

THIS PLACE BRINGS YOU BACK!

Sean Smith, has been head of soccer, the senior boys' group leader, an Olympic general. He also believed he said his last goodbyes to his Towanda family; but through the strong sense of family, brotherhood, incredible staff camaraderie and love of the traditions and sprit of Towanda, Sean has juggled his life once again to return for the Summer of 2015, his sixth summer, to be with his boys of the Club and head up the soccer department! Sean graced the entire camp with his words of insight and wisdom last July 4th.

Mitch always says to the counselors during orientation, " even if you are passing through for just one summer, you will take a piece of Towanda with you, no matter where you go from here." For some this may be true, but I knew that my first summer wouldn't be my last.

I started with the Jets in the summer of 2010. Although I'm no longer with that group, it is amazing to see how much they have grown and are now starting their upper camp experience. To my senior boys of 2014, you are the reasons I have such a tough time throughout the year deciding if I should start a career or come back for one more summer. That constant struggle between my heart and my head has led to many sacrifices that I'm more than happy to make. Because, the obvious choice is to come back to camp, which is how we all probably wish life was all the time.

When I was a kid, a place like Towanda wasn't an opportunity afforded to me. Camp Towanda has given me a new lease on life. It provides a setting for me to do a lot of the things I wish I could have as a kid. All the experiences my campers are experiencing for the first time, are many firsts for myself. I know many campers and even some counselors have a fear of climbing the wall. Finally, after five years I was able to go up the wall and down the zip-line. I strongly encourage everyone to take the chance to conquer that one obstacle they have been nervous or scared to try.

In life, chances don't come around all the time. Towanda is great about giving an infinite amount of chances for anyone to conquer fears, chances to make many new friends, as well as the chance to develop into future leaders.

Life is about taking chances. Chances are taken everyday at camp. You take a chance when you play ghost, go to arts & crafts, swim at the waterfront, when you go on a date (for you counselors!), and even when you walk to different activities. There are choices to make, things to do and you have to decide if you want to take the chance, if its worth taking the risk or to take the safe route. I took the chance to leave my home to come to Towanda, can any of you imagine what you would be doing over the summer if you decided not to come to camp? I couldn't. What camp offers is a safe environment to take all of those chances and succeed. Don't be scared to take a jump into the deep end, because your friends and family here are going to keep you afloat. If you sincerely believe in your ability and in your strength, then your strength will prevail.

So believe that maybe, despite what they say, despite what they think, you can succeed, that you do have the power to overcome numerous challenges and prove to everyone else, most importantly to yourself, that the ultimate power lies in what you believe.



What We Hear From The Mansion Porch!!!

Mike The Plumber (MTP), moments before the freeze working on the pool resurfacing (see pix) and please note that MTP has been very busy on projects and tons of plowing this winter; as you know, the snow has been crazy this year and the temperatures arctic like; the lowest clocked so far was -18 F and we have had windchills greater than -30; MTP remarked that he thought this was some kind of 2014 Breakout leftover joke (LOL MTP)!...How about this for the Towanda archives: Don McLean is selling his manuscript & notes to 'American Pie' which will be auctioned off at Christie's NY on April 7th!...Rich Hollenberg on the way to call one of his ESPN games spies "Towanda Avenue" in the streets of Illinois (see pix)... Any alumni babies out there? Send us your announcement and get a Towanda baby hoodie!... accolades to Drew and Mollie Weisberger, who helped deliver over 500 Thanksgiving meals to food shelters...Mitch & Stephanie have a column in The Huffington Post... Congratulations to Hootie Tesser on his engagement...Pretty soon you will be watching Friday Nite Flix with some special surprises this coming season...Jared Reiter was recently on the NETFLIX Hollywood set possibly reprising his role of Roger The Broom Balancer, see related story somewhere in this issue, maybe??...Kinga Houszka from Czech Republic and many of her KMP pals miss camp...Tex from the office recently watched the news, saw the llamas on the loose and suggested to activate The Goat Alert Alarm System (good one,

Tex)...<u>Steven Raichlen</u>, Grill Master, friend of Camp Towanda, author of countless BBQ cookbooks (over 30) and host of PBS's Primal Grill and the upcoming PROJECT SMOKE



has designed a custom BBQ pit that will grace the shores of Sunset Lake's Olde Ghost Point in the Future (more details to come)...rumor has it that there is some top secret Ghost

Rule Committee trying to overthrow the Grand Master; it can never happen as there is a rule to prevent that (rule number "No 86")...and Drama Director Charlene wants everyone to get ready for Lower Camp's ANNIE, Upper Camp's BACK TO THE 80s and the all camp, including staff revue of Cinderella! Send us your gossip and we'll most likely print it in the next issue of The TT!

