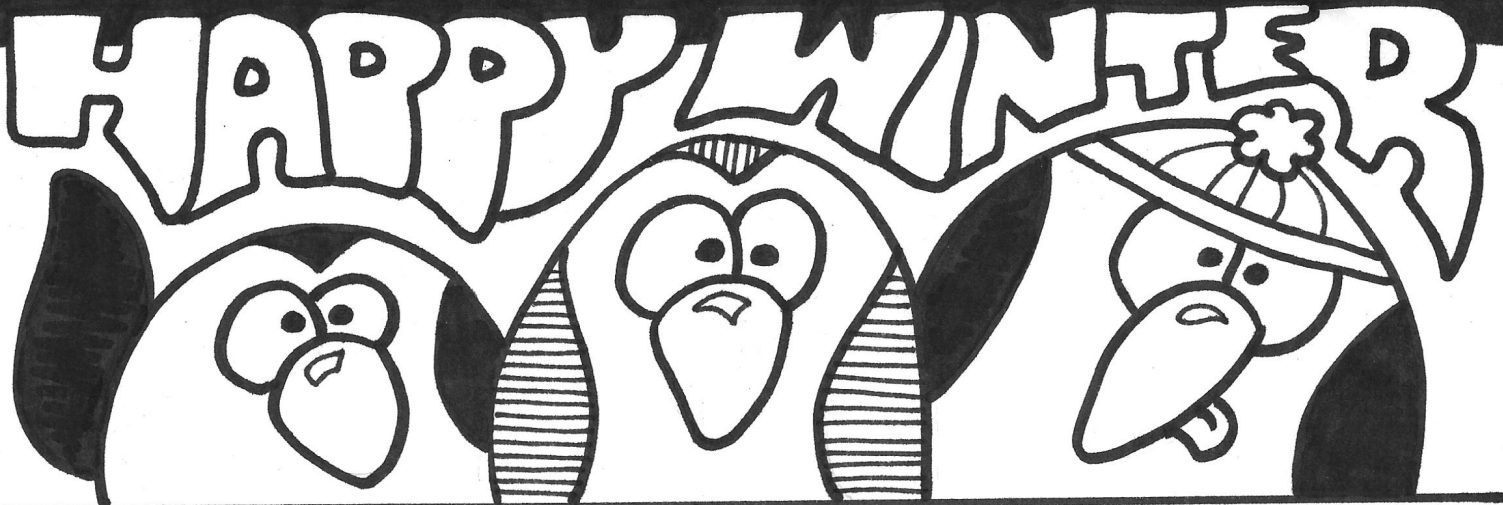


THE WALDEN POND

CAMP WALDEN

WINTER 2026

SPECIAL ISSUE



WHAT'S NEW WITH OUR FRIENDS

- **EVERLY LAWSON** went to a surf camp in San Diego and learned to surf.
- **ZOEY WEIBELER** joined the girls basketball team.
- **VIVIAN ALBERTS** learned how to crochet and has a new cavapoo puppy named **MOCHA**.
- **MADDIE PEARLMAN** was in the play *Elf*.
- **JULIA PEARLMAN** is celebrating her bat mitzvah in January.
- **EMMA FOXX** got into the highest level of soccer in her region.
- **TOMMY ROLLOW** says his service dog retired, and he figured out where he's going to middle school.
- **ALEX LIPSON** fractured her ankle for the second time (at school, ask Mila).
- **MARLEY ELKUS** has gone to seven different concerts in the last few months.
- **HARPER FANTICH** has been dancing six days per week.
- **EDEN ROSENBERG** is looking forward to her first year at Walden.
- **PEGGY ROSE** went to Japan in September.
- **COLONEL JOHN** is one year older but he won't delve any further into that.

Q&A w/... **Ximena Ramirez**

Ximena will be third-year Walden staff member. Originally from Mexico, she studies at the State University of New York in Fredonia.

