

New Years Issue Vol 87 No 2

"87 Years of Mighty Fine Camping"

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THE EXPERIENCE, THE OPPORTUNITY

Each week at camp during Friday Evening Services, a camper or staff member speaks to the entire camp reflecting upon their camp experience. Ryan 'Chick Pea" Rosner, Group Leader of the Inter Girls 2008, eloquently shared her insight with all of us. Rising from one of the youngest campers, through all the rankings (camper, counselor, group leader and Olympic General) to presently in Law School at George Washington University. Chick Pea makes us proud!

People often ask me how I ended up at Camp Towanda. I could answer by saying that I choose Towanda because of its wonderful facilities and athletics program, but anyone who knows me, or has seen me attempt to run or play any sport involving a ball, racquet, net, or bat, knows that this was not the case. To be honest, chickpeas brought me to Camp Towanda.

At the young age of 8 years old, Mitch came to my house to show me a slide show (yes, this was the early 90s, an era before DVD players.) Despite the fact that the projector nearly set on fire, camp looked pretty good to me, except for my one concern. A picky eater, I had one question for Mitch; were there chickpeas on the salad bar? Probably a little taken aback by my strange request, Mitch proceeded to promise me that if I came to Camp Towanda, he would make sure that there were chickpeas for me at the salad bar. Needless to say, I was sold.

When I arrived at camp in the youngest group as a Deb girl in 1994, I quickly discovered that there was much more to love about camp than garbanzo beans. And as I look back on my years at camp, I realize how much of the person I am today has been shaped by my 15 years connected to Camp Towanda. Not only did I learn skills like how to take a 2 minute shower, which admittedly, I am still working on, and how to shoot a lay-up, which admittedly, I am also still working on, I learned lessons that cannot be taught anywhere else. Independence. Responsibility. Leadership. And most importantly, friendship. As I'm sure all of you have realized, camp friends are like no other. They have seen you at your best and your worst, and shared memories with you that cannot be explained to those outside the camp bubble. I am so lucky to have my two best friends still at camp with me today. Hani and Alex- Although we may be the "last ones" from Dorm '01, I would have it no other way. There are some people in life who know you better than you know yourself, and I know this is true when I look at both of you. Camp friends like you two, Peyser, and many others over the years make me confident that

Towanda has given me lifelong sisters and friends.

When I came back as a counselor in 2005, I doubted that it could surpass my summers spent at Towanda as a camper, but I would soon find out that I was mistaken. It's an indescribable feeling to know that you can have the same impact on your kids as your counselors had on you. Girls, I have watched you grow from Dillies, who still needed my help in getting the shampoo out of your hair during shower hour, into mature, energetic, loving and crazy Inter girls. It has been for all of you that I have returned year after year, and I am so proud of the beautiful girls you have grown into.

Over the years, I have witnessed Towanda undergo many changes. When I started in 1994, we gathered as a camp into the BIG TOP (now home of Ga-Ga), Taxi was the only dog around, and Venezuelan pizza party actually had Venezuelans in attendance. There have been some changes over the years that have been disappointing, some things I miss, like square dancing (Editor's Note: Square Dancing returns to camp in 20009!), while other transitions have surely been for the benefit of camp, such as having Linda as the girls head counselor. Linda, your constant energy and understanding never cease to amaze me. No matter what's on my mind, you are always there to offer advice, encouragement or just an ear to listen and someone to laugh with and I cannot begin to tell you how much I appreciate all you have done for me and girls camp over these past few years.

continues pg 2...

NEXT ISSUE:

- A LOOK AT RETURNING STAFF
- -INTERVIEW WITH CASPER THE CAMP DO
- -SCAVENGER HUNT CLUES



What We Hear From The Mansion Porch!!!





