

The Pony Express

Volume 33

Fall 2016

Indian and Forest Acres Camps

“Celebrating 93 Years of Camping Excellence”

Alumni News



After announcing her engagement in late June, **Ali Stein** (1995-2001 Camper, 2005 Staff) and her fiancé, Dave, stopped by camp for a visit. Ali is living in Providence, RI while doing her residency at Hasbro Children's Hospital. Congratulations to **Kim Marshall Forbes** (1998-2001 Staff) and her husband, Richard, on the birth of their daughter, Alice, June 27th. **Meridith Weiss Sprengelmeyer** (1980-1985 Camper, 1988, 1990-1993 Staff) is living in Carlsbad, CA and is the Sales Manager for Wells Fargo's Commercial Banking Group. Congratulations to **Marc Goldstein** (1993-1997 Camper) and his wife, Deviney, on the birth of twins, Jasper and Serephina, September 15th. Marc is an Account Executive at Pacific Packaging Products in Boston. **Alex Zheutlin** (2001-2010 Camper, 2011-2013 Staff) is living in NYC and is a licensed Real Estate Broker at Stribling Associates. Congratulations to **David Colman** (1998-2004 Camper) and his wife Christine, who recently announced they are expecting their first child, a boy, in April. **Nathan Cooper** (1998-2004 Camper) is getting his MBA at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern. He has also started EatPak'd, a new business that delivers fresh, nutritional, chef-packed lunches for your children, straight to your home. Congratulations to **Johannah Cornblatt Lowin** (1997-2002 Camper) and her husband, Jeremiah, on the birth of their son, Theo, September 16th. **Kimberly Lam** (1997-1999, 2001 Camper) recently moved to San Francisco and is in Business Development with Sephora. Congratulations to **Zoe Wilson Simpson** (2002-2007 Staff) and her husband, **Russell "Homer" Simpson** (2003-2007 Staff) on the birth of their daughter, Violet, August 20th. The Simpsons live in Auckland, New Zealand. Zoe is taking a break from teaching to spend quality time with Violet. Russell is a Desktop Support Specialist with the New Zealand Transport Agency. Congratulations to **Rylan Soref** (2000-2002 Camper) and his fiancée, Emily, on the birth of their daughter, Eloise,



August 27th. Rylan is the co-founder and Head of Growth for Songs for Film and TV and splits his time between NYC and Los Angeles. His brother, **Colton Soref** (2000-2006 Camper) is living in San Francisco and working for a tech startup. Congratulations to **Sean Strader** (1991-1993, 2000-2001 Camper, 2002, 2006 Staff) and his wife, **Noelle Priestersbach** (2006 Staff) on the birth of their daughter, Rowan, October 8th. Sean is finishing his dissertation in French and film studies at Yale and Noelle is a social worker/counselor at a High School in the Columbus, OH area. **Nancy Raffel Osherow** (1976-1978 Camper) has teamed up with her son, Alexander, to offer concierge-style real estate services in Palm Beach County, Florida. Congratulations to **Adriana Escudero** (1995-1999 Camper) and her husband, Rair, on the birth of their son, Juan Pablo, in May. It was great hearing from **Janet Sasson Edgette** (1967-1971 Camper, 2006-2011 Staff). Janet is a Clinical Psychologist outside of Philadelphia where she also teaches and writes. **Casey Edgette** (2001-2008 Camper) is a music producer in Hong Kong. **Jake Edgette** (2002, 2006-2011 Camper) is a Senior at the University of Hartford and is planning to be a

