



The Clocktower Times

Alumni Newsletter

Echoes of the chimes of our time.

Fall 2024

Hello CB Family,

There's a certain magic that is created when we gather around a session's final campfire: the warmth of the flames, the echo of laughter, and the feeling that we're part of something truly unforgettable, and one-of-a-kind. Some of us might remember Casey Huling's "Bouncy Ball" performance, others the anticipation of "The Matchstick Race", while others simply appreciate with quiet reverence the final summer campfire triangle reflecting on Lake Fairlee at the end of the night.

We remember Jay Lance's voice carrying the soulful notes of his amazing "Muddy Water" and the hilarious skit, "Joe Camper", complete with 'helping hands' getting ready to go to Colors and eating spaghetti for dinner. These moments remind us that campfires are more than just a place to share skits; they are a celebration of the very best that we bring out in one another.

May our fondest memories of our Camp Billings campfires continue to warm our hearts, wherever we are this holiday season.

With love,

Amy Cone Glidden & Meredith Cone
CTT Co-Editors



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Greetings from the Board...

By Andy Schneider, Board President

In my time serving on Camp's Board of Directors, we have had many discussions about what makes Billings special, really trying to zero in on what makes up our secret sauce. We have talked a lot about civic responsibility that develops from participating in daily camp and cabin duties. We have talked about the independence that grows out of allowing campers to pick their own activities each day. We have talked about the maturity and world views that expand when meeting people from around the world. All of these contribute an important piece of what makes Billings a bit different from all of the other camps that families can choose from, and each provides campers with life skills that we all know serve us well long after our time on the shores of Lake Fairlee have come to an end.

But if I were to identify one skill or ability that I didn't have when I first arrived at Camp in 1995 that developed every year at Billings, it is this: Camp Billings is where I learned how to perform.

The Billings campfire was where I learned how to feel the butterflies in my stomach as energy, not as an obstacle. It was the first place I ever played the guitar and sang in front of an audience. It was where I learned the art of sketch comedy in performing a scene from William Maguire's prize-winning modern drama, *Tenement* (with softened language, for the young ones). The campfire is where we laughed, cried, sang, danced - all of the emotions of a summer at Camp packed into one amazing night at the campfire, one performance at a time.

Oftentimes we associate performance with the arts - learning to play the cello at school and performing for your loved ones, or perhaps taking on a role in the school play. But the idea of performing, when I really think about it, is something I use every single day of my life. So often in a variety of different work and personal scenarios, I need to play a character. I need to sympathize with this person. I need to have a hard conversation with that person. I need to sell this product. I need to understand that problem. I need to present this big idea to that important person. I need to empathize with my crying 4-year-old (or my crying 8-year-old... or my crying 9-year-old...). In every instance, I need to take myself out of my comfort zone and figure out how to connect with others, to meet them where they are, not where I am. And every time, these situations require me to perform.



While I'm not sure when it happened, I know today that I absolutely love to perform. I crave the adrenaline before a big presentation or an important meeting. I sign up for distance races I know I can't complete to inspire myself to rise to the occasion that a performance requires. I invite hard conversations with loved ones in hopes of stumbling on to a deeper understanding of them and of myself. And every time, I must meet the moment. I must perform.

Camp Billings is where many of us grew up. Each year, we grew a bit older, a bit wiser, a bit more experienced, and (maybe?) a bit more mature. But at our campfire, we learned to perform. And we take that with us everywhere we go.

A Note from CB's Directors, Anne and Sean Collins!

As we welcome the crisp (some days!) autumn air here in New England, we want to take a moment to reflect on the unforgettable summer we've just had at Camp. Whether you're unpacking school backpacks, raking leaves, or gearing up for Thanksgiving, we hope this message finds you well and settling into a new season with joy.

We look back on an incredible summer, filled with laughter, adventure, and unforgettable memories, and can say with certainty that it was one for the books. We were thrilled to see so many returning faces, and we were excited to welcome new campers who quickly became part of our Camp family. The bonds that form here during the summer are truly special, and it's a privilege to witness it each year.