Tell us a bit about yourself: I've been at Walden for two years, all over the place, from the farm to the water front, and I love it all. Since this summer I've been working on finishing my degree in visual arts! I've been taking fun classes and illustrating my final project (a children book about a girl that grows tomatoes). I spent the holidays over in England and got to see a lot of my camp friends!

What is the zaniest costume that you've ever worn for summer camp? I've dressed up as Burger King and Scarlet Witch for Color Clash.



What talent will you be showcasing at Walden Under (our camp talent show)? I'd love to do something fun with my future cabin. Last year our interpretive dance was a hit, so I'm hoping to do another fun group performance.

Continued on Page TK

IS MY FAVORITE WALDEN COUNSELOR / UP/ CHO COMING BACK???

It's possible. Here's the list so far,
and it's growing every day!

2025 COUNSELORS: Hugo Reid, Jove, Kidd, Max Freeman, Ginny Loakes, Ella McCartney, Beth Peace, Madison Broad, Lola Hafron, Addie Jacob, Maddie Hawk, Luke Kelly, Carson Enge, Riley Baker, Kate Thummler, Ximena Ramirez, Anabelle Photenhauer, Lauren McCash, Nathan Heilbrunn, Luke "Pepe" Gruenhagen, Kyle Cronan, Cami Silva, Ava Brown, Freya Sharp, Matt Ashley, Jack Casey, Robert Janusiewicz, Georgia Weishaus, Julia Raya Cortes, Emily Bowley, Addi Sorota, Liv Randel.



2025 UPs: Sophie Page, JP Moussier, Ashley Singer.

2025 CAs BACK AS STAFF: Jonah Levy, Ellie Fuller, Morgan Wolfson.



2025 SPECIALTY STAFF: Abi Griffiths (Riding), Sandy Neville (Boys Side Head), Jay Edwards (Waterfront), Office Fer, Office Dani, Office Cami, Tripper Ozzy, Tripper Porter, and CHO Hayleigh.



STAFF WHO SKIPPED A YEAR (or more): Joey Chuong, Tripper Marco, as well as *Rikki Aronoff* and *Sammy Kalniz* overseeing the LIT/CA Program this summer!

HAPPY GRAMS

- ☑ **SYDNEY:** I will sail with you. Eden Rosenberg
- ☑ **G-8 (S1):** Miss you! Hope to see you next year! Zoey Weibeler
- ☑ **G-11 (S1):** I miss y'all so much. So excited to see you guys next summer. Emma Foxx
- ☑ **G-9 (S2):** Camping trip to Walden II. Remember!? Alex Lipson
- ☑ **G-10 (S1):** I miss you all sooo much. I hope to see you next summer!!! Marley Elkus
- ☑ **RORY BLANCK:** Hey girl, I miss you so much, bestie!!! Harper Fantich
- ☑ **TO ALL THA ANIMALS WHO WINTER AT WALDEN:** Have a safe and warm time in snow caves. Peggy Rose
- ☑ **NINA S. AND JOJO W.:** I miss you. See you this summer for more fun!! (all together) Vivian Alberts
- ☑ **CECI OSE:** So excited to see you soon! Maddie Pearlman
- ☑ **LENI:** I miss seeing you. I'll see you next summer. Julia Pearlman
- ☑ **G-17/G-37:** Miss you guys so much. Love you lots, Everly Lawson
- ☑ **FARM, OUTDOOR COOKING, AND ANIMAL CARE STAFF:** Thanks for all of the support you gave me. Hope to see you all next year. The Colonel
- ☑ **SYLVIE STANTON:** I can't wait to see you again! Rosie summer! Zoe Leber
- ☑ **AUDREY SCHIPPITS:** How's Colorado? Navah Levine
- ☑ **G-12 (S1):** I miss all of you! Erin W.
- ☑ **CAMP:** I miss you so much. Can't wait to come back. Juliet
- ☑ **ROSIE:** How RU? Alexa MacIntosh
- ☑ **GAVIN:** I love you. Avery
- ☑ **LEXI:** I thought of the game again. Genevieve
- ☑ **G-13 (S2):** I miss you guys. Bridget
- ☑ **AUDREY SCHIPPITS:** Miss you! Brooke Moross
- ☑ **ETHAN ARCARO:** You better be back next summer. Malcolm
- ☑ **MAXIMILIANO:** Ojala te pueda ver otra vez. Santiago
- ☑ **AVERY:** I miss you. Summer Barnett
- ☑ **SUMMER:** I miss you. Avery Lilly
- ☑ **NAVAH LEVINE:** Miss you! Brooke Moross
- ☑ **FRENCH FRY:** Do you like Japanese food? Kei
- ☑ **JOSIE CALLIF:** I can't wait to see you! I miss you! Stella Borman
- ☑ **AVI:** Hi, are you excited for camp? Richie Berg

