

French Woods Festival
Of the Performing Arts
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THE PERFORMER IS YOUR NEWSLETTER!!!

The Performer is only as good as the contributions we receive from the French Woods community. Let us know what is going on in your life. Your camp friends love to hear what you are doing. Do you have a performance or concert coming up? Have you seen or spoken to French Woods friends? It's **your** big chance! Send us an e-mail at admin@frenchwoods.com or give us a call at (800) 634-1703. Visit our web site at www.frenchwoods.com or We all love hearing from you!


The
PERFORMER
Informing The French Woods Community

December 2018

Alumni Edition



French Woods Alumni perform at 54 Below



French Woods
Festival of the Performing Arts
www.frenchwoods.com

In this Issue: • Alumni, Camper & Staff News • Ron, Beth & Isaac Photo by Michael Hull

A Note from Ron



In the past few months we have spent a lot of time thinking through what would be the best policy going forward concerning the use of electronic devices at camp. We considered eliminating all cell phones and text messaging devices but we recognize that children, especially teenagers, have come to take for granted the use of these tools on a daily basis. The conundrum we faced is that there are benefits to using such devices as well as substantial drawbacks.

We have a solution, that we would like you, as parents, to help us enforce by both discussing this policy with your children and conveying your support of it.

Cell phones will be permitted to be used at camp for the following purposes:

- Listening to music
- Photography
- Use in program areas (under staff supervision)
- Internet research for our older campers (under staff supervision in the classroom)

Phones can be used when a child is traveling to or from camp and on camp outings.

Any other usage will result in confiscation of the phone. If phones are confiscated, they will not be returned until the child is signed out of camp for the season.

One of the greatest benefits of camping is the chance for a child to establish real relationships in a controlled, safe environment. Summer camp offers a great opportunity to learn about and navigate social situations while not being constantly connected to and immersed in a digital/virtual world. Checking emails and texting, using Instagram etc. or playing *fortnite* and other games while walking to activities, during classes or evening performances are counterproductive to French Woods camp life. Additionally, it is developmentally important that children be allowed independence, so constant communication with a parent can actually prevent growth on the part of the child. Furthermore, children attending camp for the first time often go through a period of homesickness. Immediate contact with a parent often delays their immersion into camp life.

Our counselors, head counselors and camp directors are with the children to assess concerns and will involve parents when needed. At French Woods, children are allowed to email home directly after the first two days of camp. Additionally, any child wishing to use a camp phone will be permitted to do so after the first week of each session. A classroom with Internet service is available for schoolwork and college applications (again - under supervision).

It is my recommendation that electronics be left at home, especially for children under twelve. We will not be responsible for damage or loss. If sending a child under twelve with a cell phone, why not remove the sim card? This allows them to have use of the device in a way that meets camp standards. I hope that this letter is received in the spirit with which it is written. My only interest is to provide the best experience for your child. If you would like to discuss this, I can be reached at the camp office. I would be more than happy to talk to anyone concerned.

Barbara and I wish all of you the best. Have a great holiday season. We hope to see all of you this summer.

Ron

Dear French Woods Families:

With the Australia hiring fairs earlier than ever, it's hard to believe that it's already December! I've managed to catch up with campers and counselors alike, both visiting the French Woods office and on my travels overseas. The highlight of my fall was the Studio 54 Celebrates French Woods concert and benefit for the Hancock French Woods Arts Alliance. Even better than the concert itself (which was wonderful) was catching up with kids who are now professional working adults some of whom I hadn't seen in more than 20 years. The love in the room was palpable. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and came out to the event. It was a very



special night.

Darryn, Ryan Ron and I will all continue recruiting fairs in the UK and Mexico and I look forward to catching up with more alumni, campers and staff over the holiday season. Come visit us! Fondly,

Beth Schaefer

Isaac's Corner



It is not easy for parents to make the decision to send their children away into the waiting arms of strangers who promise to take good care of them — people who promise to expose them to the arts and show them the wonders of nature, fun, new skills and friendships. As a parent of two children, even I struggled with the idea, and I have been around summer camps my entire life.

The world needs the next generation to be more tolerant of each other's views, ideologies and beliefs. Summer camp is an opportunity for children to be exposed to the best of the human character. Carefully selected role models are dedicated to showing your child how to have fun, learn from others and make friends and communicate in person rather than online. Camp allows kids to meet people from all over the world, every race, culture, and socioeconomic level. French Woods is a second home to campers from 40 US states and 40 international countries.

