

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 27 - 31, 2004	Community Vacation Camp
Jan. 1, 2005	Summer Camp Registration Begins
Feb. 21 - 25	February Vacation Camp
Apr. 18 - 22	Spring Vacation Camp
May 2	2005-06 After School Registration Begins
Jun. 23	Last day of After School Programs
Jun. 27 - Aug. 26	Summer Day Camp, Sessions 1,2,3
Jul. 18 - 22, 25 - 29	Summer Day Travel Camp
Aug. 7 - Aug. 19	Summer Resident Camp



# THE HERALD

A Camp Wibur Herrlich Publication

Volume 7/Fall 2004

## "ANGELS ANSWERED" Putnam Partners Help Purchase Camp

When Executive Director, Bob Gentile and MTOM chairperson, Patti Haar started the "Calling All Angels" campaign last year, the hopes and prayers of everyone with a connection to Camp Herrlich was that the camp could be saved, that enough money would be raised to purchase the camp property and continue our mission.

One year - 12 short months - was all we had to exercise our "right of first refusal" as stipulated in our long-term lease agreement with Lutheran Social Services. The Metropolitan New York based agency had been Camp Herrlich's landlord for many years. Their decision to sell the Camp Herrlich property was a financial one. After months of appealing to the compassion and generosity of camp friends, parents and community members, MTOM was still in need of a significant amount of funds in order to secure a purchase agreement.

Bob Gentile made one last attempt, at the eleventh hour of the contract's expiration date, to reach out to Putnam County officials. Legislators agreed that the protection of

the 156-acre camp was very worthwhile. As a leader in the preservation of open space, the county was now determined to forever protect the natural habitat of Camp Herrlich. The camp's 9-acre lake drains into the Muddy Brook, which flows into the Croton River and the Great Swamp. One of the state's largest freshwater wetlands, the swamp forms the headwaters of the city's Croton Reservoir system.

With the support of New York State Senator Vincent Leibell and Putnam County Executive Robert Bondi, Putnam County will purchase the land with the

assistance of New York City watershed monies as well as county borrowings. The DEP funding source will ensure the restriction of development on the property.

State and county monies in the amount of \$700,000 have been authorized for the purchase. The county will borrow the remaining \$750,000 needed to purchase the property, which will be reimbursed by MTOM through long-term use fees paid to Putnam County.

This exciting new partnership with the County ensures that the programs provided by MTOM to the Tri-State community will continue long into the future; and that the Camp Herrlich property will forever remain as open space. As a result of this partnership, the County and State will also help MTOM improve the Camp Herrlich property, along with the "Calling All Angels" contributors.

Thus far, the "Calling All Angels" campaign has raised almost \$350,000 in gifts, and long and short term pledges. Continuation of efforts to raise the future will help secure the future of sustaining MTOM programs at Camp Herrlich.



(l-r) Executive Director Robert Gentile, Deputy County Executive Frank DeCampa, MTOM chairperson Patti Haar, Ray Maguire-community services director for State Sen. Vincent Leibell and Legislator Arnie Nordstrom

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www.campherrlich.org

**Camp Willow Herrlich**  
 Mt. Trumper  
 101 Dawson Smith Hill Road  
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9 full weeks of  
 Day Camp  
 Three - 3 week  
 Sessions!!!

**2005 SUMMER DAY CAMP**

Our day camp sessions will include the same fun-filled activities as always - there are just more weeks to enjoy them all! Every session is packed with games, swimming, arts & crafts, boating, hiking, fishing, basketball, volleyball, nature, adventure course, archery, field trips and more! Each session's theme is represented by special days and events.

**SESSION DATES AND THEMES**

- SESSION 1: JUNE 27-JULY 15 - **CAMP CLEVERNESS**
- SESSION 2: JULY 18-AUG 5 - **THE GREAT OUTDOORS**
- SESSION 3: AUG 8-AUG 26 - **LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!**

Special events may include:

- "Color Wars" Goldrush All Camp Production
- Team tournaments Off Camp Trips Treasure Hunts Talent Show
- Pirate & Navy Capture the Flag Camp Carnival Special Guests