Mitch, Stephanie, Bob & Phyllis Miller & former Drama Director Jeff & Sharon Silver had center seats to see the one man off Broadway hip-hop show, "CLAY", written by and starring MATT SAX; it was truly an impressive evening. Also in the audience were BIG PENZ and Amanda Tartar (see picture)...Former Girls HC, Kristin Yates, is expecting her first baby this spring...Bar/Bat Mitzvah congratulations to all of our campers celebrating!...Greetings from Janelle & Tony Victory from Arizona and Chris "Friday Nite" Loehrer from

OHIO...LIZ QUELLER is performing throughout the holiday season in the NYC area... Tiffany G, who performed in the amphitheater last summer has a New Single out... Aimee Smith reports that the GG's Megan Canfield, Shelly

Field, and Serena Seeger had a video chat conference and it seems that they are all coming back...Ondrej Topinka had a baby boy...Karen Summers(00-01) is married, received her Masters, teaches and has a young son, Joe and sends her hellos to her old camp friends...Michael Thompson saw Justin Sheinis at the World Series...Stephanie's life-size Taxi sculpture has gone to the foundry to be casted, bronzed and then for display at a special place at camp by Sunset Lake...Mitch & Stephanie ran into Megan Ring in Boston, now married and plans on visiting at the big reunion this june...Blake Raedett is in London and will be back at camp...Drama Dani D'Orsi sends her love and plans on visiting this





coming summer ...

Abby Steele shouts out to her Debs while she is student teaching and planning a visit to the Haber's in New City over the holidays...the Olympic Plaque wall in the Field House was officially dedicated during the Fall BBQ in Bobby Helman's memory by Bob, Mitch & Stephanie (see photo)...

Send us your camp related news for the next issue of The Towanda Times.

COVER STORY CONTINUED . . .

Despite the inevitable changes that occur at Towanda, some things at camp will always remain the same. The Peltons, who I have seen go from one to four, will always lead the Willow Grove Bus, Ernie will always drive the Cool Bus, and the Dorm girls, much to the dismay of boys camp, will always sing their cheer wherever and whenever they get the chance. These traditions are what make camp camp. It's especially comforting to know that while people may come and go from the camp family, we will all be forever linked by the common bond of shared memories.

Mitch always says that before you know it, the Debs and Jets in the front row will be the Dorm and Club in the back row. Well, as someone who has made it from the very front to the very back, and now finds herself somewhere in the middle again, I can honestly say that I have no idea where the time has gone. Mitch and Stephanie- you have created a world in which campers and staff alike are able to be their true selves, a place in which cheering and smiling faces are the norm,

and everyone leaves a better person than from when they started. I cannot thank you and the rest of the senior staff enough, for not only watching me grow up, but most importantly, helping me grow up. I know that the impact that Towanda has had on me has been immeasurable and I will always hold the experiences I made at camp close to my heart. And who could believe that without Mitch's promise of chickpeas 15 years ago that all of this would have never happened?

Don't forget ...

CAMP WILL BE

MIGHT FINE IN 2009!

CARING, LEARNING & GIVING We continue to be proud of the involvement and care of our campers, staff, parents and alumni with charitable giving. Be it Morry's Camp, SCOPE,

LOVE or the many other organizations we are involved with. The following article appeared in the Fall 2008 issue if the Foundation Fighting Blindness' newsletter, In Focus:



S'more Than Just Sloppy Joes Towanda Campers Learn More Valuable Lessons About the Fight Against Blindness

By Suzanne Evans

The campers of Camp Towanda in Honesdale, Pennsylvania, are no strangers to FFB and the passion, dedication, and creativity it takes to be successful philanthropists. They raised \$10,000 for the Foundation's 2007 New York City VisionWalk, and this summer, were congratulated for their impressive success by Towanda's owner and FFB National Trustee, Mitch Reiter, and his wife, Stephanie. While recognizing the campers for their achievement, Mitch also took the opportunity to educate them more about the importance of their fundraising by inviting Eddie Russnow, a Director on the Foundation's Board, and Cliff Aaron, a National Trustee of the Foundation, to speak about retinal degenerative diseases and emerging research. The campers (16 to 18 years old) listened closely as Eddie discussed FFB's groundbreaking advances in treatments and cures for retinal degenerative diseases such as retinitis pigmentosa (RP) and macular degeneration. Eddie told the campers the exciting news about the successful results of the "Lancelot" canine trials of gene therapy for Leber congenital amaurosis (LCA), and the very recent breakthrough in human clinical trials of the same treatment. The campers were amazed to hear about how young adults, who

were nearly blind from LCA, can now read lines on an eye chart and navigate an obstacle course. Following Eddie's motivating discussion,