ALUMNI NEWS

Last summer we were honored, humbled, enlightened and amazed at our Annual Alumni BBQ Day when Norman Posner attended. Norman attended Camp Towanda in the 1920s and provided us with bits of Towanda history that were lost over the ages. He spoke of no trees between Sunset Lake and where the Mess Hall now stands; how no bunks existed, just platform tents and outhouses; how camp was just filled with extensive trails, and he even shared with us pictures of these wonderful facts to underline his fantastic, clever, witty, and amazing memory.

Norman was the hit of the BBQ as he developed quite a fan club (mostly the LIT and CIT girls) on that day and he even sat down to record lots of his memories with Erica Media, our Media Director, Lauren Eckstein-Forman, our Social Media

Director and the Alumni Liaison, Senior Spiz. Norman and his family told us we all made them feel special and terrific when actually it was the reverse; The Posner family being at camp bridged a gap of history and honor, which we all cherish.

Unfortunately, we are so sad to report that Norman passed away in December at age 93; we are grateful to have met him and his family and that they were able to return to Camp Towanda. *Click on Norman's picture for a video clip.*

We will honor Norman Posner this summer at the Alumni BBQ on July 26. *Alumni BBQ 2015 info on page 9*









The Florida Beach Party was challenged this year due to the one day of the holiday week that was nasty! However, the camaraderie, exhilaration, desire and overall spirit of the day started fantastic! A huge crowd on the overcast beach with food for the masses and certainly enough excitement to see each other proved that if we build it, they will come! Despite that for the first time in many years, the rain actually didn't cut us a break, fun was had by all; albeit, the party ended a tad early BUT the doormen, parking valets and bellhops at our hotel appreciated the tons of semi-soggy food we were able to give them! Although the sign in sheet became drenched we were able to



salvage many of the names; our apologies to those that became illegible, but suffice it to say that new campers, seasoned veterans, interested families, parents, staff, alumni and even friends of camp were in attendance! It was still a fun time...and we will all be back next December 26th!

Madison & Michael Mariam, Harrison & Elana Kane, Amy Miller, Jessica & Jillian Horowitz, Jared, Brandon, Mitch & Stephanie Reiter, Hailey Price, Haley Davis, Hallie & Brett Goldstein, Hannah & Eliza Garmise, Ethan Goldberg, Tyler & Lindsay Bisk, Sydney Widensky, Sam Kaplan, Addison, Max, & Carter Basinski, Paige & Adam Grossman, Ava Rosenow, Morgan Korn, Ari & Shelby Buckstein, Alex Neff, Molly Buzin, Cassidy, Riley, Sammi, & Marley Kurzer, Jordan Hammer, Ben, Lauren & Jessie Ostrow, Forest & Savannah Weiss,



Daniel Rosenthal, Ethan & Jakob Schneider, David Maschler, Jake & Maddie Drykerman, Alyson & Jamie Strauss, Andrew & Adam Davis, Steven Finver (alum), Marly, Brooke & Derek Telchin, Jenna & Juliet Bell, Sasha, Trevor & Avery Kaufman, Melissa Buzin, Brett, Shea, Andie, Barrie & Seth Huberman, Jen Damasco, Samantha & Bella Freed, Maxine & Sam Herbst, Alex & Chase Klein, Hannah, Corey & Jarrod Frydman, Sami, Romy & Allie Green, Sophie & Alex Gerson, Dylan, Ryan, Jonathan & Andy Raffa, Gideon Abramowitz, Rachel Berkman Bloom (dorm '99), Ari & Gabriel Bernick, Jacob Weinberger, Zachary & Alec Friedman, Brandon & Jordy Sudnow, Brody & Dylan Morningstar, Brett & Adam Spivack, Sam & Ryan Hirsch, Spencer & Lily Waldshan, Rachel & Max Roseberg, Spencer, Ryan, & Alexis James, Theresa, Aaron, Hanna & Howie Schraeger, Logan, Skylar, and Mara Maklan, Devyn, Remy & Shari Crone

Our apologies if we missed some names, the rain ruined our sign in book!



continued from cover story...