**DAY CAMP HOURS: 9:00AM-4:30PM LUNCH INCLUDED EVERY DAY!!!**  
**ONLY \$570 FOR 3 WEEK SESSION!**

ON-LINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE AFTER 1/1/05 [www.campherrlich.org](http://www.campherrlich.org)



ONLY  
 \$425/week

**INTRODUCING CAMP HERRLICH TRAVEL DAY CAMP 2005!**  
**2-ONE WEEK ADVENTURES!**  
**TAKE A DIFFERENT FIELD TRIP EACH DAY!**  
**SESSION A JULY 18-JULY 22**  
**SESSION B JULY 25-JULY 29**  
 Trips may include:  
 Lake Compounce  
 New Roc City  
 Bronx Zoo  
 New York Mets Game  
 Madame Tussou's Wax Museum  
 Broodway Show  
 Trips may include:  
 Yankee Game  
 Six Flags Great Adventure  
 IMAX Theater/Palisades Mall  
 Splash Down/Adventure Island  
**ALL TRIPS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON AVAILABILITY.**  
 Travel camps have a minimum and maximum enrollment. A full refund will be issued if CWH cancels a travel camp session. Some trips may require earlier drop-off or later pick-up times.

**DESIGNED FOR ADVENTUROUS CAMPERS AGES 10 - 14!**

**2005 RESIDENT CAMP**  
**2 WEEKS JAM-PACKED WITH FUN!!!**

**AUGUST 7th-AUGUST 19th**

Our resident camp program is designed for children ages 8 through 15 to provide opportunities to create cherished memories and lifelong friendships. These two weeks are chock-full with activities that develop a sense of cooperation while fostering independence. Hours of fun and games, hiking, fishing, boating, swimming, basketball, archery, arts & crafts, and nature are only a sample of the camp day. There is also time for prayer, reflection, growth, competition, education, campfires, songs, theme days and special events.



**Counselor In Training (CIT)**

**Leadership training for teens ages 14 & older**

**Jul 27-Aug 5**  
**9:00am-4:30pm**



**CALL OUR CAMP OFFICE FOR A SUMMER CAMP BROCHURE OR CHECK OUT ALL OUR PROGRAMS ON OUR WEBSITE. [WWW.CAMPHERRLICH.ORG](http://WWW.CAMPHERRLICH.ORG)**

**THIS IS MY STORY,**  
 and I'm sticking to it!

It has been a tough 12 months since the dreaded news that LSS, our landlords, were selling the Camp Herrlich property. So many decisions had to be made, none of them really on my shoulders, but nonetheless heavy on my heart.

It seemed like a year that would never end, yet it had passed in what felt like an instant. It wasn't about job security, it was about the memories...the mission...the children who have come here year after year. When you work where you live, you don't leave your work behind. It is in the schools, the grocery store, the ball fields and the bus stops. People cared. They cared about the camp. They cared about the staff. They cared about the community. They cared about their own kids and everyone else's kids. They were concerned for the programs and that there would be only memories left for some and missed opportunities for others.

I am reminded, probably because of the season, of the story "Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Clause". In our case, Santa disguised himself as Putnam County officials, and the elves that worked hard all year strongly resemble our Executive Director, Bob Gentile and MTOM board members. I'm delighted to tell all those parents who stop me now and ask about the status of the camp, "YES VIRGINIA, THERE IS CAMP HERRLICH!"

Peace out~

Barbara

**The Facility, The Future and Thanks - Spring-Fall 2004**

...a note from Dean's Desk

2004 has seen many changes at Camp Herrlich. Campers have come and campers have gone. New staff has arrived and old staff has left. Established Retreat Groups and Environmental Education Programs have moved on and we have welcomed new schools and friends into our camping family.

Our spring and fall Environmental Education programs, under the leadership of staff Director Carol Chu, were scheduled to capacity and successful but there are potentially many changes in store for next year. Some of our very dear friends (see Jim Fenton article, page 5) have changed positions or retired and many of our Environmental Education Schools themselves have experienced change and restructuring. On the other hand however, we would like to welcome The Garden School into our fold. We are hoping that all of the schools we have worked with this year find their way back to Camp Herrlich next year and we look forward to developing new relationships.