Cliff Aaron offered his personal experience as someone affected by RP. The campers enthusiastically asked Cliff questions about working and living with RP. Most of all, the campers were intrigued by Cliff's guide dog Alto, and how Alto has changed Cliff's life. Campers listened intently as they took turns trying on pairs of glasses that simulated RP and macular degeneration, experiencing, if only for a few moments, what the world might look like to someone affected with either of these diseases. FFB's guests joined the group for a traditional camp lunch including sloppy joes and bug juice, all the while listening to camp cheers and daily announcements. The guests also took the opportunity "to wanda" around the Towanda campgrounds. The Foundation could not have asked for a warmer welcome or a more enjoyable day. Later in the summer, FFB presented campers with a plaque, recognizing them for their outstanding fundraising efforts to date, with plenty of room for acknowledgment for future accomplishments. The sky is the limit for the Campers at Camp Towanda!

ision Walk '

Our LITs facilitate this special community service event and serve as The Youth Chairs of the VisionWalk.



The date is: Sunday April 26, 2009.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP COORDINATE, PLEAE EMAIL MITCH.

For more details and information, click on the link on the E-Board on our camp web site or click on: http://www.fightblindness.org/site/TR/RacetoCureBlindness/VisionWalkTR?fr_id=2180&pg=entry



Full Speed Ahead!



At the time of this writing, we have already had over 20 inches of snow at camp! When you get a chance, take a peak at our LIVE WEB CAM, perhaps you'll catch Mitch & Casper giving you a wave! Click on the direct link on the E-Board.

One of our projects under way includes the rebuilding of *The Alley* building. This is a major capital improvement that will streamline our food deliveries and storage. We are building new food storage and supply rooms, a new laundry coin-op for the staff and "luxury" housing for Chef Jonesy, Food Service Director Eddie and the cook crew.

Many of our 2008 camp family will be pleased to know that our water well system has been fracked (look that up in your Funk & Wagnall), this means more water in the storage aquifer, also water mains have been upgraded and the *Camp Towanda* well water is tastier than ever and bottle worthy!



Our Maintenance Shop is also receiving a major makeover as we freshen up our inventory of tools, equipment and all the makings of a great physical plant. We proudly welcome our new Head Caretaker, Bill Canfield, as he and our Camp Logistics Expert, Paul Ward (entering his 13th year at camp), tweak and maintain all the little nuts and bolts of camp during the off-season.

In addition to some of the new things mentioned in the last issue of *The Towanda Times*, we are happily introducing ECONO-OPTIONS (how's that for a timely innovation)!!!

"E-O" will feature strength training (this for those that would like more tone than the walk from the lake accomplishes), camp celebrity chefs (this is addition to our very popular Culinary classes), fireside book club (reading at camp?) and back-to-nature basics (this in addition to Nathaniel). Also, the bumper cars are back, free play softball games, photography and rocketry are all part of the 2009 lineup!

Drama Tony says get ready for vast improvements in our presentations ("phew!") as he unveils the 2009 lineup:

We have an unprecedented amount of returning staff already committed to be back (listing in the next issue) and great programming schedules of inter-camp, intra-camp and playdates set.

Jets-Cadets-Debs-Dillies: JUNGLE BOOK Middies-Tweens-Juniors: SNOOPY InterNats: LIL' ABNER Seniors-Dorm-Club: PIPPIN' (camp style) Staff: FANTASTIKS

If you are a camper, counselor or parent, being part of the SUMMER OF 2009 *Camp Towanda* FAMILY can't help but make you FEEL GOOD. It is exciting, it is reassuring and it is CAMP....get ready, get psyched....

Camp 2009 starts in less than 200 days!!!

You know what we say, Life at camp is the way life should be.....now, that's awesome!



ATTENTION

- LOGO! If you send us garments, we'll have them embroidered (no charge) for you. Send to the winter office by January 15, 2009. Be sure to write your name on each garmet.
- YOU ARE WATCHING FRIDAY NITE FLIX: Make a Friday Nite Flix commercial and send it to us for use this summer in our opening episode! (6 seconds max.) If you did not receive your very own copy of the 2008 Friday Nite Flix Hilites please let us know! We'll send you a copy!
- STAFF: If you have not received your contract from camp, write to us at staff@camptowanda.com. We have been trying to reach you! You should receive your contract by Feb 1st, 2009.
- ●PARENTS: COMING IN JANUARY

 "Spoonfeeding 101" or "How to prepare for the summer!"