QUOTE OF THE ISSUE

"OPEN BOOKS
OPEN MINDS."
~ ANONYMOUS

AUTOGRAPH OF THE ISSUE

Kei

DON'T FORGET

TO MAIL BACK THE
SURVEY SHEET SO
YOU CAN BE IN
THE NEXT
POND!



PLEASE CUT OUT THIS SHEET
AND MAIL IT BACK SO YOU CAN
BE IN THE NEXT WALDEN POND!

YOUR
NAME:

CABIN
LAST
SUMMER:

SESSION
LAST
SUMMER:

WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?

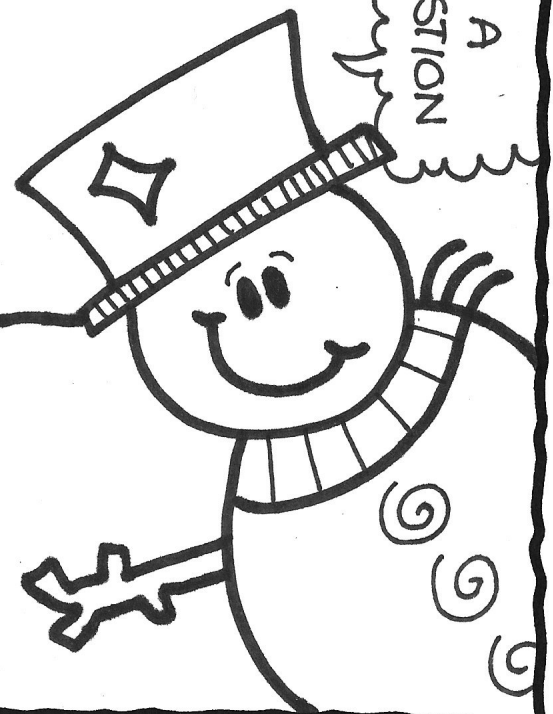
CONTEST
PHANTOM GUESS:

WHAT SHOULD BE THE
THEME FOR WALDEN
UNDER?

DEARED...

ASK A
QUESTION

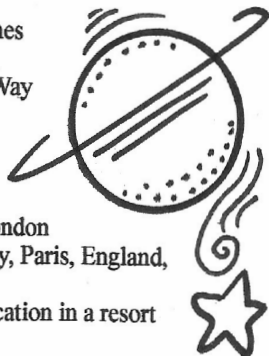
SEND A HAPPY-GRAM:



RETURN TO:
NEAL LEVIN, 6000 REVERE PLACE #42B,
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48301

WHAT PART OF THE WORLD OR UNIVERSE WOULD YOU LIKE TO EXPLORE?

