

# Passports ready, set, stamped for gap year students

*Frieda Greenthal is one of many NT students taking a gap year and going international for their year off*

by Hannah Warner

As the school year is winding down, many seniors are having mixed feelings about their futures.

Most seniors, approximately 95%, will go to a four year university. A few will go to two year colleges. A few others will take gap years.

Gap year is essentially a blanket term used to describe when a student takes a year between high school and college to pursue other interests.

Students might work, volunteer, join the military, or travel.

Gap years are becoming more and more popular at New Trier. James Conroy, the Post High School Counseling Department Chair explained, "I am a big promoter of gap years as long as the students want to do them."

Also, colleges are more aware of the benefits of a gap year. "Most of the gap year students apply to a college, are accepted, and defer for a year. The college would just move you into the

following year or semester. I would say that between 85 to 95 percent of the colleges encourage gap years," said Conroy.

In previous years, the numbers of students taking a gap year were close to zero. But in recent years, the gap year trend has been increasing to almost 10% class participation.

Frieda Greenthal, a 2015 senior, is one of the New Trier students who has elected to take a gap year. Greenthal is putting off college for a year to travel to Israel and Poland with a program run by a camp she has gone to for nine years.

The reasoning behind Greenthal's decision is straight forward. Many students from her camp are participating and she has known many who have gone in the past. "This is a once in a lifetime experience and it would feel silly not to act on it," says Geenthal.

The program is nine months long and consists of two parts. First, she will live on a "kibbutz", which is a community of people

living and working collectively. Then, she will live in a house in a city. Throughout the trip, Greenthal will be participating in projects that promote social justice.

Additionally, Greenthal will be receiving an informal education and will also travel to Poland for two weeks.

Greenthal does admit to being a little hesitant before her commitment to the program. She stated that in the beginning, she was concerned about being a year behind people her age and therefore being a year older than other students in her class.

She also admits that she wasn't sure about being a year behind her friends. "Doing something different is always a little scary," she said.

Greenthal is also following in her parent's footsteps. Her father lived in Israel for a few years when he was younger. She has her parents' full support and they are excited for her to start her journey.

Many students at New Trier stress about the college process, but



Greenthal will be taking a gap year and traveling to Israel next year! Facebook

for Greenthal, it's something that can be put on the back burner for a bit. Greenthal deferred her admission to Maryland University and plans

on attending in the fall of 2016. In regards to her gap year, Greenthal said, "You can only do this once, and you can do college whenever."

# After family financial scandal, fate of Homer's unknown

*Sons of co-owner accuse uncles of taking advantage of deteriorating father*

by Sarah Zhang and Anna Ferguson

Homer's Ice Cream, longtime North Shore landmark, has become the center of a lawsuit amidst rumors of closing.

Homer's was founded by Gus Poulos in 1935, and since then has been a roaring success with residents of the North Shore.

However, the success of the shop itself may not be enough to keep it up and running. Under accusations of mismanagement, a lawsuit is being filed by Todd and Craig Poulos, on behalf of their father Stephen Poulos, a co-owner of Homer's Ice Cream and son of Gus Poulos.

The sons claim that Stephen's brothers and co-owners, Dean and Jon Poulos, have been taking advantage of their father's deteriorating mental state, according to the Chicago Tribune.

The Tribune also reports that the suit is being filed under accusations of Dean and Jon Poulos using the



Homer's Ice Cream is located at 1237 Greenbay Rd. in Wilmette | Homer's

profits Homer's reaped "as their personal piggy banks."

The suit alleges that Dean Poulos has used Homer's profits to raise his own salary from \$156,000 in 2013 to \$185,000 in 2014, pay his \$7,700 membership fees at the Glen Club, a golf club in Chicago, and pay the dues for his personal condominium in California. The suit also alleges that roughly \$54,000 was transferred to

Jon Poulos between December 2013 and December 2014.

Although he manages it with his brothers, taking over after Stephen Poulos' mental health forced him to step down, Dean Poulos is actually the president of Homer's Ice Cream. And according to Todd and Craig, his management while president has been doing more to hurt the business than just skimming from the company's

bank account.

Poulos allegedly lost Homer's a large contract to produce ice cream for a number of restaurants, such as Maggiano's and P.F. Chang's, according to the suit.

That occurred when the lack of a written agreement allowed the third party producer of Homer's ice cream to steal their "secret-recipe" and cut Homer's out of the deal.

However, both Dean and Jon Poulos are calling these charges false and hurtful. Dean Poulos commented on this lawsuit, saying to the Tribune, "Unfortunately, or fortunately, my brother is not cognizant of what his sons are doing right now. He'd be so disgusted. For his children to say, after all these years, that I'm trying to do anything at all ill against my brother is so hurtful."

The suit also states that Dean and Jon Poulos deliberately blocked Todd and Craig Poulos from participating in Homer's management.

When Stephen Poulos stepped down as president in 2010, Todd

and Craig Poulos were denied their request to be brought into the management team. Instead, Dean Poulos announced that he would become president and would manage Homer's "exclusively with his sons."

Todd and Craig Poulos also allege that the company books, to which they were able to gain access due to a previous lawsuit, revealed that Homer's "realized a profit of only \$105,000 in 2013 and less than \$30,000 in 2014," and that this year "appears even grimmer, as Homer's recorded losses in both January and February."

Ultimately, Dean Poulos denies that Homer's is in any danger of closing, according to the Tribune, "Sure, business is tough and we go through cycles, just like any other business, especially with cold winters like this year and last year that are bad for the ice cream business," he said. "But Homer's is not going anywhere, not melting down, or anything that they say."

Retiring teachers talk about their future	Edilia Nalepka Modern and Classical Languages	Sandra Schwartz Special Education	Patricia Bowler-Johnson Mathematics	Dave Goodspeed Science
How long have you been at New Trier?	22 years	24 years	31 years	I have been at NT since before cell phones existed. Generally, I can be classified as "old as dirt."
What are your plans for after you retire?	To get another life, another career. To start something new. I'm open to new things, and I believe that new opportunities come to you, but I will be looking for something new.	Relax a little, travel, do all the things I've been putting off for decades, and continue working with kids.	People keep asking and I don't know. I plan on not grading a paper. I will travel, but I have college tuition to pay for.	My plan for retirement is to continue my important research as the director of the Institute for Advanced Lawn Ornament Studies. In the future we hope to understand the occurrence and nature of the "bridge over nothing to nowhere," ceramic gnomes, and concrete deer lawn ornaments as well.

@newtriernews: Seniors: in honor of your final week at New Trier, what is your best memory of your time here?