



Journal

Fall/Winter 2020-2021

Weaving Waldorf Education with Traditional New England Camping Since 1946



Though the world and Glen Brook have seen much change this past year, I am heartened by the enduring importance of what Glen Brook offers. As I speak with alumni from past decades, I am consistently reminded that the heart of the Glen Brook experience has been unchanged for 75 years. At the same time, what we offer becomes more scarce and important with every passing year.

As we've resumed in-person programming this fall, the joy that students and gappers have felt at being, working, exploring, and playing together has been as deep and fruitful as ever—probably even more so, given the long periods of isolation so many have endured. We've had to adapt to keep everybody safe. Though the students have been required to wear masks while in close proximity to each other, they have had the freedom to connect with each other and nature in our spacious 240-acre campus of the farm and forest. Our gap program attendees ("gappers") followed extensive safety protocol and have now entered into their own domestic family unit where they can interact freely. We've been so pleased with the ability to resume safe programming after suspending our Summer Camp, and are confident we will run Summer Camp in 2021!

I believe Glen Brook exposes our students and campers to a truly life-changing way of participating in our society today. It's easy to look around at our world and feel alarmed: soaring inequity and racial injustice, climate change, a global pandemic. These are big issues. Glen Brook offers an important part of the solution: an experience of how simple and wonderful life can be. Participants learn to live in a harmonious community with others; learn skills of self-sufficiency on the farm, in the kitchen, and through craft; sing and play together; explore and engage with the natural world. These things have been central to Glen Brook since the beginning. In a world that is increasingly saturated with technology and consumption, the yearning people have to be the best version of themselves while engaging in these activities has only grown.

🍁 Mark Stehlik • Executive Director

THE GLEN BROOK JOURNAL



Farm Update

Much has changed for us during the covid-19 pandemic: this spring we had no week-long student programs, and over the summer we missed our campers, counselors, and entirely magical experience that is summer camp. Glen Brook without the sounds of children playing was strange and empty. As we intentionally focus not on what we have lost, we have seen this radical and unexpected shift in our work present new opportunities on our farm. We were unable to hire farm staff to carry the growing season forward once the pandemic set in, so the long-term staff here and their families (most of whom were not farmers, per se) all stepped in to care for our animals and maintain our gardens so that they would continue to flourish in the years to come.

Our mission statement—to leave the world better than we found it—has always been satisfying and visible to enact in our farm. The cattle have rejuvenated our pastures and hayfields through the school program director Jake's careful rotational grazing strategies. The pigs were put on invasive species management, eating back the choking vines that have grown into our tree-lines, re-exposing the picturesque colonial stonewalls. Gabriel's Field, our beloved garden space, was cared for by nearly everybody living at Glen Brook as we labored to keep it free of weeds so that it would be ready for planting next year.

With all of the farm work being shared amongst the staff and their families, we've had a chance to think about what's really important for our campers, students, Gappers, and adults. What are the experiences that have seemed most impactful? How can we encourage people who come here to nurture personal responsibility for our land? What should the shape of our farm be in future years? We are so excited to have started working with students and Gappers again, bringing them into a space where they can fall in love with the land and animals, and care for them in return.

🍁 Sadie Stehlik • Former Farm Director

Facilities Update

The Glen Brook campus, with its many historic buildings and 240 acres, never ceases to provide opportunities for maintenance and care. Annual care includes: staining sheds, docks, decks, and various outbuildings; fixing leaky pipes; replacing old roofs; mowing and weed whacking the grass; processing dead trees into firewood for our wood stoves; fixing broken windows, and much more.

While each act of care for this place is its own success story worth heralding, it is always of course very exciting when there is something new. This summer, through the generosity of donors, we took advantage of the quiet kitchen to install brand new floors, and to put a new coat of paint on the walls and ceiling. The result is an even more beautiful and welcoming space that will last for a very long time. We look forward to showing you the space, and sharing a delicious home cooked meal from our kitchen with you soon.

🍁 Robyn Morin • Culinary Director



Registration for Summer Camp is now open at glenbrook.org.