One of the highlights of this summer was the extraordinary group of international staff members who brought their passion, enthusiasm, and unique perspectives to our Camp community. From the moment they arrived, their contributions were felt in every activity, conversation, and interaction. Whether it was leading a craft, coaching a game against another camp, or sharing stories from their home countries, they enriched our camp experience in ways that words can hardly capture. We believe that the diversity of experiences, cultures, and backgrounds they brought to Camp is one of the reasons our community is so strong and vibrant. We had representation from Jamaica, Mexico, Zambia, Canada, England, Austria, France and Colombia.

The international staff members' ability to connect with our campers was inspiring. It's amazing how, through the universal language of friendship, our campers learned to see the world in new ways, broadening their horizons and forming lasting connections that span continents. We're so grateful to each of them for their dedication, hard work, and enthusiasm. Their contributions to the Camp spirit will resonate within each of us for years to come.

As the theme of this edition of *The Clocktower Times* is campfire skits and stories, let us tell you a campfire audience favorite, "The Toothpick Race," which focuses on our beloved newcomers on staff. If you were ever brand new staff who hadn't come up through the CIT program, or been a camper before, you were most likely the victim of "The Toothpick Race." While Camp is a delightfully welcoming place, we are not above pulling off a little prank. Cleverly, we realize that our revealing of this particular skit in this publication won't ruin it for anyone new, because they aren't on our mailing list yet!

The skit begins with a charismatic staff member taking center "stage" at the welcome back campfire during Session One. They have a large tray from the kitchen on a table and call up two brand new staff members. It is explained to the participating staff members, and the audience, that they will be blowing on a toothpick floating in water in the tray, trying to get it to the other side before their opponent does. The first to get their toothpick to the other side wins an extra day off. The staff members are understandably excited and competitively take their stances. The host counts down from three and as the new staff members lean in to blow on their toothpicks. The veteran staff member then smashes their hands down on the tray, splashing the newbies with water. The staff are always good sports, and we do give them a reward for unknowingly participating in the prank.

As the fall settles in, we're already looking forward to next summer and the many adventures to come. But before we get too far ahead, we want to express our deepest gratitude to our campers, families, and staff for making this past summer such a success. It truly takes a village, and we feel fortunate to be surrounded by such a supportive and caring community. We're already dreaming up exciting new programs and activities for next summer, and we can't wait to share them with you.

We hope everyone is having a wonderful fall, filled with the same energy and excitement that we experienced at Camp this summer. As always, we're here if you have any questions, ideas, or updates to share with us. Until we see you again next summer, take care, and know that we are already counting down the days until we can gather together once more.



Memories Around the Campfire

Sitting Around the Metaphorical Campfire with Carolyn Churchill

During pre-camp of 2024, Perrin Chick (80,90's, and early 2000's) and Brian Klaff (2000's to date) had the amazing opportunity to sit around a coffee table in "WeOwnIt" and talk with Carolyn Churchill (1970s, '80s, 90s, to date). As Camp Billings' "campfire" conversations go, we talked about everything.

Carolyn shared that she was singing the classic Camp Songs before she even started at Camp herself since both her mother and aunt attended Camp. We laughed at imagining how women at Camp in the mid-1900s once had to wear full outfits to swim, but the empowered women they were worked hard to convince Dad Hurd to let them roll down their stockings before swim lessons. "Imagine how long it took those swimsuits to dry on our rickety Camp Billings clotheslines."

We went on to talk about other ways Camp has changed over the last 115-plus years. Lucky for Klaff, he never had to have report cards sent home to his parents. Carolyn notes her Camp Report Card read "We all love Carolyn, but she hasn't really learned good table manners still in the dining" Perrin's notes from her counselors always said something about her PDA (Public displays of affection)

We compared how many years we had at Camp, with all three of us having multiple decades of connection to Camp. Carolyn told us stories of coming to Camp when she was just 8 years old. "I think I came for 13 summers in a row. We always came all summer; we didn't come for a couple of weeks like they do now. I was here in the 70s and 80s. Then I took some time off while having babies and busy raising my kids. But my mom was on the Board that whole time, so I still heard about Camp....."

".....Then I think it was 1994 and my mom was going off the Board, so Ralph asked me to join the Board. I was chairman of the Alumni Association for a long time..... I used to come to the Board meeting and stay for a week in the middle of Camp. I haven't done that for a while though". Even back then Carolyn would do everything she could to make Camp look nice.

