathryn Krase

A few questions came to me when I recently saw this postcard of Camp Mohawk in the 1920s:

- First of all, how did they get all those boys to stand still for this picture?
- Second, what did the inside of those tents look like?
- And, finally, recognizing this picture was taken a few years after the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918, did they all realize how special it was to be together in that sacred space at that time?

As we face the unknown of the next few months, or years, the memories preserved through the Camp Mohawk Archives provide us with a connection to the past, and comfort knowing that Mohawkers, and Camp Mohawk itself, have weathered local, national and international challenges over the past century, and made it through.

A hundred years from now, what memories of Camp Mohawk from the 2020s will endure, and serve to provide strength to the Mohawkers of the 2120s

to surmount whatever challenge they are facing at the time?

- The nimbleness of Camp Mohawk to convert to a coed day camp, when the residential camping season was cancelled?
- The outpouring of financial generosity of campers and alumni when Camp Mohawk needed it the most?
- The way our campers and alumni used digital means to stay connected, and engaged, at a time when so many of us feel alone?
- All of these ways, much like the image of a hundred boys lined up outside their tents, show that the Spirit of Mohawk Lasts MORE than a Lifetime.



To share your Mohawk Memories with the archive, please send digital copies of materials to alumni@campmohawk.org, or mail physical pieces for donation to YMCA Camp Mohawk Archives, PO Box 1209, Litchfield, CT 06759.

Lost and Found

One of the goals of the Camp Mohawk Alumni Association (CMAA) is to be able to say “we’re all together again, we’re here, we’re here!” Mohawkers, we need your help finding the following alumni:

- Dini McCurry (1970s)
- Liz Johnson (1970s), hometown Westport, CT

In the Winter 2019 edition of **The Ivy Twines**, we asked for help locating Peggy Bailey. We’re happy to announce Peggy is the first alumna to be found! Peggy has joined the Camp Mohawk Alumni Association group on Facebook, and you can read about her life since Mohawk in this edition’s Alumni Updates!

If you have alumni that you would like to find, please send an email to alumni@campmohawk.org. If you are in contact with the alumnae listed above, please encourage them to get in touch via email or through CampMinder.

Question of the Quarter

For the next edition, we want to hear all about your favorite camp food. Send us an email at alumni@campmohawk.org or leave a comment on the Question of the Quarter post in the Camp Mohawk Alumni Association Facebook group.

Last edition, we asked what your favorite place on Camp was. Come join the discussion on the CMAA Facebook page and see all the responses. Some responses are included below.

Lucy Effron: Waterfront. And any campfire.

Liz Rose: The Rec Hall and walking on any of the dirt roads (with friends)

Amy Nelson: The archery field gazebo! I worked archery for rec period before dinner and op rec Sunday. Such a great gathering place for other counselors or campers (if they weren't practicing to beat Fran). So many summers spent reading, journaling and chatting with friends...when it seemed the entire camp was at the water front on those hot days!

MJ Curtin May: I've always enjoyed the chapel for pensive moods.

Katherine Campbell Perras: Chapel and the Dining Hall...Food for the soul and then food for my belly with lots of fun singing—and then the Rec Hall and the path through the leeching fields and the CIT lodge.

Romi Konorty: My favorite place was the third ring at the stables! It was perfectly split between being able to see the rest of camp and giving a glimpse into the woods leading elsewhere, which made me feel like the main character in a movie somehow!

Julia Zorthian: The costume room backstage in the Rec Hall is one of my favorite places in the world. There was always this thick, hot stillness within, no matter how crazy rehearsing or performing was outside the narrow doorway. And the smell of well-worn linens in summer can bring me right back there. I loved the togetherness at camp, but in a tiny room I found solitary wonder at how lucky I was to be in that precise spot, performing and being a part of something bigger than me. Later on, a squash coach told me to envision myself in a calming and empowering place every time I walked onto the service box on the court. So for years after leaving Mohawk, I "stepped" back into that costume closet room where I could focus and nothing could get to me. It's been a while, but if I close my eyes today I can still walk inside!

Robin Jones: The big smooth rocks (now between the lighthouse and archery field) used to be just an open field... I would sit on those rocks and look at the stars and just ponder just about anything.

Jennifer Hochberg Toller: The brook for "hangout" in the afternoons! Can't forget the arts 'n crafts nook....loved being there!

Sue Kastriner Lawrence: The porch on the Oscadee cabin that faced the waterfront. Great spot to watch thunder storms. Also walking/running the path from the waterfront up to the cabins (in bare feet or flip flops).

Christy Schilling: Oddly enough, I'd have to say the flagpole in front of the dining hall. Specifically the big rock. I just loved how we all gathered there and yelled out our unit names. Don't get me wrong. I loved the Ute unit campfire and the staff cabin, the waterfront and the chapel. I once drove the old red truck down that chapel path trying to revive it. I love it all. But somehow, meeting at the flagpole before dinner and Cindy's announcements after were my favorite times. We were family. And we sang! Every day!