FALL/WINTER 2020-2021

School Programs

When big things change, it starts to feel like everything changes. The events in the world and their impacts have reached even our small hilltop as we resume in-person school programs. We've had to adjust some of our itineraries to fit new travel restrictions and realities. We've implemented a series of protocols to confidently manage the risks of this moment, and these changes in turn change some of the reliable rhythms of a Glen Brook trip. No doubt about it, some things are different.

But there are things that haven't changed, and these are just as important to recognize as the things that have. The recent 12th grade trip from the Waldorf School of Garden City contains a short story to this effect: The seniors were excited to return to Glen Brook after nearly two years away, eager to connect to each other and to the land, face to face. But they were also aware of the uncertainty present in our world. With that in mind, a few students requested, "There probably isn't time for this, but it would be so great to do a sunrise hike of Monadnock this week—you know, in case this is our last trip." We were only too happy to oblige, and after a strenuous nocturnal hike were graced with a beautiful sunrise in a cloud-streaked sky.

I thought then, at the chill mountain summit under the red rising sun, of all that lies at the heart of the Glen Brook experience. We still come together through work and play, through exploration and learning. We still eat nourishing food together, communing over meals well-raised and well-prepared. We still gather around the campfire to express gratitude and hear stories to close our week together. We still revel in something as ordinary as the rising sun. Amidst all of the changes, the Glen Brook spirit remains.

🍁 Jake Lewis • School Programs Director



An Unexpected Gap Year

Covid-19 has forced many young people into a gap year despite their other plans. With high school seniors finding themselves online since March, they, like we, are finding themselves in an in-between space.

Gap at Glen Brook has always been a place for young people to connect deeply with each other and the natural world. This coming fall semester is no different. Fourteen gappers have been accepted to explore our woods, isolate from the outside world and experience community life while engaging with everything from daily homesteading chores to adventuring on a canoe trip or hiking trail.



With colleges closing their doors and offering yet another virtual experience, more and more young people are realizing that being together and doing meaningful work with their hands in the dirt (literally and metaphorically) is their top priority. We have been swamped with inquiries and applications and are happy to say that, though our Fall semester is full, we are accepting applications for the spring!

After months of isolation and online teaching, we are overwhelmed with gratitude to be able to welcome new members to the Glen Brook family. To take on stewardship together, to break bread and to share stories around the fire.

🍁 Shai Rosenfeld • Gap at Glen Brook Director



Glen Brook's History

David White was a camper in the earliest years of Camp Glen Brook, and has been a steadfast supporter of Glen Brook from the camp's inception in 1946. With such a longstanding relationship, we asked David to share a history of Glen Brook, and how Glen Brook and The Waldorf School became one entity.

David remembers:

"I was at Camp Glen Brook as the only day camper starting at the age of six from 1949 to 1956. Then I returned for the summers of 1959, '60 and '61 as a staff member. I've felt a part of the community ever since. Glen Brook has a very special place in my heart, as does the Waldorf School of Garden City, which Glen Brook joined in the early '70s.

William Harrer bought the camp property in 1946. At the time, my family's summer home, what is now called White Meadows, was across the road. The previous winter, some of our neighbors drove down with some bad news: a man from New York was going to purchase the former Beedle Estate and create a summer camp. My dad said, "Well, let's give it a chance."

So, when we moved up for the summer, my dad went over and got acquainted with Mr. Harrer. We all loved William Harrer. He had such a wonderful, mild way of speaking and was just someone you naturally revered. He taught at the Rudolf Steiner School in Manhattan, and, at the end of the school day on a Friday, he would come up on the train, take the bus over, and start doing work to restore the campus, drain the water out of the basement, and get it ready for the first summer.

That first summer, in 1946, there were only twelve campers and two counselors. Mr. Harrer himself, and a Miss Ann Friedl, who taught at High Mowing School at the time. There was also Mrs. Wetzl, who was the cook and the nurse that summer, and later became the nurse at the Garden City Waldorf School. The second season of camp, Dorothy Jeffrey was one of the counselors. At the end of the season, Dorothy and William got married, and so they were Mr. and Mrs. Harrer. The first dining hall was not built until 1949, so the campers ate in the front room that is now the parlor, and Mr. and Mrs. Harrer had their living quarters in what is now the library.