High School English Teacher. **Austin Edgette** (2002, 2006-2010 Camper) is a red-shirt Junior at Bloomsburg University, majoring in Finance. Austin is playing baseball and getting some good looks from some MLB teams. Good luck Austin! Congratulations to **Alex Feld** (1998-2005 Camper) who announced his engagement in October. Plans are in the works for an October 2017 wedding. Alex is living in Chicago and working for the Pritzker Organization. Congratulations to **Helen “Trixie” Read** (1996-2005 Staff) and her husband, **Gary Prudham** (2000 and 2004 Staff) on the birth of their son, Samuel, May 7th. After spending mommy time with Samuel since he was born, she is returning to her work as a PA Assistant for a Farm Estate in Oxfordshire. Gary is a Composite Design Engineer in the motorsport industry. Congratulations to **Joey Cohen** (1993-1997 Camper, 2001-2003 Staff) and his wife, Amy, on the birth of their daughter, Jameson, October 4th. Joey is a Psychology professor at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. On Saturday, November 12th, Georgetown Law School had a black-tie dinner, honoring **Andy “Ang” Cornblatt** (1958-1966 Camper, 1967-1994, 2001- current Staff), the Dean of Admissions, for 35 years of service to the Law Center. Among those in attendance were **Mindy Strelitz** (1968-1973), **John Strelitz** (1973-1975), **Bruce Cornblatt** (1958-1966 Camper, 1967-1973 Staff), **Jim Cornblatt** (1961-1972 Camper, 1973-1977 Staff), **Nathan Cornblatt** (2004-2012 Camper, 2013-2014 Staff), **Sophie Cohen** (2005-2012 Camper), **Sandy Cardin** (1966-1973 Camper), **Charles Rudnick** (1978-1980 Camper, 1981-1988 Staff), **Steve Ginsburg** (1981-1985 Camper, 1988 Staff), **Paige Newman** (1998-2009 Camper; 2011-2014 Staff), **Daniella Schneider** (1997-2002 Camper), **Jill Strelitz Schneider** (1969-1974) and **Johannah Cornblatt Lowin** (1997-2002 Camper). **Craig Ostroff** (1978-1984 Camper) is living in Chicagoland and is working in Global Procurement – Packaging for Ingredion Incorporated. It was great catching up with Craig’s sister, **Gwen Ostroff Heyman** (1971-1973 Camper). She and her husband Scott are living as empty-nesters in Highland Park, IL. **Jordan Heyman** (2000-2006 Camper) is living in Washington, DC and is a Legislative Assistant for Congressman Robert Dold. She also just took GREs and is thinking about grad school. Her sister, **Dana Heyman** (2002-2009 Camper) graduated from the University of Georgia in May and is currently living in Nashville, TN. Dana is keeping busy interning for New West Records, a record label that represents mostly indie-rock musicians; interning at a new, small management company, and she got her bartending license and is putting in some hours at a brand-new Nashville restaurant. Congratulations to **Aaron Resnick** (1989-1995 Camper, 1997 Staff) and his wife, Lindy, on the birth of their daughter, Vivian, November 2nd. Congratulations to **Maia Rowland Baram** (2000-2004 Camper) who was married on May 8th, in Israel. Maia is the North American Director for Riki Halal Haute Couture.

The IA/FA family gives back to Chicago

On a beautiful day in late October, campers, parents, counselors and alumni met at the new Cradles to Crayons in downtown Chicago. As reported in the last issue of the Pony Express, Cradles to Crayons is a non-profit organization that provides children who are homeless or low-income, with essential items like clothing, shoes, books and toys. After a brief orientation about the mission of C2C and suggestions for the many ways area residents can help, we were broken into work groups. Sorting donations, separating clothing by gender and size and pairing up shoes were among the work stations. After our shift, we were brought back together for a debriefing and were told that we exceeded our goals for the day. Everyone left feeling good about doing something positive for the community and asking if we could do it again next year. Absolutely! We will have an event in Boston on December 10th and the plan is to schedule an event in the Metro NYC area in early 2017. Thanks to everyone in Chicago who participated.



In late August, Aly Kruger, a first-year staff member at Indian Acres, wrote a “Thank You Letter to Summer Camp” for her school newspaper.

Thanks for being my home away from home and a place I'll never forget.

Dear wonderful, amazing, summer camp,

First and foremost, wow. I've only been away from camp for a little over a week, and I already miss you. After all we've been through, it becomes harder day by day to drive by the gate and not feel twinges of nostalgia--harder keep my eyes on the road as the memories come crashing down. I leave for school one week from today. Crazy.

So, thank you, camp. I'm not sure where to begin. Where would I be without the daily bugles, the campfires and the meals that often left me with ringing in my ears? What would I have done on those nights without the dances strongly reminiscent of middle school, yet somehow so fun (plus a DJ debut)? What would I have done without the constant laughter, good times and fun that kept me happy all summer long?

I know some people say that camp is like a second home, and truly a place like no other. I never knew what that meant until this summer. I never thought that a simple "job" could end up meaning so much. I never knew that a place could become like home to me, and people I've known for two months could mean so much to me. But you have.

I also saw what you did for the kids. I could see the changes in them day by day, amazing as that sounds. As a relatively quiet person, I could relate to the kids who opened up and tried new things for the first time to a supportive and amazingly welcoming audience. I know from experience that a receptive group of peers and mentors is so important. I saw these kids come out of their shell and become some of the greatest young people I've ever met, and that's thanks to you as well.



You're not just a camp or a summer or time spent away from home to the kids and the counselors and adults. You are an experience. You become part of the lives of these children and young adults. You shape them into the men and women they will become in society. You are a big part in their confidence boost; their self-confidence. You make them grow. And for the counselors, you let them be kids again.