- **EDEN ROSENBERG:** Israel
- **EVERLY LAWSON:** The Philippines
- **MARLEY ELKUS:** The moon
- **HARPER FANTICH:** The Milky Way
- **ZOEY WEIBELER:** Any planet
- **MADDIE PEARLMAN:** Japan
- **TOMMY ROLLOW:** Japan
- **ALEX LIPSON:** Hawaii
- **JULIA PEARLMAN:** Paris and London
- **EMMA FOXX:** Europe, Rome, Italy, Paris, England, and all around the globe
- **VIVIAN ALBERTS:** A nice hot vacation in a resort (like Mexico)



PHANTOM CONTEST

The Phantom in the last issue of the Pond was nature director John Newcomer (a.k.a. The Colonel), but **ONLY ONE CAMPER** guessed it right. (Peggy Rose and John himself also sent in guesses and knew who knew was.)



Congratulations to our winner:

HARPER FANTICH



If you are the winner, see Liz or Scott at camp to claim your prize.

Because there was only one winner this time instead of the regular three, we'll choose five winners next time!

A funny thing happened to me. I went up to camp to take my swim test early, but the lake was frozen. So I started to chop up the ice and got most of the lake cleared when I saw a bottle with a note inside. That's when I knew the Phantom must have struck!

Can you figure out who the Phantom is based on the clues below? It's someone well-known who was at camp last summer.



Phantom Clues:

- Horseback riding
- Blonde hair
- Pasture party
- Dog walking



Cut out the survey sheet in this Pond and include your guess. You don't need to give reasons when guessing the Phantom in the winter Ponds. Then mail the sheet to the address at the bottom. We'll select the winners at random from all the correct entries. Winners will receive a staff T-shirt (or something else as determined by Liz and Scott) when they come to camp. Winners will appear in the next issue of the Pond.

DEAR ED

Dear Ed, how many beaches are there in the world?

Eden Rosenberg Dear Eden, it's hard to say because it depends on what counts as a beach, but estimates are in the millions. Michigan alone has hundreds, if not thousands, including the one at camp. Ed

Dear Ed, how many fish reside in Long Lake?

John Newcomer Dear John, Ed was going to ask the Outdoor Life director, but the Outdoor Life director didn't know because he's the one asking the question. But Ed had Al do a sophisticated calculation, and it estimated that there are between 120,000 to 280,000 individual fish, including everything from tiny minnows to trophy pike. But after 1A Fishing, a few less. Ed

Dear Ed, who feeds the pigs on the farm at camp?

Harper Fantich Dear Harper, Justin from maintenance normally feeds the pigs their main meals. Camper often feed them dandelions and long grasses. Ed

Dear Ed, Is anyone at Walden in the winter?

Avi Bagdade Dear Avi, Yes, the chipmunks! Ed was going to ask them if anyone else was there, but they were hibernating, and he didn't want to wake them. Ed.

Dear Ed is short for "Dear Editor." If you have a question about camp send it to Ed and see if your answer appears in future issues.

Ximena continued...

Can you elaborate on "interpretive dance"?

It wasn't fully planned. LIT Sienna and I were playing some kind of percussion instruments while the rest of G-15 danced around us. It ended up being chaotic but really fun.



Ximena (middle) & some of the 2025 LITs

What is something you wish you knew before working at Walden? I wish I had known how meaningful the little moments would be. The random laughs, casual conversations, and everyday routines are what I remember most.

What is one piece of advice you would give a new camper? Try everything, even if it feels uncomfortable at first. Everyone at Walden is rooting for you. Some of the best memories come from activities you didn't think you'd enjoy.



SAN DIEGO BOUND!

In mid-February, while this newsletter is being printed, Camp Walden's directors will travel to San Diego for the American Camp Association national conference. This annual event brings thousands of summer-camp people together to talk about the best ways to keep campers and staff safe, healthy and having fun. Liz, Scott, Annie, James and Robyn will be soaking up ideas for new games and new Mess Hall meals, and hopefully up some California sun, too. See ya surfside!

5 QUESTIONS WITH DEBRA LAFLEUR

1) **You live in Cheboygan year-round, right?** Yeah. I live in Cheboygan year-round. I love the beautiful scenic views. I like that my kids come up to go fishing.