In the summer of 1948, Peter Curran and his first wife, Betty, were looking for summer jobs. They found that Mr. Harrer had advertised for some camp staff. They came over and talked with him, and Peter was promptly chosen to be head of the waterfront, and Betty became the handcrafts teacher. At that time, Peter was teaching in New Hampshire, and they kept coming back to work at Glen Brook summer after summer.

Because of William Harrer's connections in New York, Peter Curran was able to get connected with people at the Waldorf School of Garden City, and he and Betty decided to move down to Long Island in 1957. Peter became the head of the history department and also the head of the guidance and athletic department. In time, he became head of the high school and served one year (1978-79) as the interim faculty chair. He was a man of many hats. Betty was the handcrafts teacher for a while, and afterwards she became the editor for the school news. She did that for quite a few years.

Mr. and Mrs. Harrer retired from the Rudolf Steiner School in 1971 and moved up year-round to the camp. They, the Currans, and the Kretzes (who had been teachers at the Rudolf Steiner School in New York) had the idea of trying to make Glen Brook a year-round program. The first Garden City classes came up in 1971. That was just for the fall and the spring. Even before that, the seniors would come up from Garden City and spend Memorial Day weekend at the camp as their final class outing. They really didn't have a winter group until a few years later, when the seniors would come for the week after Christmas.

In 1973, Peter Curran took over running the camp. Peter had the competence, with his administrative background down in Garden City, and Mr. Harrer trusted him. After Mr. Harrer offered ownership of the camp to Peter Curren, Peter talked to the school treasurer, who recommended that it be deeded with the Waldorf School so that it could be incorporated as a camp. Between 1973 and 1976 the whole property on the north side of the road was acquired by the Waldorf School.

It was really a gradual acquisition of the property for the school. The land across the road, where the Harrer house is, was kept in the name of Mr. Harrer until he died in 1978, and then it went to Peter Curran. In 1987, Peter and Betty moved to the staff house and the Harrer House went to the Waldorf School. Then the staff house went to the Waldorf School when Peter Curran left Glen Brook. My father and I gave White Meadows to the camp in 1999. We knew that we couldn't live there forever, and I kept thinking how it might work out with Glen Brook.

Glen Brook holds a lot of fond memories for me: The beautiful setting where you can look at Monadnock, at the camp buildings, and then go down and walk around the lake and the Glen Brook itself.

When I was a camper and staff member, we had the tradition to do Tuesday or Wednesday hikes. We made two trips to Mount Monadnock during the summer, and this was of course when the summer camp was eight weeks long. The first trip would be up by the Halfway House Trail, where you could literally drive halfway up the mountain. We walked up, and then Mr. Harrer came up with a truck and the bug juice and so forth, then we climbed the rest of the way up to the summit. The other trail we used was the Marlborough Trail. That was supposedly the easiest of all the trails. When it was time to come down, Mrs. Harrer would pick up a mirror and do a heliographing from camp. We'd watch for her flashes, and that was our cue to start down the mountain. We also went to Pitcher Mountain, or Blueberry Mountain, and came back with bucketfuls of blueberries, and we'd have blueberry pancakes the next day and a blueberry pie for dessert for dinner.

At that time, the animal population was a little bit simpler than it is now. I was superintending the care of the animals during the three years I was there working with Mrs. Harrer when I was a teenager from 1959-1961. There were two lambs, a mother rabbit who often had babies during the middle of the camp season, three chickens and three ducks, and Jerry the Pony. One summer the mother duck laid eggs and we actually watched them hatch out, so we had baby ducklings the last week of camp in 1960. The birth of the baby bunnies was wondrous as we noticed how the mother bunny would take pieces of fur and make her own nest with it.

It is hard to put into words what keeps me so connected to this place. I think nostalgia is a part of it. But, more importantly, I want the next generation beyond mine, and even beyond that, to have an experience similar to what I and other campers had, but appropriate for their time period. I hope they can learn to live in harmony with each other, learn how to do simple creations like shop projects, learn that apple sauce does not come from a Mott's apple sauce bottle, but comes from an apple tree, and have the experience of taking care of animals. Glen Brook has a wonderful eternal quality that has persisted through the different leaderships over the years. It provides a way for each young person, staff as well as children, to find the true self that lives within.