"Now I just come for a few days during pre-camp....There are so many ways for Billings alumnae can help Camp. I personally love flowers and I love making Camp look nice. It's fun to be here during pre-camp and I get to meet so many of the younger staff and learn about Camp through their experiences.... I usually take them to lunch, buy some Gatorade for them and then we plant the window boxes and hanging planters and clean up the gardens..... I appreciate feeling the energy that's coming up. Camp consistently hires some amazing people. By coming to pre-camp, for all these years, I get to see Camp blossom each year and watch these staff bond just like we did decades ago...."

Thank you Carolyn Churchill for your decades of service to Camp Billings. We appreciate you sitting down and sharing your stories and memories of our Dear Old Camp.



Memories Around the Campfire

Orange is the New Blue Skye Clunie

Camp is composed of color and noise. There is the familiar Billings Blue every camper, staff, and alumni knows by heart; there is the comforting—if slightly off-key—singing from the Dining Hall; there are the white gates that welcome every guest of Camp with open arms. These are the familiar colors and noises we all associate with our beloved home away from home. But there are also some less obvious ones: there is the sound of tennis shoe clad feet running across the pebbled road, only stopping when they've reached their long distance friend and engulfed them in a hug; there is the color of the silver lake in the colder hours of the morning; there is the sound of the whole Camp stomping in rhythm to a much loved 2000s pop song (because every time we touch, we get this feeling). But perhaps the most surreptitious color of Camp is the one that appears at the very end of the session: the orange of the campfire.

Evening Program at Camp is a chance to get the entire Camp involved in one giant event. From capture the flag to original Billings classics, Evening Program is always a great deal of fun. Campfire, however, is a little different from the other nights. On the final night of the session, Campfire is a

chance to share our love of Camp with everyone. People perform skits, sing fan-favorite songs (sometimes even parodies of fan-favorite songs), and showcase the new skills they've accumulated since they walked through the white gates. It is also a chance to present campers with various awards for the practice they've put into program areas and for the kindness and leadership they've shown while at Billings.

Campfire is a really lovely opportunity to reflect on our time at Camp. It is a chance for everyone to sit together and share our love for the most special place to spend the summer. Camp is important to so many people for so many reasons, and campfire is a really magical way we are able to share what we've learned, how we've grown, and how much we appreciate everyone

sitting around the orange flames.

So while the colors and noises of Billings will always first be of the signature blue and the vivacious cheering and singing of the dining hall, the less obvious ones—the brightness of the flames, the crackle of the fire—are as much a part of Camp as the more familiar hues and sounds. Campfire is a very special part of the session, and one we all love greatly.



Always fun to see alumnae's kids connecting as friends and serving as staff: Skye Clunie, Mia Chick and Emilie Laperriere were all second year CITs in 2024.



"One of my faves was seeing the Monty Python how to defend yourself with fresh fruit skit for the first time."

-Jeff Colt (2000-2009)



In Loving Memory of Carolyn “Carrie” Flood

A Life of Service, Community, and Camp



Carolyn “Carrie” Flood, 74, a respected nonprofit leader, civic servant, and lifelong champion of Camp Billings, passed away on August 31, 2024, at Emerson Hospital after a brief battle with cancer. A proud “Concordian,” Carrie dedicated her life to enhancing her community’s cultural, municipal, and educational fabric while leaving an indelible legacy at the camp she loved so deeply.

Carrie’s connection to Camp Billings in Fairlee, Vermont, was woven throughout her life. From her early days as a camper to her dedicated roles as a staff member and later as a board member, she embodied the camp’s spirit of community, generosity, and growth. Her readiness to volunteer for any task, no matter how big or small, became one of her defining traits, approaching every responsibility with enthusiasm and a profound sense of purpose.

Her love for Camp Billings was contagious, and she ensured that her family carried on the tradition. Carrie made her passion for Camp a family legacy. Her family’s continued involvement stands as a testament to the values and joy Camp Billings instilled in her—and that she, in turn, shared with those she loved.