Our weekend Retreat calendar has also been full this year. Many groups returned from previous years and as well there have been new arrivals. Two recent additions deserve special mention. Both the Family Christian Center and New Life Out Reach have become permanent members of our Retreat Family and we look forward to seeing them and the spirit they bring back at Camp Herrlich soon. I would also like to take this opportunity to pass along our thanks and appreciation to our Kitchen Manager Theo Huwae for his wonderful food and cheerful demeanor. A big Thank you also to Victor Freed and Matt Lamb and everyone else who has helped with our food service this year.

Many new projects were started this year and many wonderful ideas have been hatched for 2005. Justin Haar provided a lot of the hard work in setting up the facility for our summer programs and for this we are grateful. He also helped us get started on our vegetable garden and refurbishment of the

Nature Discovery Station and Archery Pit. Through some generous donations from a local garden supply store, a lot of hard work and special care, we achieved... (insert trumpet sound here)...one pumpkin!!! This number is precisely one more pumpkin than last year, which for anyone who can do math is an outstanding improvement. On a side note we had a very successful summer/fall harvest of cucumbers, basil, jalapenos, bell peppers, green beans, celery, zucchini and even eggplant. We have plans of grandeur for our vegetable gardens in 2005 - complete self sufficiency (or two pumpkins - which ever comes first!).

As mentioned in the previous paragraph, archery was a welcome re-addition this year. Archery was enjoyed by many of our summer campers and we look forward to building on our knowledge and success for next summer. Other 'dreams' we hope to try and implement into our facility for next summer are a new high ropes course and expansion of our hands-on petting zoo program. The small practical things such as our new day camp tent and the new canoes and rowboats make a huge difference in the continued success of our programming.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who participated in all of our programs this year. Many of the programs and agencies we are associated with are invaluable in allowing us to continue our mission of serving children and the communities we work with. Special mention needs to be made however, to the American Camping Association's S.C.O.P.E program and to the work that the Putnam County Department of Social Services has done in helping provide children an opportunity to participate in our camping programs. A new relationship was also formed this year with Harlem RBI and we look forward to developing an ongoing partnership with them. We hope to see everyone again soon and we wish you all happy holidays.

## ...AFTER SCHOOL TODAY?

### THE AFTER SCHOOL ADVANTAGE

#### Kent Elementary School

On October 14th more than 6,000 communities rallied for After School Child Care by participating in the fifth annual "Lights On After School". This event calls attention to the value of After School Programs and the need to keep the lights on and our doors open.

The Advantage After School Program at Kent Elementary School is proud to announce it's participation in this year's gala events. In collaboration with Kent School's administration, teaching staff and Parents Organization we have created an outdoor mural of the United States.

This artistic representation of America reflects a joint commitment to promote knowledge, skills and understanding through enriching learning opportunities that complement the school day. By providing these activities, after school programs become an important resource for improving children's academic performance as well as their social, emotional, and physical development needs.

We extend an ongoing invitation to all families to come and enjoy the wide range of talents exhibited in the creation and completion of this "Lights on America" project.



After School students enjoy their work of art - a colorful map of the United States adorning the Kent Elementary School playground.

#### Matthew Paterson Elementary School

MPES after school program continues to combine learning with fun as the students engage in activities to heighten their sense of adventure, spark interests and share ideas. In October each student chose a "club" activity. Cooking Club participants chose recipes from a selection in their cookbooks. Measuring, baking, and cleaning up were all part of the experience, but all agreed that eating was the best part!

Nature Explorers club made seed mosaics, framed nature rubbings and prints, and hiked to the Great Swamp. There was even a visit from a State Park Ranger.

There was also a Game Club which required a great deal of time and patience from our future entrepreneurs. Each small group designed a game board and pieces, developed the rules and shared their innovation with the other students.

New clubs in a variety of interest areas allow opportunities for the children to grow in independence through making their own choices, decisions and expressing their own opinions. The students feel a sense of pride and accomplishment by being part of the planning process. Matthew Paterson's after school program will continue to enjoy "clubs" in other interest areas throughout the winter months.

In connection with encouraging community service and generosity, MPES after school students will once again participate in sharing holiday spirit with the elderly at the Kent Nursing Home. The students are also preparing gifts of "thanks" for special staff and teachers who contribute to the success of the after school programs.

Remember, parent input is not only welcomed, it's encouraged!