The piece [below] by John Gardner that is posted in the living room speaks on that.”

Glen Brook should be a place of archetypal experiences, giving each a truer glimpse of what he is living for. There must be a quietness where the student comes to a realization of himself and where he can find intuitions of his destiny. We need to learn—all of us—to work not too intensively, not too slackly: to find satisfaction in the work itself, in what we put into it rather than what we take out of it. After the right amount of the right kind of work, everything seems marvelous—the grass is green, the sky is blue, the food is delicious, and companionship springs up with people who have worked together. Companionship and brotherhood must be the prototype for all economic life in the future, as opposed to the self-seeking now prevalent. The tone of the work at Glen Brook should increasingly give children a sense of how this brotherhood may be achieved.

—John Gardner

(John Gardner served as faculty chair at the Waldorf School of Garden City from 1949-1974.)



The Glen Brook main house prior to 1946.

THE GLEN BROOK JOURNAL

Alumni Spotlight

My lifelong journey at Camp Glen Brook started with my 4th grade class trip in 1974, and it was truly love at first sight. Even at that young age, I was taken not only by the landscape, but by the history and the people. The yearly class trips were the highlight of our school year and something we, the class of 1982, still talk about like it was yesterday. I think our Glen Brook adventures were so special because we were being introduced to so many new things in our lives: nature, farming, environmental studies, hiking, earth-to-kitchen-to-table eating, working the land, etc. and we got to experience it with some of the people we loved most, our classmates.



After my 11th grade year in 1981, and fresh off a Waldorf singers tour of Europe, I was asked by two of my most beloved mentors, Mr. Curran and Mr. Rose, if I was interested in working at the Glen Brook summer camp. Talk about an offer I couldn't refuse! I was in heaven and honored that these two men whom I admired and loved had asked me to *work* at a place I had grown to love so much. I was assigned to be in charge of games and activities for all the campers and co-counselor with Marc Strauss, class of 1981, for a group of boys in the Hill House. Mr. Curran and Mr. Rose were so instrumental in guiding and transitioning me into this new role as a teacher, counselor, mentor, and role model. It developed my ability to make sacrifices of what I might want, or need, or think, for the good of what was best for others, particularly the children. I had to organize these programs and classes and each group dynamic was a different challenge to find the right fit—again, for them, not me. I also would be making decisions in my role of counselor/parent that would affect the lives of children and I was only 16 myself.

When all was said and done, I was amazed at how ready I was for this task. I had trials and tribulations, but I remember feeling that this was my calling. I loved working with the children, and I felt this is what I wanted to do with my life.

I have gone on to “work,” I believe, 27 (and counting) summer camps and 17 winter camps over five decades. I have worked under every director, from Curran to Madsen, Braden, Ryan, Goguen-Hulbert, and Stehlik. They all brought something different to the Camp and taught me various skills, philosophies, and know-how that I appreciate, value, and treasure. I am an old-school man of tradition, but I am always open and willing to learn. I owe Mr. Curran and Mr. Rose for believing in me, I owe Mr. Madsen for bringing me back home and teaching me so much, and I owe the others—along with Steve Yardley, Tom Braden, Katy Gibney (Brenin), Grant Butler, and Leon Allgood—for believing in me and allowing the journey and love affair to continue. These people are my family and lifelong friends.

In my personal life, I am blessed to have a wife, Sandra, who has been supportive of my Glen Brook journey, and five children: Giavanna, Keith Jr., Ariana, Matthew, and Joshua who have taken the journey with me and have developed a love of Glen Brook like my own. It has been instrumental in their growth and development as people and definitely made me a better parent for them.

In my professional life, I have gone from running a residential program for abused children for four years to the last 27 years as a school counselor, and the last 14 years as a high school Administrator and also the Athletic Director at Springfield Central High School (over 2,100 students) in Springfield, Massachusetts. I can honestly say I have never had a bad day at work, and I look forward to each day as a new adventure. I see challenges and obstacles as temporary and no match for work ethic, teamwork, passion, consistency and grit. I live by my Glen Brook teaching of leaving everything better than I find it.

Glen Brook has given me everything and owes me nothing.