Carrie’s contributions to her hometown of Concord were equally remarkable. She traced her deep roots to early Plymouth settlers and ancestors like Myrick L. Hatch, who established a Concord Center dry goods store still operating today, and Wallace Conant, founder of Conant Machine and Steel Company. Born in Palo Alto, California, to Richard and Mary Hatch, she moved to Concord as a child and grew up immersed in her family’s commitment to social responsibility and the arts.

Carolyn attended Concord Public Schools and went to summer camp at Nashoba Day Camp, followed by many successive seasons at our Camp Billings in Fairlee, Vermont. Carrie began her college education at Beloit College before transferring to Boston University and UMass Boston. She married William “Billy” Flood at 21, and together they had a daughter, Malysa Ann (“Lyssa”). Although they later divorced, they remained close until Billy’s passing in 1990. Carrie also fostered several children and was a devoted grandmother to Joshua and Maya Simard, whose lives she enriched with her love and guidance.

Carrie’s professional life was marked by her dedication to service and leadership. Her career spanned decades, beginning with 20 years at Nuclear Metals, where she rose to production control manager. She went on to serve as managing director at Emerson Umbrella Community Arts Center, championing the arts and expanding education programs. Her final role, regional operations manager at Mass Audubon’s Drumlin Farm, was one of her most cherished positions, where she worked until her illness.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Carrie’s civic contributions were extraordinary. She served on Concord’s Finance Committee, Select Board, Housing Trust, and as deputy town moderator for 23 years. She represented Concord in the Sister City partnership with Nanae, Japan, and brought her financial expertise to the board of Middlesex Bank. Her commitment to community extended beyond official roles, as she tirelessly volunteered for local events and initiatives, always driven by a desire to give back.

Carrie’s lifelong connection to Camp Billings and her community leave a legacy of love and commitment that will inspire all who knew her. She recognized that Camp Billings was more than just a summer camp—it was a cherished community that shaped lives, including her own. She will be deeply missed but fondly remembered by her Camp Billings family.



May I Have a Word with the Board?

A quick Q&A with members of the Board of Directors

Paul Behar

What decades were you at Camp?

80s, 90s, 2001 (thanks to the kindness of Bob G).

Do you have multiple generations in your family that attend or have attended Camp Billings?

My sons both have attended CB and my younger guy, Ben, is still going! While not a different generation, my cousins on my Dad's side (Jack and Elana Behar) and on my mom's side (Peter and Ali Halprin and Heather and Brad Korman) all had great runs at the best place on earth.

Were you a camper, staff or both?

Both. When you add up camper and staff years, I have lived in every cabin in Camp.

**What are your roles on the board?**

Head of the Nominating and Governance Committee and Finance Committee member.

Favorite Evening Program?

Dances of course (especially when Luke, Yutaka and I were the DJs). Battle of the Bands also a favorite.

Did you ever cry when you left Camp (be honest)?

Guilty as charged.

What are three words that describe Billings?

Family, Bliss, Happy-place.

Do you have advice on how alumni can support Billings now and in the future?

Make generous donations to the upcoming fundraiser which will be the most ambitious one yet. Details forthcoming.

Eliza Browning

What decades were you at Camp?

The '90s.

Do you have multiple generations in your family that attend or have attended Camp Billings?

I am the first member of my family to go to Billings, but my sister -- Jane Kittredge -- was there during the Microburst of '96. Now I have three daughters at Camp -- Grace, Kenison and Natalie. In a few years, their younger siblings, Charlie and Finley, will also make their way through the white gates and we may have a record of five children at Camp at once!

Were you a camper, staff or both?

Camper, CIT and senior counselor. As much as I loved being a camper, being on staff was the most formative experience of my youth. It made me who I am today.

What are your roles on the board?

I joined the board more than 10 years ago and it has been a rewarding and meaningful experience. I've helped with fundraising, marketing and more. This means anything from strategic planning, to creating donation wish lists for our website, to writing thank you letters to those who have donated. The best part has been connecting with alumni and meeting new people who share the same love of Camp.

**Favorite Evening Program?**

Battle of the Bands! I have vivid memories of dressing up as Elvis during my summer in Cabin 2 (shout out to Amy Cone who was our counselor). We did some sort of medley rendition of "Ain't Nothing But a Hound Dog." Thanks to creative contributions by Emily Novis, Audrey Beckwith, Christie Camarata, and others, we won!