There is so much competition for our children's time in the summer — sports practices, summer school, well-deserved family vacations. But let's not forget the value of a camp experience — camp is a gift we can give our children that they will benefit from and remember forever. If ever there was a time when the world needed a generation of future leaders who understood the intricacies of living in a community, having tolerance, and being open — that time is now.

Rose and I wish everyone a great holiday season and ask you to please stay in touch.

Remember, as of Christmas Day, there are only 165 days until the start of session 1 and 184 days until the start of Session 2.

Hoping to see many of you at our upcoming Camp Fairs and Open Houses,

Isaac

Studio 54

Celebrates French Woods

On November 18th, Feinstein's/ 54 Below in NYC held a concert featuring current French Woods campers and FWF alumni now working professionally in the theater industry. These incredible performers sang songs from their camp shows and told stories of their camp exploits. To watch was a trip down memory lane going back twenty years and to catch up with some of the alums sitting in the audience was heart warming. These people are the fabric of French Woods history!

The concert also served as a benefit with a portion of the proceeds going to the not-for-profit arm of the camp - the Hancock-French Woods Arts Alliance that assists college students committed to a career in the arts. Beth Schaefer and Brian Worsdale represented the FWF family and Beth spoke on behalf of the Alliance.

The culmination of the evening was Josh Freilich's camp anthem song, "Love is the Answer." With Josh at the keys, current campers took the stage and sang this very special song. As we look forward to our 50th summer, we also look to the future and anticipate which of you will be the at 54 Below, or somewhere like it 20 years from now.

Special thanks to Jen Sandler from Studio 54 and to Ben Caplan a musical director for both Studio 54 and French Woods for taking this idea and making it all happen.

We all look forward to making this an annual fall event!

On the Go...

In the next few months, French Woods representatives: Isaac, Rose, Scobes, Danny, Magic Larry, Chloe, Anne, Scott, Noelle, Aaron, Maddie, Cam and more will be at camper recruitment fairs in and around Atlanta, Aspen, Austin TX, Boston, Brooklyn, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Ft. Lauderdale, Greenwich, Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Maryland, Milan, Nashville, New Jersey, New York City, Paris, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Vail, Westchester NY, Washington DC, Wilmington, DE. Go to www.frenchwoods.com/blog/ to see when and where and come by and visit! We'd love to have your help. You are our best recruiters!

Generations...

The Following alumni have registered their children to come to French Woods this summer. If you are an alum with children, call us about touring camp to see how much has changed, and how much has stayed the same.

Abby Wellington, Behzad Amiri, Chia-Hui Herskovitz, Courtney Ozer, Dana Weisman, Danielle Cattani, David Simon, Eric Orenstein, Erika Lederman Leon, Hannah Mestel, Hannah Noto, Jeffrey Rosen, Jenny Carchman, Jenny Dirksen, Jessica Bashline, Jessica Buddman, Jon Gellert, Judy Crosby, Julie Hack, Julie Rottenberg, Ken Levenson, Kiva Barr, Lori King, Marc Rosenberg, Margaret Munzer, Melissa Broder, Michael Sherling, Nancy Illman, Neal Teicher, Pablo Cires, Rachel Kaplowitz, Randy Schwartz, Rebecca Silver, Samona Rosenberg, Stefanie Schanzer-Melillo, Steve Rozner, Tracey Greenwald, Tracy Louv, Tricia Dring, Wendy Reimer... Let us know if we've missed you!

College Advising at Camp

French Woods provides college advising help while campers are at camp. Eric "Scobes" Scoblionko is a full time staff member who has worked with students in the college selection process for years. He helps select appropriate schools, assists with essays and guides students in completing the application process. Call Scobes at the French Woods office to learn more.

2019 Broadway Show Trips

It has become French Woods tradition to offer our campers the opportunity to attend a Broadway Show in New York City. Often the campers are treated to a talkback with the cast.

Session 1 *The Other Josh Cohen*



For a limited number of Session 1 campers - on Wednesday, June 19, 2019 we have tickets to see the new Broadway musical production - *The Other Josh Cohen*. The all-inclusive cost is \$125 and includes ticket, transportation and dinner. BTW - This show has so many beautiful tie-ins to FWF-David Rossmer and Steve Rosen, met there as teens. The lead producer, Sue Gillad, has 3 kids who have been through Frenchwoods and love it. And Catherine, the group sales manager, is also an alumna.