When the campers arrive and crash upon the shores of Towanda (another Mitch favorite line), I saw a lot of surprised faces. This summer wasn't supposed to happen at camp for me. Many have asked how I was able to come back after I told everyone that last year was it. Towanda has been like a book, each summer a new chapter. The best answer I could give is that my camp story wasn't ready to conclude. Camp Towanda is my family, and there is no place I would rather be. Just as it says in our counselor song, "Towanda's the place people know, a great summer is why they came, when you leave here you'll never be the same." Some of my best memories come from our own little slice of heaven, here in the Pocono Mountains. You never know how many chances you will get in life, so make the most of every single one. The chances given to us at Camp Towanda are ones that build character, leadership, and above all a real sense of belonging. That feeling of belonging is something very special and one that I cherish more than anything else. I want to thank each and everyone of you for

making that possible. We'll all always be part of this Camp Towanda Family.





Towanda is active all year long; not only on the web, not only through social media, not only through snail mail, BUT Since December, we have had reunions, college campus gatherings, meetings and any excuse to get together!

Stephanie's Book Club

The challenges of the winter postponed the book club only to increase the enthusiasm and anticipation the following week! Once again, this became a great day for Stephanie and Mitch to meet casually with parents in our winter home. We discussed the natural



apprehensions, concerns and stresses related to getting to the successful summer. The time flew, Stephanie made a delicious lunch and we all hugged at the end. So camp!

For those unable to attend, the entire conversation is available as a podcast!

If parents haven't read *Homesick & Happy*, we highly encourage, recommend and want you to read it!





Click here for podcast!

SCOPE WINTER SOCIAL AND JUNIOR LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Camp Towanda pride, attitude and respect dominated these two fund raising events. The Winter Social was for our over 21 crowd in Greenwich Village; always great to see alumni. The JLC Council organized to discuss fund raising at schools, promoting mitzvah projects and other possible awareness

activities; all for SCOPE. We are very proud of the interest, concern and support in giving back from the Towanda family.

Please see Evan Seiden's article about The JLC on Page 6.



THE CHAT ROOM

The crazy, fast paced, frenetic energized chat rooms were busting with multiple conversations, all at the same time!! We actually clocked over 40 people typing (or chatting) AT THE SAME TIME! Crazy fun!

MEET & SKI

We caved and cancelled; the weather became an icy mix that did not favor the slopes; we'll try again next year!

SENIORS SLEEPOVERS REVIEWS

These are two awesome weekends at camp, in the heart of the winter, that are very, very special. The Seniors of 2015 were able to see camp blanketed in snow! We not only walked on, we snowmobiled, went ice fishing and cooked up some real genuine s'mores ON Sunset Lake! Yes, on the lake!



We threw in some awesome sledding on the Grassy Knoll, hot chocolate, a delicious dinner by Mitch (with the help of a few hearty Dads), a bonding fireside chat with Mitch & Stephanie, a camp mattress slumber fest and some special eggs (contributed by the Towanda chickens)! The Seniors are ready for camp!



"WE WELCOME YOU TO CAMP TOWANDA, WE ARE MICHTY CLAD YOU'RE HERE..."

Talk about kicking off the new year with a party! The standing room only crowd in Fort Lee, New Jersey started off a little nervous (which is natural), but by the end of the day; the rookie class of 2015 was psyched and ready to speed up the countdown to camp! This years' DORM and CLUB provided the hospitality and comfort to the 1st year campers; while many staff and alumni assisted in this terrific ice breaker to the new summer!