Did you ever cry when you left Camp (be honest)?

I'm not a huge crier but who doesn't cry during the final campfire? Once the floodgates opened, I couldn't stop.

What are three words that describe Billings?

Joy. Community. Meaning.

Do you have advice on how alumni can support Billings now and in the future?

Every donation matters, regardless of amount. Billings is a non-profit organization -- we try to keep tuition costs low so that it is accessible to a wide range of families. Before joining the board, I wasn't aware of how much we rely on donations from the Billings community. These contributions make it possible for Camp to run and for necessary improvements to be made for the future.

Alumni Updates

Kelsi Barry and Molly Friedland, alumni (campers, CIT, and senior counselors 2000-2008) and longtime friends from Camp, welcomed daughters at the start of this summer.

Kelsi Barry welcomed, Dylan Katherine Williams (left) in May, and Molly Friedland welcomed her daughter, June Eleanore Friedland (right) in June. Both families are over the moon.

Watch out Cabin 5 summer 2031!



I was a camper in the mid to late 90s and CIT around 2003. Some of my happiest and most formative memories were at Camp Billings. As you all know it's an indescribable experience to those who have never been lucky enough to attend.

Now I am in my late 30s and living in San Diego with my husband Ryan. We are both physical therapists and essentially live to surf (and eat burritos). Given the abundance of citrus trees in southern California, I can be found singing "Lemon Tree" from time to time. I'm pretty sure my husband even knows the lyrics now.

I came home to Vermont this week to care for my mom after a knee replacement, and was thrilled to find that Billings alumni letters are still sent to my parent's home in Vermont. It was so wild to see so many names I remember from the 90s and early 2000s. A true testament to all of the happy memories I have from my time there.

I'm happy to see that Billings is still thriving!

Lindsay Campbell (Loskutoff)



I just returned from a 5 week camping trip to New Brunswick, Prince Edwards Island and Nova Scotia. Since retiring 6 years ago my partner and I have traveled extensively throughout the US and Canada. Life is good!

Jean Arbuckle - Staff in the '80's.



We've got a new camper!
Imogen Jane Guy,
born August 30th, 2024.

Olivia (Echegaray) and Seamus Guy



I was a camper from 1981 to 1983. I keep amazing memories from those 3 summers. I will be in the Camp area this week. I would love to drive by and see what it's like after 41 years! Thank you.

Lucie Ayotte



2024 Donors

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each of our incredible donors. With so many causes deserving of your support, we are truly thankful that Camp Billings holds a special place in your hearts.

Constance W. Anderson

Paul Behar

Eliza Browning

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Ben Cheney

Kevin Clunie

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Catherine Cry-Bolduc

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CAMP STORE

Perfect for a winter night, our classic Camp Billings navy zip-up sweatshirts are ideal for every season. With the Clocktower logo on the front (where the heart is!), “Camp Billings” on the back, two front pockets, and a drawstring for the hood, our zip-up sweatshirts have everything you need!

Available in navy and come in Youth and Adult sizes.

\$50 (includes shipping)



Gifts from the Camp store are always a big hit!

Scan the QR code or visit:

<https://campbillings.org/store>

ANNOUNCEMENTS!!!

GOING GREEN...ISH

Beginning in 2025, editions of The Clocktower Times will only be mailed within the United States. If you are a member of our international Camp family, please make sure to submit your email address to alumni@campbillings.org to ensure receipt of future digital versions.

Remember, you can always view The Clocktower Times via our social media pages!

Special Fall Edition contributor support ‘thanks’ to:

Skye Clunie, Anne Vachon, Beth Crocker, Perrin Chick, Paul Behar & Eliza Browning.



CALLING ALL ALUMNI!

It's hard to believe we're less than TWO years away from the next Camp Billings Reunion. What's an event without a great theme and volunteers? We're engaging alumni for input on our theme and to join our Reunion Planning Committee. Please submit your theme idea(s) via this form here:

<https://forms.gle/3xvAgCJC55zfxMoB8>

And please send an email here to join the Reunion Planning Committee:

alumni@campbillings.org

We appreciate your creative support! It takes a village to make events like this a success.

-Camp Billings Alumni Committee



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