Session 2 *The Prom*



On Sunday, July 7, 2019 we have tickets to see the new Broadway musical production - *The Prom*. The all-inclusive cost is \$125 and includes ticket, transportation and dinner.

Session 3 *Be more Chill*



On Sunday, July 28, 2019 we have tickets to see the new Broadway musical production - *Be More Chill*. The all-inclusive cost is \$195 and includes ticket, transportation and dinner.

If you are interested in having your child attend, please complete and e-sign the permission slip and credit card authorization found through CampMinder on your Camp Intouch dashboard.



One of our older campers recently posted on Facebook I hope rather 'tongue in cheek': "Why did my mom sign me up for the Race for the Arts?" So campers, please keep reading as we explain both why is it important that you participate in the Race for the Arts and why you should ask your parents to sponsor you. (It's more than getting the T-shirt!)

The 4K Race for the Arts falls under the HFWAA (Hancock-French Woods Arts Alliance), a 501(c) 3 public not-for-profit organization that was initially started by the Schaefer family. Take a look at the website hfwa.org. And here is the answer to the question above: 100% of the funds raised from business sponsors and parents are awarded as partial college scholarships to deserving, needy students committed to a career in the arts **who are also your French Woods counselors**. Interested counselors fill out a rigorous scholarship application and HFWAA strives to give those chosen a hand up rather than just a handout. Food for thought: Part of the *true magic of camp lies in the relationship between children and their counselors. Children who have been cared for all of their lives by "old" parents in their thirties and forties, or by "ancient" teachers moving through their forties and fifties, are delighted by the novelty of sharing adventures as well as their apprehensions and being cared for by appealing young adults in their late teens and early twenties.* Those young adults are an intergral part of making the French Woods summer experience a great one.

This summer 2,247 campers and counselors did participate in the HFWAA Seventh Annual 4K Race for the Arts. Four races were held, one during each 3-week session on the French Woods Festival of the Arts Campus. Dozens more children and staff volunteered - giving out water, as timekeepers, photographers and cheerleaders! It is a great time. Every race participant and volunteer received a Race Wristband. There was no charge to run the race, but we did design a commemorative t-shirt celebrating the Race for the Arts. **Unfortunately only 20% of the campers were sponsored.**

In this special Alumni Edition of *The Performer*, HFWAA gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our 2018 Race for the Arts sponsors. We hope that many of you will consider joining them for Summer 2019!

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Aspen Community Foundation
The Loeb Family
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The Phoebe Backer Family
Elizabeth A. Dunn, CPA
War Horse Cities



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Westex • T. Ross Electric • Jeff Gould/Independent Lake • The Walmark Family • The Ramirez Family • The Greenberg Family • The Grahn Family • The Evans-Reiner Family

For more information about becoming a Business or Parent sponsor for Race for the Arts 2019 please contact Rose at either 607-637-8404 or rose@hfwa.org or rose@frenchwoods.com

December Birthdays!