### CAMP AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM (CASP)



George Fischer Middle School students fill our Camp Herrlich bus each and every school day at 2:30pm! The afternoons are loaded with activities, outdoor games and hikes, snack and, of course, time is set aside each day for homework.

The inside of the Camp After School Building was freshly painted bright yellow just before the start of the school year. The CASP staff used their creativity to make the walls showcases for character education, spaces for students to share kind words with one another and photo galleries for art work and snapshots.

Activities are planned to enhance self-esteem, responsibility, and independence while being fun and rewarding. There is always something new happening at CASP. The students have opportunities for field trips to the local bowling alley and the movies (where they recently enjoyed the opening day of "Polar Express").

Their excursions are often community based as well, including a recent trip to the Putnam Humane Society. For weeks students contributed pet food and supplies to be donated to the Humane Society. With a large box filled to the brim with dog and cat goodies, the group set off to make their delivery. The students enjoyed playing with the cats and dog and returned feeling charitable in their good deed. CASP looks forward to doing more service projects throughout the school year.

## EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN!



(left) The old Herrlich "pool" in 1929 is now a preserved wetland and used only for environmental studies and aesthetic beauty.

(right) Children have enjoyed swimming in the camp's natural habitat for more than 75 years. This photo was taken in the summer of 1929.



History has been made at Camp Herrlich for more than 75 years. It all began in 1922 when 12-year old Wilbur Herrlich made a dying request of his father to make it possible for children from the city to come and enjoy the natural beauty of the Herrlich's farm.

Based on Wilbur's desire for others to get the most from life, though his was cut short due to illness, the Herrlich farm was gifted to the Inner Mission Society of New York in 1922.

During the 1950's, the Inner Mission Society became Lutheran Social Services. ISS made modifications to the Camp Herrlich facility in order to accommodate the growing number of children being serviced. In 1978, Mount Tremper Outdoor Ministries, Inc. took responsibility for the management and operation of Camp Herrlich.

What started out to be a summer camp is now a year-round facility, serving thousands of families and children; hosting church, school, and community group retreats, operating three after school programs for our local school district students, vacation camps, summer day camp, summer resident camp, and summer travel camp and is a New York State BOCES certified Environmental Education Center.

In the summer, more than 70 staff come together from all over the world to form one community for the purpose of giving children a "summer of a lifetime". In some respects, the more things change the more they stay the same. Our purpose is still to provide quality programs which foster tolerance, acceptance, and love.



Summer Resident Camp children enjoy time at the on-site petting zoo which is home to a variety of farm animals.



(left) Fun on our new basketball court is more than just shooting hoops!



As always, new friends are made, and old friendships renewed.



Staff members form special bonds of friendship and trust during the week-long orientation session prior to the start of summer camp.



(above) Today campers have an hour of free swim time every day in the summer under strict lifeguard supervision.



Community partner, Patterson Fire Dept. visits Camp Herrlich, teaching fire safety while entertaining our campers.



Arial view of Camp Herrlich's 156 acres today.

# YOUR SUPPORT IS STILL VITAL TO OUR FUTURE

PLEASE HELP US TO CONTINUE OUR MISSION AT CAMP HERRLICH THROUGH  
A **CALLING ALL ANGELS** GIFT

If you have already made a contribution or pledge, we are truly grateful for  
your generosity and commitment to children.

*As we move forward, our goal is to grow the Calling All Angels fund to reduce our financial commitment to Putnam  
County, to move ahead with our building plans for the camp and to support our on-going scholarship programs.*

## YOU can MAKE A DIFFERENCE to the FUTURE of CAMP HERRLICH

Make a "Calling all Angels" donation today!

*You have the opportunity to select the area of interest your donation will benefit.  
Your gift can be applied to one of the following options:*

- ☞ Apply your *Calling All Angels* gift to the long-term use fee, to guarantee MTOM use of the Camp Herrlich property.
- ☞ Apply your *Calling All Angels* gift to the next phase of building plans, to improve the facilities of the Camp Herrlich property.
- ☞ Apply your *Calling All Angels* gift to the on-going scholarship programs, to provide support for the children who attend Camp Herrlich.