2) **What's it like here in the winter?** Super cold. Like, I told my grandkids that I live at the North Pole and Santa lives next door, so they have to be good.

3) **If it gets so cold up here in the winter, do you go down to Florida or anything?** Yes, we get tired of digging and shoveling ourselves out, so, yeah, we head to Florida. This year we're going in February.

4) **Where is the best place to eat around Cheboygan (outside of camp)?** The best place to eat, hands down, is the Great Lakes Grill. They have home-made food. So they bake bread every single morning and serve it to you. They open up at four a.m. Good fish, too.



Deb taking orders at Waldmart

5) **If you taught an activity at camp instead of helping out in the office what would you like to teach?** Hands down, I would teach crafts.

FULL NAME: Samuel Weber
FAVORITE MAGAZINE: The Walden Pond
FAVORITE BOOK: Percy Jackson
FAVORITE SINGER: Justin Bieber
FAVORITE JUNK FOOD: Chips
SOMETHING HE LOVES: His family
LIKES TO HANG OUT AT: His house
WOULD LOVE TO VISIT: Japan

SAM WEBER
SPOTLIGHT
ON...

Walden Winter Word Search

Find the hidden words or phrases listed below

COZYCHIPMUNKSUHLOVDD
 OZIFMVQGGZPCXQYRXIIUL
 HICWFNTLUPUOOLLIONAB
 GSIJQDOGJHPYLHTEEUUK
 PNCVHZZRZYVRLIDWZOKZW
 DOLLREZTMFTZMCDGZZQ
 UWEMELKAYHOIUYRAVHZZ
 CDSDAEMHWAEOASJWBEIJ
 LRLSFCCWMHTRZQCXQIAI
 ZIFMLQUDJJOYNNCVMVNE
 ZFHPEUXAZTSQWLVLVDWS
 PTBASISVFCKUAWISCQEB
 BSMVSECVLHNRHRHGTBKB
 KYYFTTJPPOOHMCYJHAEN
 EFTMRWOFVCHLFYUSYTPD
 KOWJEOAUDODQINUXAZSC
 RCDUEORHDLQQRRTAYONAH
 DPPWSDXARADIESXVKQJP
 IKNEBSTYZTMFSEHBMJXH
 FTHVYFROZENLAKEJRPGZ

northern lights leafless trees hot chocolate
 cozy chipmunks snow drifts frozen lake
 cold cabins icicles quiet woods
 warm fires

Your Friends are Coming Back! More Returning Campers...

Sylas Levin AZ
 Will Han TX
 Maura Garland OH
 Jimmy Mulligan IL
 Lauren Howard OH
 Georgia Olson MI
 Walker Black TX
 Mila Leibovitch MI
 Jacob Lazarus OH
 Jillian Lazarus OH
 Amelia Hackney OH
 Levi Pollack MI
 Ryan Swedler MI
 Max Kotikovskiy MI
 Alivia Williams MI
 Jasmin Ost FL
 Avery Mueller CO
 Miles Griffith VA
 Mason Griffith VA
 Dylan Stein OH

Jack Bernstein UT
 Kevin Dawson IN
 Emy Beckett MI
 Tahlia Schwartz MI
 Kendall Chroman IL
 Marcus Ost FL
 Marlowe Spector MI
 John Fox MI
 Sophia Fox MI
 Ari Kutinsky MI
 Hannah Goldberg OH



It's
her
7th
summer!

Let's Welcome our Newest 2026 New Campers!