1 Ariana Sanatinia Eliza Bronstein Julia Levin Jumana Haddadin- Cameron Nadia Kamrath Scarlett Lewis	6 Anna Bhogra Asa Bry Bridget Flatow Elisa Angelino Ella Grann Evelyn Burt Scarlett Lewis	Lindsay Hernandez Madison Carty Mikhail Malakhov	15 Cassi Silver Ella Saliba FLORE BREON Holly Marcell	Kaleb Barkley Lucas Sosnick Milena Carpati Oliver Shane Satya Loeb Sophie Glenn Tessa Zicari Tyler Garibaldi Walker Dove	Sienna Rubin 25 Jack Silber Jocelyn White Keira Carvin
2 Jacob Garber Leticia Ordonez Luis Lafaurie Marta Parravicini Vikram Ganti Zach Grann	Jacob Myers Olivia Knego Samuel Landa	11 Aaron Triffleman- Miller Christian Sosa Fernanda de Madariaga Jessica Woodlee Joshua Triffleman- Miller	16 Anthony Flanders Benjamin Gregory Catherine Shanahan Shir Toledo Ella Miller Ethan Unthank Kathryn Sheehan	21 Dominic Flannery Eugenia Graevitckaia Jacob Loeb Kathryn Dramer Luisa Asali Elorduy Noble Avellino Sabrina Shapsis Sofia Janssen Zuri Dennison-Lane	26 Daphne Antonioli Eric Gressman Gabrielle Fraser Jackson Steinberg Kia Moreno Nia Jones 27 Charlotte Reynal Ian Barr Martin Seals Matthew Frankel
3 Delilah Brien Isaac Newman Nina Dennis Nora Silverstein Paulina Guerra Sebastian Miyao Zachary Schwartz	7 Achilles Kinney Greer Udelson Madison Zatzkin	8 Alexa Steckel Alina Mirman Audrey Isserles Avery Prokopowicz Ella Cucunato Gigi Manley Ioannis Saridakis Maren Frey Paul Huggen Nathalie Waters	17 Lilly Bowman Lorenzo Masi Michelle Kunzli Nasir Clark	22 Gianfranco Batoni Julia Brown Kasseem Dean Maple Carocci Mario Cuomo	28 Elise Margnat Katherine Giffler Katlyn McMullen Kimberly Norrell Laura McKeivitt Leah Swithers Marley Sonke Sasha Ogievetsky Sofia Arevalo
4 Charlotte Price Isabel Braun Jeffrey Gould Mason Du Michael Lundy Oriana Koutsodimitropoulos Reagan Appel Sophia Appelbaum- Roth Zsofia Gyongyosi	9 Cuyler Welsh Patrick Johnson Sophie Picciotto	13 Benjamin Denmark Brady Klein Colton Rothauser Grayson Washington Henry Crater Lana Duke Lauren Thomas Maya Jaffe Paul McDonald Ronan O'Comartun Samuel Schreiber	18 Emily Schwartz Jaydon Bravo Jordan Pinsky Lela Wang Ryder Neave Sophia Nisonoff Zoe Glimcher	23 Aidan Darius Alexander Lathon Jackson Pavlik Jalyn Robinson Mark Vrap Mia Tang Nadine Osborne Stella Vrap Zachary Degen	30 Dylan Messana Isabella Grundmann
5 Cameron Branson Farah Salem Max Sebok Megan Lauer Nancy Teng Nathaniel Daniel Sophia Nehme	10 Anneka Shepherd Anneliese Simon Arianna Lerner Auden Sorensen Eva Donahey Eva Wendel Jade Wanyi Rothbaum Karis Knoll Lawrence Flinn	14 Jackson Choran Jeremy Schoeneborn Mateus Paganini	20 Chloe Bolognino Doug Baker Eliza Greenwald Ethan Sosnick Harleigh Fried Joelle Sacks	24 Celeste Borletti Darren House Eleanor Ianno Hudson Flynn Nicholas Feigelson	31 Arina Ilchuk Mike Pierre Zach Eisenman

Just Registered! (November 15 - December 12)

Abbie Jacobson Abigail Schwartz Abraham ElHarar Addison Spiegelman Adelaide Fargo Adriana D'onofrio Alessia O'Kane Alexandra Hulnick Alexandra Krum Amanda Ruffino Amelia Levenson Anne-Marie Dougall Ari Naznitsky Arseniy Akinshchikov Audrey Brda Austen Kite Ava Franciscovich Aviv Cohen Beau Walt Ben Berlin Ben Schanccup Brady Klein	Brandon Strug Brooke Naznitsky Brooke Shingary Calder Kite Callie La Testa Cameron Klein Carly Weiss Cassia Cohen Catalina Grieco Ceili Fitzpatrick Charlie Faulkner Cody Tooker Cydney Klass Dani Saril Daniel Siegel Dylan Kaufman Ekua Dufu Elizabeth Buller Elizabeth "Gracie" Griffin Emma Kessler Eva Donahey Eva Yoshikawa Evan Ozer	Farrah Kweit Frances Friedman Fred Faulkner Gabriel Brito Gabriel Hawkins Gabrielle Fraser Giada O'Kane Gleb Akinschikov Grant Herman Greta Biggins Haley Ruthman Hannah Joe Harmony Haynes Holly Simon Hunter Farbman Isabel Botko Isabella Brito Isabella Morgan Izzy Spiegelman Jacob Fisch Jeanne Frerebeau John Cross Jonah Berlin	Jonah Schanccup Juliana Laskow Kate Frieman Kathryn Keith Kofi Dufu Lana Duke Layla Gerstin Leah Sinelnikov Lilah Hofbauer Lily Baumwoll Lindsay Fabricant Lorenzo Brito Luca O'Kane Lucy Dahl Margot Hulme Marta Hulme Matthew Laskow Maya Bogner Maya Sinelnikov Maya Sunshine Meredith Levine Mia Kowalski Mia Tang	Michaela Athanasakopoulos Molly Donahey Molly Jacobson Mykhailo Polkovskiy Natalie Werthomer Nola Zicari Pierce Walt Roman Zelman Rose Ducret Ruby Goodman Samantha Siter Sara Laduzinski Sarah Joe Shayna Meyer Sienna Post Sienna Rubin Sophia Torren Sophie Jost Stephanie Contreras Sylvie Janowitz Tessa Zicari Thomas Freilich Victor Donahey Yoonsuh Kim
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Alumni News!