Marlene Ostrow: Wow, a fun tough question to answer. I will say the Waterfront, the flagpole, the Oscadee and Senior cabins, the dining hall and every single Camp Mohawk campfire with singing! I am filled with love and nostalgic joy just thinking about these places now!

Alumni Updates

Peggy Bailey writes: I have recently retired after spending most of the last 42 years as a social worker at the Connecticut Mental Health Center (CMHC) in New Haven. In fact, I took a day-off from my Mohawk job during the summer of 1978 to interview for my first job at CMHC! I had spent many happy summers at Mohawk, first as a camper, and then as a counselor, unit director and CIT director, and I like to think that the seeds of my interests in people and public service were planted there. My long and satisfying career at CMHC gave me the privilege of working with and on behalf of underserved people struggling with serious mental illness and addiction, first as a clinician and later as the facility clinical director, when I was responsible for planning and implementing new services in response to both innovations in the field, as well as continuous funding challenges; always with an eye towards reducing the health-and mental health-care disparities our service-recipients faced every day.



My husband Jim is also a social worker, and we raised two wonderful daughters together. Neither of them would agree to try overnight camp, but they did pick up on our interest in public service! Erica (30) is an elementary school teacher in CT, balancing the demands of in-person and virtual teaching responsibilities in this age of Covid, while joining the ranks of the many Covid brides who have had to alter or postpone their wedding plans! Lauren (27) is an occupational therapist at a public hospital in NYC. She worked directly with Covid patients during the peak of the pandemic last Spring, and anticipates doing so again as hospitalization rates soar. We're saddened and humbled by the power of this devastating illness, but ever so grateful and proud of the bravery of our daughters and all of the other essential workers out there.

I am very happy to have been "found" by Cathy Horne and Lucy Effron, after many years of disconnection from Mohawk and to learn that Mohawk is still going strong! Reading the alumni Facebook posts, listening to old camp songs, and reminiscing about the people and place that were so special to me has been a source of joy for me in recent months, and I truly look forward to the next alumni gathering! In the meanwhile, I wish you all good health, peace and happiness as we leave 2020 behind, for what will hopefully be a brighter new year.

Peggy can be reached via email at mbailey923@optimum.net

Alicia Comesana Vila writes: Camp Mohawk has always been a defining part of my life. As a new camper back in 1974, I immediately felt like I was meeting a family I didn't know but to which I knew I already belonged. Camp Mohawk became a home and a family where I felt like a "salted version" – an enhanced version – of myself. The seeds of growth, self-awareness, and friendships (like none other) were definitely planted – and nurtured during my years at Camp Mohawk. A large part of who I am (including my love of nature, appreciation of the sisterhood of women friends, leadership skills and willingness to put myself out there without the fear of being judged) is a direct result of my time at Camp Mohawk.

As a mother of two daughters, one of the best parenting moves I made was giving them the chance to experience Camp Mohawk. While I knew the endless possibilities that existed for them to grow, I also knew that their time there was theirs alone to experience. It was remarkable witnessing them enjoy their unique versions of what I remember experiencing so many years earlier. It was also remarkable how when walking the paths, my body remembered every rock and root that defined the topography of Camp Mohawk. That muscle memory was as alive as if I was 17! Through the years, program content changed with the times and facility improvements had been made, but the essence of Camp Mohawk had not changed whatsoever. That indomitable Mohawk spirit really does last a lifetime. As a professional, I run the summer day camp program for a municipality in Connecticut. What is most important to me in this capacity is ensuring that the heart of the program be massaged and nurtured. The human connections – camper-to-camper, staff-to-camper and staff-to-staff are what give the program meaning and value. I have taken much of what I learned and acquired at Camp Mohawk and integrated it into the day-to-day operations. From developing a CIT program to insisting every year each camp runs a Color Wars event; from the importance of balancing small group activities with camp-wide activities to making each kid feel valued, I probably put more heart into the “product” I provide than is necessary, but I can’t help it. Camp Mohawk made me that way. Camp Mohawk means “coming home” to me. It is a part of my soul, a part of the fabric of who I am, and for that I am eternally grateful. Camp Mohawk has always been and will always be: “The best hello and the hardest goodbye,” for me. Alicia was a camper for two years beginning in 1974. She was a CIT, JC, Counselor, and then a Unit Leader for two years. She was the youngest Unit Leader Mohawk had had at that time and only changing from Boston College to the University of San Francisco kept her from returning to Mohawk.

Save the Date

Year-end Zoom Singalong – Sunday, December 27th 6PM. Visit the Camp Mohawk Alumni Association Facebook Page for Zoom information

2021 Alumni Reunion – Friday, September 3 through Sunday, September 5. More details to come!

Keep in Touch

Sign up with [CampMinder](#) to get news and updates directly from Camp!

Facebook: Camp Mohawk Alumni Association Group
YMCA Camp Mohawk

Instagram @campmohawkalumni
@campmohawkymca

Thank you to the Newsletter Team

Thank you to the following individuals for their hard work!

Cathy Horne

Hope Hutchinson

Alison Irwin

Karen Luttenberger

Kerry McCaffrey

Sarah Smith