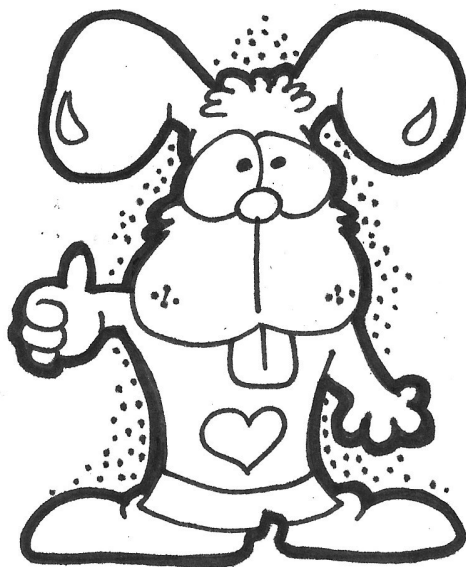
Gabriella Schwartz MI	Jack Weinberg IL	Teddi Kelin MI
Luca Lanzillotta TX	Nash Lerner IL	Jordy Dyke FL
Nina Burkiewicz IL	Levi Meisner MI	Thomas Pearl MD
Santiago Regules MEX	Taylor Casey IL	Nisha Parikh MI
Elizabeth Metzger OH	Anna Wintrob OH	Krishna Egan MI
Penelope Treutler IL	Zoe Wintrob OH	Oliver Hansz MI
Penelope Davis MI	Tabitha Levy CA	Ezra Schwartz MI
Logan Elsberg MI	Chloe Emmer FL	Carter Trust MI
Nora Villinger MI	Isabel Rinsky CA	Ella Bak MI
Coleman Clark TX	Olivia Rinsky CA	Jack Landau CA

NEAL'S BOOK REVIEW

The Get Rich Quick Club by Dan Gutman

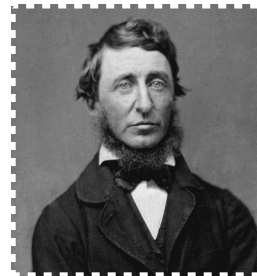
A group of five kids come up with a plan to make a million dollars by the end of the summer. All they have to do is take a photo of a UFO and convince people to believe that it's real. Not too difficult, right? Soon they become a national sensation. Although a little bit slow at the beginning, this middle grade novel by popular author Dan Gutman delves into far-fetched humor with an ironic twist at the end. I rate this book 2 roses.

Neal's Book Reviews are based on books he's read recently and would recommend to children and teenagers. He rates them on a scale of 4 roses (the best) to 4 onions (the worst).



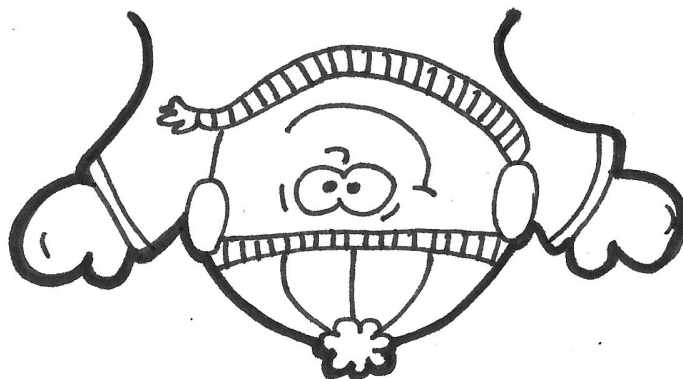
The Original Walden Pond

We're often asked where the name Walden came from, and why so many camps use the name (in New York, Maine, and Ontario, for instance). The reference is to Henry David Thoreau's most famous book "Walden—Or Life in the Woods." Thoreau lived in the mid-19th century, but he and "Walden" are about to be trending right next to the newest cat meme!



Filmmaker Ken Burns and rock legend Don Henley are producers on a new PBS documentary that will air in March about the writer, who lived for two years on Walden Pond. His musings on nature, and the benefits of spending time in it, likely encouraged the creation of summer camps in the United States.

We'll be tuned in to see if our beloved Walden gets a mention!



The Walden Pond
Camp Walden
2335 Mistletoe Avenue
Fort Worth, TX 76110