 If you have any questions, concerns or comments, call or write Mitch
 ... I am up!

- GHOST: Pocket sized rules available for your official GHOST® t-shirt! Just ask.
- ATT: DORM/CLUB/LIT/CIT/STAFF
 WANT TO BE A GROUP SCOOP HELPER?
 Sunday January 11, 2009 Fort Lee, NJ
 If you can help us welcome the new campers, please send an email to
 mitch@camptowanda.com Right now!!
 Free Camp Towanda Ice Cream Scoopers to be handed out!
- ALUMNI

WE NEED YOUR CORRECT E-MAIL ADDRESSES AND THOSE OF YOUR FRIENDS WHO DO NOT UPDATE THEIR LISTING IN OUR ONLINE ALUMNI DIRECTORY!



REUNION RECAP



Even on a windy cold early winter day, the NJ Reunion was once again a tremendous success! It is always great to see everyone! This year, included a big crowd of campers and parents as well as a decent showing of staff members and alumni!

The fun and excitement of SPACE ODYSSEY in ENGLEWOOD, NJ with loud sights and sounds complimented the adrenalin of seeing camp friends, watching the Friday Nite Flix special highlights reel (did any one catch Casper barking out the "Jets-Jets" cheer?), having lunch, taking home the cool new USB Camp Towanda wristbands (now that's innovative), the new magnetic Camp Towanda bumper sticker and of course, those great cube pads and a copy of the 2008 FNF

Hilites!
Speaking of those "oh so cool" USB wristbands, there is one unsuspecting person who possesses the one and only USB wristband with the 2009 Olympic hint file. That is correct, someone out there has the one. Just like Willy Wonka, it is out there. An unprinted document that has 2009 Olympic hints. Is it a Deb?, Is it a Middie? or





is it a Dorm girl or Club guy?
I suppose by this time, everyone is now scouring for that USB! Please note that the person who has it will need to follow the explicit and detailed directions as to not

wreck the plans for everyone else. However, I will not confirm or deny that the hint is a Binghamton Mets baseball schedule!!! LOL.

As our annual NJ REUNION gathering winded down, several sleepovers headed off in different directions. Standing out was the 2009 Dorm & Club coordinated busses featuring a special shout out to Phoebe Dinner and Lucas "Pull-Shoot-Miss" Feigenbaum for flying in from Florida!

Next up is the Boca Beach Reunion on December 26th, followed by the New Camper Group Scoop Orientation session on January 11th in Fort Lee, NJ, then its time for the all camp CHAT ROOM on January 14th! If you need an excuse to ski on January 18th, we can meet at ELK MOUNTAIN. The fun continues for the SENIORS 2009 at the Senior Sleepovers at the Mansion later in January! Later in the spring will be the Vision-Walk in Central Park in NYC. Check this issue for information!













JANUARY: 1: Mitch Reiter; 2: Joanna Dendra, Phyllis Miller; 3: Valerie Maier, Jenna Sabety; 4: Hannah Seley, Emma Anderson, Torty Kreznerits, Aga Nejmowska, Boston Sean Trindall; 5: Brett Bolog, Graham Reid; 6: Brett Blee, Gianna Nemerow, Reed Wallach, Jerold Elliott; 8: Rachel Gomez, Daron Jones; 9: Samantha Bosin, Maria Climent; 11: Adam Schwartz, Melissa Hay; 12: Tom Neaverson; 13: Javier McIntosh, Ria Wilbur; 14: Olivia Acker; 15: Jacob Gubner & Mitch's Mom, Kate Voelkner; 16: Jackie Grossbard, Gregory Narozanski; 17: Jesse Kugler, Alberto Martinez; 18:Maxwell Nemerow; 19:Rachel 'JR' Hoffman & Rachel 'SR' Hoffman (WOW!), Sarah Smith; 20: Phoebe Dinner, Katya Samus; 21: Jordyn Lammon, Britta Pryall; 22: Cara Naimi, Ethan Schwartz; 24: Serena Golden, Kayla Moersen, CC Szilard; 25: Carly Solomon; 27: Eve Goldstein, Evan & Erin Pomerantz, Andrew & Lauren Seid, Aly Wolpov; 29: Jordan Albom, Amanda Breit, Josh Lafazan, Mollie "Lil Spiz" Spiesman, Amanda Levine; 30: Jake Cohen, Eliza Davis, Ally Platte, Ben Sabin; 31: Jesse Shuman