From the Cover: A group of French Woods Alumni recently got together and performed in a concert at Studio 54 in Manhattan, singing the roles they played in their youth.

Former head counselor, **Rosie Flanagan** and her partner announce the birth of their baby daughter named Lily.

Maestro **Paul Corn** and his wife Evita announce the birth of their baby son named Rocco Vincent.

David Rossmer and **Steve Rosen's show, The Other Josh Cohen** is currently playing off Broadway. We will be taking a trip to see the show in session 1; those of you who will not be at camp session one should see the show - it's getting great reviews.

Jessica Bashline's play *WICKEDEST WOMAN* will play 14 performances, January 19- February 2 at The WP Theater (2162 Broadway).

Christof Putzel is an award-winning journalist most recently with Al Jazeera America's news magazine, *America Tonight*.

Stephanie Black was recently featured in the IAMA Cabaret celebrating Backwards Broadway. The event was a fundraiser for her theater company in LA.

Andrej Nawoj, a Brooklyn College BFA Theater Design and Production major spent his summer at the College Light Opera Company in Falmouth, Massachusetts building sets for the likes of *Pirates of Penzance*, *Pier Point Lobster Race*, *Wonderful Town*, *Music Man*, *Sweeney Todd* and more!

Staff & Camper News

Theater directors, **Aaron Farenback-Brateman** and **Jordan Bialik**, recently launched PLAYGROUNDED, an improv program for kids and teens in NYC. After successful fall classes with many French Woods campers, they are currently enrolling for the winter session. If you are interested in building your improv skills while having a blast with your friends, check out www.playgroundedimprov.com

Stephen Eisenwasser will be performing in his one-person show and senior thesis called *Kaddish* on December 21st at New World School of the Arts in Miami.

Rose Robinson, a past president of the Adolph & Rose Levis Jewish Community Center in Boca Raton, will be a recipient of the Phyllis and Harvey Sandler Crystal Award at the J's January fundraiser.

Danny Feldman's *Hide and Seek* will be doing an encore performance at Feinstein's 54 Below on April 25, 2019.

Sedona Raphael was cast in *A Christmas Story, the Musical*, at Kelsey Theatre in Mercer County, NJ as Esther Jane/Classroom Kid. She was also cast in her upcoming school show, *Shrek the Musical*, where she will play the part of Pinocchio.

Zach Asnis played Principal Skor in the Birch Wathen Lenox High School performance of *The Sparrow*.

Harry Watkin-Fox was cast as Harry Bright in his high school's production of *Mamma Mia*.

The demo of the new musical *The Alien Logs of Super Jewels* (music and lyrics by **Josh Freilich** and book by BK Bradshaw) is now available for listening on Josh's Soundcloud channel. Among the voices heard on the demo are alumni and staff members: **Josh, Roy George, Hannah Howzdy, Jessica Lynch, Addie Meny, Maddison Rotner, Lauren Schorr, Lindsay Spangenthal, Brionna Trilling, Emily Trias, Sari Weinerman** and **Robin Van Zandt**.

Sasha Murray was cast as Little Fan and Ensemble in The Westchester Broadway Theatre's production of *A Christmas Carol*.

Natalie Cohen will be playing the role of Annie in the Play ON! Studio's production of *Annie* at The Kitchen in NYC.

Sam Sherman is on the Tech Crew at St. Ann's in Brooklyn for *Oscar Wilde Tales*.

Rose Shyk was cast as Mary Poppins in her school's upcoming spring production of *Mary Poppins Jr*. She recently performed as Margot in *Legally Blonde Jr* at Keystone Youth Theatrics at Allenberry Playhouse.

Aviv Cohen is releasing her third original song this month. You can see her work on IG@avivcohenofficial and on her YouTube Channel - Aviv Cohen.

Ana Lillie was cast as Golde in her Spokane, WA High School production of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Special thanks to **Noelle Francis, Angela Annese, Bernard Farquharson, Julia Bravo, Frankie Dascola, Makayla Fetterman, Chloe Sperry, Adolfo Monterosso** and **Aaron Farenback-Brateman** for helping out with our November/December New York based fairs.