Our many thanks to the representatives of the DORM and CLUB 2015 and Girls Head Counselor Amy Miller, Boys Head Counselor Bob Miller, The WOC Team (Matt Miller, Jared Reiter, Penner, the new Becky, Z and Stephanie), Erica Media, Camp Mom Laura, Randy Silverberg, Social Media Director Lauren Eckstein, Brett Spivack, Nutritionist Lauren Cohen, Jason Charney, Lil, Medium, and Big Spiz, Hootie Tesser, & Melissa Ilgner

Since our last issue, we would like to welcome the following new campers to our Camp Towanda Family. These silly, justfor-fun nicknames are temporary...until you arrive at camp, where you will probably get a new one!

Ari "Hot" Burns (brother of Benji), Bobby "BB" Burns, Dillon "D2" Daiagi, Luke "LukeMan" Dorfman, Bella "La-De-Da" Lahiji, Luke "L2" and Sam "Sal" Levine (brothers of Sophie), Hailey "Ham" Mesard (sister of Ella), Charlotte "Pos" Posnack, Brandon "Shoe" Schuster, Alfonso "Alf" Valdes, Jorge "JV" Valdes (2nd generation-dad Jorge) and Julia "Wep" Weprin!



VisionWalk



Community Service Reunion

A great excuse for a Spring Reunion; the annual VisionWalk brings the best of everyone into New York City's Central Park! Campers, parents, staff, alumni and friends are encouraged and welcome to attend. Our LITs and CITs have worked and continue to work towards awareness and fundraising; they sold plenty of Team Towanda '15 t-shirts !

> Join The W.O.C. and many others on **SATURDAY APRIL 18** at **The Central Park Bandshell** 9AM-NOON. <u>Click HERE for directions and details!</u>

TWO RSVP THINGS TO DO: Sign in at our FACEBOOK EVENT PAGE: CLICK HERE! https://www.facebook.com/events/1403683793268695

And JOIN TEAM TOWANDA at "TEAM TOWANDA" www.FightBlindness.org/goto/CampTowanda





Click Scope Logo To Link To Video Message About Scope From Mitch!

Hello Camp Towanda! I wanted to take this time to talk about a very important program called SCOPE. SCOPE stands for Summer Camp Opportunities Promote Education and is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide children in need the edge to succeed in life through the summer camp experience. They raise all of their funds through donations and help from kids like us at Camp Towanda. Since 1991, SCOPE has provided camp scholarships for more than 20,000 kids from low-income communities.

What SCOPE has accomplished is important for many reasons that all of us at Camp Towanda can relate to. At Towanda, we think of the friends we make as our second family. However, the kids that are given scholarships to come to SCOPE's camps usually consider the friends they make their first family. Some of the kids come from broken homes and poverty so camp is an opportunity for them to have a stable and safe community. Camp is also a place where kids can find role models for them to talk to if they are ever having any problems, something that most of them don't have at home. Most importantly, camp provides kids with a fun, safe and healthy environment.

On January 31st, there was a meeting in New York City called "SCOPE JUNIOR LEADERSHIP COUNCIL" for middle and high school students who want to help contribute to SCOPE. At this meeting, Mitch, Jared, 7 other Towanda campers and I brainstormed a bunch of ideas to help raise money for SCOPE. More importantly, we thought of how to make kids in need lives' better. It was great to not only interact with other campers from different camps, but to talk about our similar interests.

Everybody, especially in the Camp Towanda community,

should make an effort to help this important cause. Mitch is actually the president of this National organization! You can help by donating, raising awareness or fundraising for SCOPE. If you need some help looking for ideas, check out the list below! It's important to help kids who aren't as fortunate as us so they can have the same experiences and memories that we create at Camp Towanda. Most importantly, it gives many kids hope, something they struggle to find everyday.

Please visit www.scopeusa.com for more information. Thank you everyone!

by Evan Seiden, LIT 2015 and SCOPE Junior Leadership Council

Fundraising Ideas:

Auctions, Bake-Sales, Bar/Bat Mitzvah Projects, Camp/School Competitions, Car Washes, Class vs. Class Competitions, Cycle Class, Donate to SCOPE Instead of a Birthday/Graduation Present, Fantasy Leagues, Party Fundraisers, Selling T-Shirts, Sports Tournaments/Event Fundraising, Talent Shows and Walk/ Runathons!