All I ask of Glen Brook is that it continues to love all of us like we love you.

 Keith Worthy

FALL/WINTER 2020-2021

Camp Glen Brook's 2019-2020 Donors

Gabriel's Field Fund for Farm Development

Ann Beckman
Arnold & Sylvia Bloch
Richard Bossuk
Jay & Diana Dorman
Kenneth & Yvette (Chen) Dorman
Jared Dropkin
Frederick Rhoads
& Denese Giordano
Jeffrey & Janet Kane
Jesse Kane
The Kofsky & Ramdhanie Family
Jose Almanzar & Jeanenne LaBella
Leonard & Marilyn Mandel
Abigail McGlone
Richard & Philippa Mintz
Michael & Carol Proctor
Robert & Stephanie Ross
Judith Segal & James Kelley
Jerome & Rebecca Soloway
Nicholas Harding
& Emma Sydenham
David & Emily (Marshall) Vigneaux
Heidi Visser
David W. White

GB Camp Scholarship Fund

Anonymous
Wayne Altman
Jennifer L. Brower

Janet Capron
Orlando D. Case
& Travius R. Cunningham Chase
Kenneth I. & Kathryn Chenault
Curry & Hovis Inc
John & Eileen Curry
Robert & Gina D'Addario
Tiffany Dickerhoof
Kristen Donelan
Judy Drost
Frederick Rhoads
& Denese Giordano
Charlotte Gross
Karin Heine
Aaron & Barbarina Heyerdahl
Ned Hulbert & Mary Day Mordecai
Jacob & Suzanne Lewis
Mrs. Pamela Livingston
James & Rachel (Scherer) Madsen
Andrew Manns
Scott McGovern & Peggy Brown
Michael & Gloria Morison
Jacob Northcutt
Kelly O'Hagan
Jeff Schwartz
Christina M. See
Charles & Marlena Seminario
Charles & Pauline Seremetis
Joanne Spitaliere
Ed & Margie Stehlik
Sadie & Mark Stehlik

Christopher Swartout
& Sarah Culmer
Mary Tighe
Karen R. Tomlinson
Bruce & Barbara Travins
Bob Whitaker & Hillary Burdette
David W. White
Paul White & Starr Barron
Scott A. Williams & Susan Braun

GB Capital Campaign

Peter & Janet Asten
Torin & Karine Finser
David Kelley & Nicole LaBarbera
Jerome Macht
John & Diana Pascal
Daniel & Lucy Stroock
David W. White

Glen Brook Unrestricted

Ronald & Kathleen Banks
Nancy Bello
Rick Brodsky & Sherri Brodsky
Bob Whitaker & Hillary Burdette
Bradely & Erika Carrell
Scott Cohen & Nicole Franchuk
Robert & Gina D'Addario
Colin Dangel & Pamela Gordon
John & Jenna DeRosa
Jason & Noelle Falzon
Douglas & Suzanne Fraser

Lauren Gray
Adria Goodson & Max Vohlken
Bob Hamshaw & Diane
William & Paula Jennings
Annalise Kukor
George Lamb
Anthony Lappe
Bryan Lehrer
Lee & Jennifer Lowery
David C. Meissner
Alexander Moskovitz
Andrew & Heidi Moskovitz
Sarah Murphy
Leopold & Lia O'Donnell
Jessica Osborne
Lee & Taryn Pinstein
Joseph & Patti Regan
Faith Rose & Devin O'Neill
Michael & Jill Rubenstein
Nord & Margaret Samuelson
Carlos & Delia Serrano
Ian Spencer
Edward Stehlik, Jr.
& Richard Buccleu
David W. White
Alex & Sarah Workman
Kevin Zvargulis & Tamara Ruppert

GB Specific Donation

David W. White

Thank you for making all that happens at Glen Brook possible!

Hold this QR code in your
smartphone's camera to make
a secure donation today!



Your tax-deductible donations can be made online at glenbrook.org/donate or by mail.



35 Glen Brook Road
Marlborough, NH 03455
Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT
ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #272
GARDEN CITY
NY



**Summer Camp Registration is starting at a slightly reduced capacity, so sign up now!
Find out what we're doing to make 2021 safe by visiting glenbrook.org/Qanda.**