Kindly make checks payable to: *Mt. Tremper Outdoor Ministries, Inc.*  
Mail to: **Camp Herrlich, 101 Deacon Smith Hill Road, Paterson, New York 12563**  
Phone: 845-878-6662 Fax: 845-878-2030 Email: [Campherrlich@rcn.com](mailto:Campherrlich@rcn.com)

**For more information about future plans for Camp Herrlich, or to download a Contribution Form, please go to our  
website at [www.campherrlich.org](http://www.campherrlich.org).**

*All gifts to support the Calling All Angels Campaign are tax deductible as provided by law.  
Fed. tax ID# 13-2729777*

## The Caretaker's Corner by Robert Norris

### On Solid Grounds

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Hebrews 11:1,3,6

Yes it is faith that guides us to truth, and truth that sets us free. And as it says in the rest of Hebrews 11, many, (including Abraham, Jacob, and Joseph,) left this world not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were assured of them. It is difficult to maintain the faith when the world crumbles around you, but then a careful reexamination reveals much understanding. The foundations of our society, and of the promise of God, rest

not in corporations and organizations, but in individuals and families. The strength of communities and beyond is all derived from the strength of families. During this year- long ordeal with our property issues, I never put my faith in L.S.S. or M.T.O.M., but in Christ only, that He would preserve us all, and guide us along this rocky road. Of course, God's time and our time run on different clocks, so it is a challenge to be patient and wait. That's where a strong family is especially helpful. The bonds between fathers and sons and mothers and so on, are the strongest things I can think of, from Abraham and Isaac to all of us. Ironically, my bond with my father has grown stronger since his passing 15 years ago.

My wife and son and I went to visit my father's grave at Calverton National Cemetery. We found his grave, and had to clean off the grass and soil from the plaque. Upon seeing us do this, my son took up the call, and also helped clean it off. Ffff...fff...He was blowing the dirt off. My father must have seen the promises afar off when he yet lived, and struggled so hard for the health of his family. I can never be thankful enough to my parents for the life that they've given

me. That is especially clear now that I have embarked on the same road. Yesterday, I went for a walk around camp with Reid (my son). We went to take down the flag before the rain. We sat on the Wilbur Herrlich plaque and rock. Ffff...fff... He began to blow the dirt off the letters. In an instant, the whirlwind swept through my soul. I was reminded again of all the history of this place and the families involved. I only wondered what the Herrlichs, these people we never knew; saw of the promise. I wonder what they would have thought of all the changes that have taken place here on the Wilbur Herrlich Farm. I can't begin to imagine how they would have felt to lose their son, and God willing, I will never know. My family is everything to me, as I hope yours is to you. Our families are God's promise, and they are more important than any business, land, politics, or anything. My faith remains, that our families will flourish and the promises will be kept. What does this all mean for Camp Herrlich and M.T.O.M.? I know not, but we can rest assured that the family bonds that those of us at camp have created with one another, will endure for generations to come. Thank God.



*Jim Fenton, 3rd from left, displays a framed certificate presented by the Camp Herrlich senior staff. Pictured L-r: Carol Chu, Environmental Ed. Director; Dawn Stichbury, Facility Director; Jim Fenton; Bob Gentile, Executive Director; Rob Norris, Caretaker; Barbara Niester, Program Director*

## RETIRED EDUCATOR HONORED

**Jim Fenton celebrated for 30 year  
commitment to environmental education**

E.L. Slocum Elementary School sixth graders have been traveling from Long Island's Connetquot School District to experience Camp Herrlich's Environmental Education program every year for almost 30 years. How does a tradition stand strong with ever changing school staff, administrators and parents? Mainly, because of the dedication of one of Connetquot School District's most revered educators, Jim Fenton.

Jim, along with a team of other dedicated teachers, planned and coordinated the annual four day Environmental Education trip to Camp Herrlich each June. Jim was passionate about the sixth graders experiencing our hands on program at Camp Herrlich and all the teamwork, cooperation, and life lessons that went along with the resident program.

Jim retired from teaching in 2003, but accompanied Slocum students one more time last June to share in the adventure that he started so many years ago. Though the years, Jim has been a trusted and admired friend of the Camp Herrlich staff. A certificate and other Camp Herrlich mementos were presented to Jim as a "thank you" for his years of service and dedication to children. Our wish for Jim and his family is that there will be many years of health and happiness in his retirement.