As many of you know, Mitch is the National President of Summer Camp Opportunities Promote Education (SCOPE). This organization provides underprivileged kids the opportunity to experience sleep away camp while fortifying their work in school. Last year 1500 campers benefited from SCOPE's mission.

We encourage our campers to use SCOPE for a Mitzvah Project (for example) through the Junior Leadership Council and awareness and involvement with our alumni through the Young Leaders Board with events such as the recent Winter Social.

The annual Benefit Dinner is April 16th in Manhattan. Mitch co-emcees this evening and extends an invitation to all. <u>CLICK HERE</u> for more details.



PARENT CHECKLIST

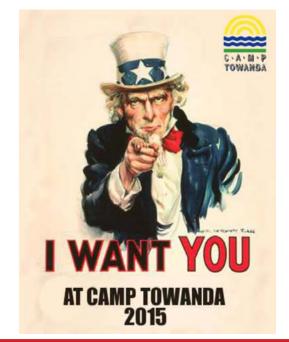
- Online Medical form & emergency contact information accurate and updated.
- Update your t-shirt size in CampMinder today!
- Contact CampMeds if MEDS AT CAMP are necessary.
- Order uniform from EVERYTHING CAMPER
- □ Visiting Day Hotel/Dinner reservations
- LITs need their Passports
- Practice saying good-bye many times in advance!
- April 18th VisionWalk in NYC's CENTRAL PARK
- Get Psyched!

STAFF CHECKLIST

- Travel Survey
- Online Medical Form and all health forms.
- Tax forms
- Email a picture of yourself to our office.
- □ Name Tags on everything!
- Contact CAMPMEDS if MEDS AT CAMP are necessary.
- May 5 Staff Chat Room
- Get Psyched!

CAMPER CHECKLIST

- \Box Tell your parents they will be okay.
- □ Practice saying goodbye.
- Do your homework now.
- Get Psyched!



NETFLIX DISCLAIMER

Way back in 2001 a movie was filmed at Camp Towanda during the Spring. The cast and crew of 150 lived and worked on camp for 2 months. Although we were given a copy of the script to approve prior to filming, what actually evolved was a production that we can't say is indicative of the values, integrity and responsibility and results we are normally all so proud of at Towanda; what resulted was a screwball, college crowd comic farce of "entertainment" that went on to achieve cult classic status (which means it bombed at the boxoffice but became a pay per view hit)!

The film, *Wet Hot American Summer*, (the title alone can send one into a frenzy) and the relatively unknown cast back then, who lived in the bunks, hung out with us and relaxed in The Mansion consisted of Bradley Cooper, Paul Rudd, Amy Poehler, David Hyde Pierce, Janeane Garafolo, Elizabeth Banks, Molly Shannon, Christopher Meloni amongst others. To say the least, it was quite the experience and has actually netted us some cool bragging rights.

However, regardless of the fun and fame we here in the front office have been wary of the fine line between that and how the message and connection to camp might go awry.

With that in mind, we want to highlight this to you due to the fact that through popular demand, the good folks at "Wet Hot" are creating a prequel to the movie, an 8 episode Netflix TV Series. We imagine it will be a tad goofier with all the same players...that's right, all the now big time stars have agreed to do it again; including our son Jared, who had a small bit in the original, as 10-year old Roger The Broom Balancer in the movie's talent show (who by the way, Jared has perennially reprised that talent each year in the Camp Towanda Talent Show)!

Jared just completed his cameo scene in Hollywood, where he was treated with celebrity status as the cast and crew warmly welcomed him back ...the fun part is that they have rebuilt portions of Towanda on the Hollywood set! This Spring a camera crew will film some cut away shots once the snow melts in Honesdale.

So all in all, it is fun and we wish continued success to all who are involved with the production, but this is *NOT* a family movie (it is for the 18+ crowd).



Organized & Directed by Towanda Alumni, Alison Leipzig and Michele Goldblum, *Soul Camp* is a 4-day, 4-night mind-body retreat with the nation's top fitness instructors, yoga teachers, meditation guides, wellness experts and inspirational speakers. It's time to break away from your busy day-to-day life. Reconnect. Play. Be Inspired. Sleep-away camp doesn't just have to be for kids. It's finally time for you to take the break you've been truly needing. Nature hikes, boating, swimming, tennis, meditation, yoga, dance, stargazing, bonfires, talent shows, fitness, astrology readings, and so much more. A gourmet, nourishing, organic, healthy menu will be served with gluten-free, vegan and vegetarian options available.

