

# CARLEY GENSER,

President Of The Cold Spring Harbor Education Foundation's Youth Ambassador Program

Ambition Runs Deep **cover story** Written By YA members Julianne Massa and Amie Chen



Carley and her dog, Chili

The Cold Spring Harbor Educational Foundation is an organization committed to improving the education of the district's students by providing them with modern, innovative equipment. In years past, the Foundation has been responsible for the addition of the Chromebooks, the Promethean boards, and the Virtual Reality headsets to the learning experience. The Foundation is proud to have added the Youth Ambassadors to their operation, a group of high school students who act as voices for those who need to be heard. Their mission is to bring new ideas to the Foundation and offer a fresh perspective on what the school needs most. The Youth Ambassadors gain their status by first applying for it, then interviewing with the members of the

Educational Foundation. If a student is interested in being a member, they can reach out to current members to acquire an application.

The Youth Ambassadors know how to collaborate effectively to better their school. But every operation needs a leader. This responsibility falls to Carley Genser, a successful and hard-working student who has brought all her best qualities to the Foundation. Carley has played an integral role in the Foundation, but outside of this, she has much more to offer the community. And it's important to know what she is like as a person, not just the President.

Carley's resume is impressive. Varsity softball and volleyball, and the Foundation's Youth Ambassadors are just a few of her commitments. She also participates in Spanish Club, Amnesty International Club, Symphonic Orchestra, and the pit orchestra for the musical, where she plays the clarinet. This ambitious



Carley Genser and family



Carley Genser and her mom, Jen.

student demonstrates her leadership skills in Model UN, where she holds the position of Vice President and Amnesty International, where she expects to take on the role of president. Carley says that she likes being a leader because she always discovers new things about herself with each new challenge. Amidst all these activities, Carley makes sure to prioritize her school work. She has proven to be an academic achiever when she recently received a Junior Book Award, a highly respected award that is given to the students with the highest-ranking GPAs in the Junior class. She received her award from Princeton University.

As important as school is to her, Carley also makes sure to dedicate a part of



Carley with VP of the Cold Spring Harbor Youth Ambassador Program, Riley Haskell. Photo By Len Marks of Len Marks Photography



Carley Genser and (dad) Jack enjoying a NY Islanders hockey game

her time to her community, whether that be on a global or a local scale. Globally, she has taken hiking trips to countries like Puerto Rico, Spain, and France where she has partaken in community service. Closer to home, she volunteers with the Long Island Alzheimer's Foundation at their annual Women's Luncheon and Fashion Show, and she is involved in an organization called Midnight Run, which helps the homeless population of New York City.

Off-campus Carley can be found relaxing with her dogs, two standard apricot poodles named Ziggy (9-years old) and Chili (6-years old). She also enjoys doing art for fun, whether it be writing, painting, or drawing. Carley has a very close-knit family;



Carley Genser, Martina Simone (right) and Amie Chen (left) - Varsity Volleyball



Carley with brother, Sam



YA members (l-r) Sophia Ketterer, Riley Haskell, Alexa Squacciarini, Kate Belfi, Carley Genser, and Amie Chen



Carley Genser at the United Nations



Carley Genser and her family

she describes their dynamic as a friendship. She and her older brother, Sam, enjoy spending time together. On any given day, they might be watching TV together, skateboarding, or simply talking.

Carley became a member of the Youth Ambassadors in the first year that the program was introduced. She says that she joined because it was "the first real opportunity to enact change in our school and change that [she] can actually see." The change for Carley came when the Youth Ambassadors officially passed their first grant to purchase a drum set for the high school's music department. The YA has been involved in countless fundraisers this year, including the Dime Gives Back campaign in November, to raise the funds to make this purchase.

Carley hopes that the student body knows that all the Youth Ambassadors are volunteers who chose to dedicate their time to this program. She thinks

that fact will spark interest in joining among students. From the Youth Ambassadors, she has gained skills like making executive decisions, using available resources to the best of her ability, and taking charge of a group.

In addition to spending plenty of time at the beach, basking in the summer sun, Carley is interning at her mother's law firm, Genser Cona Elder Law, doing marketing, editing, research, reception, and seminar planning and assembly. The summer and fall months will include writing college essays and beginning her applications for college in 2021. Carley sees herself at a liberal arts college, where she plans to study journalism, political science, or psychology.