For two months, everyone is the same. For two months, every norm falls away, and a new one forms. That new norm is simply, try new things and have fun. For two months, pressure from school and life disappears, and kids and counselors alike can be kids and rediscover themselves. It's something indescribable.

I can't thank you enough for all of it. The little lessons we learned every day are monumental, and I wouldn't trade them for anything, the jokes I'm glad I know now, and those I wish I didn't, the meals that involved too many cheers and not enough eating, the campfires and summer nights that ended too soon. They all mean so much. So thanks.

I've never been a big crier. The last time I cried was saying goodbye to my friends and leaving college for the summer. I'm seldom emotional, yet you brought it out in me. After I said my final goodbyes, I sat in my car for about ten minutes, waiting for the tears to stop so I could drive home, away from camp, for the final time until next summer. I never saw that coming. It's cliché, but it's true. I am lucky to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard. So very hard. So, thank you for that too.

It'll be a long school year but worth it, knowing that you're waiting for me on the other side. Here's to another summer and hopefully, many more. Thanks again, camp. For everything.

WINTER 2017 ALUMNI GET TOGETHERS

If you have been to an alumni get-together in the past, you know that it's a good time; gathering with friends and fellow alumni for an evening of fun. We hope you can attend one, even if it is just to stop in for a few minutes to say hi.



*****NYC – Wednesday, January 11th, 2017 – 8 p.m.**

Three Sheets Saloon, 134 W. 3rd Street, NY, NY

*****Saloon Policy states you must be 21 years of age to attend**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – Monday, January 30th – 8 p.m.

The Topsy Pig, 2231 Chestnut Street, San Francisco, CA

LOS ANGELES, CA – Thursday, February 2nd, 2017 – 7:30 p.m.

Location TBD

The Indian and Forest Acres Alumni Scholarship Fund

In response to alumni feedback about the importance of perpetuating the summer camp experience for generations to come, we are hoping to form this fund.

Plans are in the works for a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, for the purpose of providing financial aid to alumni who cannot afford to pay the full tuition for their children to attend camp.

If there are any alumni with non-profit experience and/or legal expertise in this area, who are willing to donate their time in helping us form this entity, please contact Moe Burness; moe@indianacres.com or 860.882.4536.

Thanks in advance for your consideration.

A NOTE FROM LISA AND GEOFF

As 2016 draws to a close and we celebrate our joy and good fortune with the ones we love, we want to thank all of our alumni, camp parents and campers for the privilege of getting to know all of you.

After a very tumultuous year where hatred was broadcast all over the country, now is a time to heal. This is not a political message by any means. This election had such a profound effect on our youth that in our travels around the country this fall, we found even the youngest of our campers talking knowledgably about the election issues. Where have the days gone when at eight or nine years old all you knew were the names of the President and Vice President?

The tumult of this election season was unfortunate and to many of our children it was unnerving. It is important to explain that there is still love and hope in the world. This is when we realize how grateful we are to have our utopia in Fryeburg, Maine. This summer we had children from both Beirut, Lebanon and Israel living in the same cabin. They were best friends and both will be returning to camp next summer. To us, this message of friendship is the one we must encourage. It is camp in the true essence.

I think it is important to teach our kids to be kind to our neighbors, fellow campers, cabin-mates, parents and counselors. It is okay to say we love someone and that we will try and help those in need. It is okay to give our opinions, that our opinions may differ from others and it is not OK to use our words to hurt others.

We give thanks this holiday season for our camping community. We will endeavor to protect Forest and Indian Acres Camps as the safe and nurturing environment that we all know and love. While many things in this world are out of our control, keeping camp the innocent and fun filled place that it is will always be our mission.

From our family to every one of you, Happy Holidays and have a wonderful New Year.





Lisa and Geoff Newman:

Phone: 720.389.4912

geoff@indianacres.com

Moe Burness

Phone: 860.882.4536

moe@indianacres.com

www.indianacres.com

www.forestacres.com



A FINAL THOUGHT

One of the many fun parts of my job is reconnecting with alumni. It is great to hear them share their stories and memories of their days spent at “Our Summer Place.” It pains me when I hear how much they would like to send their children to camp, but financially they cannot afford it. The “gift of camping” is costly but my feeling is that if one can afford it, there is no better gift. Every child should have the opportunity to experience camp. It is my goal to create an entity that would provide camp scholarships to families for whom camp tuition is out of reach. As we come to close of 2016, we are setting the wheels in motion to formally create a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, “The Indian and Forest Acres Alumni Scholarship Fund”. Once created, we will officially announce its formation and begin taking donations. Hopefully alumni will participate in this philanthropic endeavor and “pay it forward.” Best wishes to you all for a Happy Holiday and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Moe