Last year's event was incredibly special and enjoyed by all ADULTS that attended.

September 9-13, 2015

For more info, contact becky@camptowanda.com

Click here to watch just a taste of last year's event!

ADULT ONLY MIND-BODY-SOUL RETREAT



Introducing the #CTScavengerHunt! Check Instagram for details! New challenges will be posted each week. How much #towandaspirit do you have?!

Complete as many challenges as you can by the start of Camp! Which level will you reach?

Here are the ranks based on how many challenges you complete:

5 On Tour	10 Rookie	15 Contender,
20 Natural	30 Pro	40 Champ,
50 Superstar	75 Master	100 Towanda Legend

Camp Towanda Smart Phone Cases

Available for most iPhones and Samsung Galaxy \$25.00 If interested, contact jared@camptowanda.com by March 23.

BIGS & LITTLES

First year campers will hear from their camp BIG Brother or BIG Sister by Mid-April. All Bigs will be contacted by the end of March.





MARCH MADNESS BRACKET CHALLENGE

Details coming soon! Be sure to check your email! Can you dethrone last year's champ, Robert Reichenberg?

ANNUAL A UMNI BBO Need labels? We've got options! **SUNDAY July 26, 2015** (The day after Visiting Day) 11:00am - 3:00pm →We will be opening time capsules from For names that stick™ Dorm & Club 2005 and any earlier Check out these cool name labels: years not yet opened. ← go to namebubbles.com and enter code Visiting Alumni restricted to those age 21 or older. "CT15" Those who are able to contribute to Olympics with Judgie and referee credentials are invited to inquire about availability. Check out these cool name labels: go to labeldaddy.com and enter code "Towanda" Check out those uniforms! early 1920s **VOOM** F Help support Jared's Lego project! Staff Picks If he gets 10,000 supporters they could become JEOPARDY! real sets sold in stores! His "JEOPARDY!" set was recently selected as a Staff Pick on the site. Check it out at *ideas.lego.com* and search for Jeopardy. Any support is appreciated. it only takes a minute to create an account and support 137 342 DAYS LEFT the project. Don't forget to look at his other projects including "The Jetsons Meet @ 1k 00.57 :1, 26 the Flintstones", "Flubber" and the "Time Machine"!

LABOR DAY WEEKEND 2015 Parents, campers, alumni and your family and friends.

Rent a bunk; enjoy activities, events, relaxation, food and entertainment; all provided. For more info CLICK HERE!



This is a great way to end the summer! If you are interested, please contact mitch@camptowanda.com

September 4-7, 2015

The Adventures of Cheese, Milk and Pickle PLEASE t * * HEY LEGO. () () () WHAT DO YOL AHHH! IDK ... TOUCH IT. THINK IT 15? cheesemilkandpickle.com စる名幻 © 2015 Jared Reiter CMP SPECIAL T-ShIRTS! **GET YOUR OWN LIMITED EDITION, VERY SPECIAL** C, M & P T-Shirts! 1 for \$25, 2 for \$40 or all 3 for \$50 While Supplies Last!!! To order t-shirts, contact: becky@camptowanda.com SNOW WHAT!? We'd call the Debs and Jets for cheese Canteen but we're not sure they'd "dig" it! milk and Birthdays are now listed on the <u>bickle</u> Official Camp Towanda Facebook page and on the NEON YELLOW SHIRT Camp Towanda App! HOT PINK TIE DYE TANK 015 CAMP DATES NYC VisionWalk April 18, 2015 **Flying Campers Arrival** June 26, 2015 **First Day of Camp** June 27, 2015 S'More Tours July 11,18 & Aug 2, 2015 **Visiting Day & Sibling Sleepover** July 25, 2015 **Alumni BBQ** July 26, 2015 Last Day of Camp August 14, 2015 Family & Friends Labor Day Weekend September 4-7, 2015 Soul Camp Adults Only September 9-13, 2015

September 9-13, 20 September 19, 2015

Fall Foliage BBQ