FEBRUARY: 1: Caroline Lerche, Kevin Sacks, Alon Artzi; 2:Tory Kargman, Maureen O'Neil; 4: Jordan Brett, Easton Harris, Adam McCarthy; 5: Randi Morgenstern, Sarah Chronister, Josh DeLucia, Ali "Medium Spiz" Spiesman; 7: Jenna Marcus, JJ Ataman, Melinda Monkman; 8: Melinda Buda; 9: Dan Hecht, Sari Postal; 10: Alivia Lang; 11: Andrea Huttova; 14: Alec Ryman, Nicole Seiden, Lisa Pelton; 15: Sonia Parres, Adam Wainwright; 16: Taylor Haber, Brian Josephson, Lenka Barinova; 17: Jason Marshall; 18: AJ Solomon; 19: Simone Green; 20: Ryan "Chick Pea" Rosner; 21: Danny "DB" Brass, Tyler Furlong, Andrew Schwartz, Rob Nuttall; 22: Melissa Welger, Cory McCarty, Adam Silverman; 23: Paul Greenfield, Jake Slater, Brahm Wieseneck, Stephanie Wagner; 24: Ava Goldstone; 25: Ethan Kripke, Jardan Sharaf, Danielle Sheinman, Justyna Wilktorczyk; 26: Cory & Jamie Weintraub, Stacey Diehl, Adan Rodriguez, Jake White; 27: Manny Unger; 28: Jonny Shaffran, Eva Hoskovcova, Ben Newman

2009 Over 21 Winter Event

In our support of SCOPE (Summer Camp Opportunities Provide an Edge), which brings the opportunity of summer camp to inner city underprivileged children, we are co-sponsoring the following OVER 21 STAFF & ALUMNI EVENT with a few other camps.

Headed up by our own Michelle Lapidos, A CAMP GET TOGERTHER FOR A GOOD CAUSE

January 29, 2009 7-10PM Providence NYC 311 West 57th Street Tickets: \$85 in advance \$100 at the door



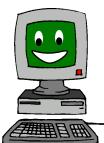
Register at the link on our E-Board or at: http://www.scope-ny.org/tmpl.php?pagename=events

Chat Rooms

Wednesday

January 14, 2009 New Campers - Lower Camp

Upper Camp - STAFF



To Sign In The Camp Chat Room:

Instructions & chat times are located in the password protected area of our website. Go to THE OFFICE or STAFF EXPERIENCE section, click on FORMS & MAILINGS... or just drop us an email for a copy of the instructions at desk@camptowanda.com.

ATTENTION ALUMNI

FROM THE 1920s to the 21st Century...... People of Camp Towanda!!

SPREAD THE WORD!!

The Big 87/20 REUNION

Celebrating 87 years of great Camp Towarda Traditions and Mitch & Stephanie's 20th year as Directors.

June 13-14, 2009 at Camp Towanda Lets get together!! Old friends-Great Memories!

Sleepover at camp Saturday night.

FLAGPOLE LINE UP

SNACKS IN THE CANTEEN

REVEILLE

MEALS IN THE MESS HALL

Reminisce while walking the track or playing Volleyball-softball-tennis-ghost-basketball BBQ LUNCH ON THE GRASSY KNOLL

REST HOUR

MAIL CALL

FUN THINGS ALL DAY

SHOWER HOUR

OLD MOVIES, SLIDES & PHOTOS CAMPFIRE and SMORES

PLENTY OF STORIES

UNDER THE LIGHTS

TAPS

SUNDAY PORCH BREAFAST

LAZY DAY

DISMISSAL with great camp souvenirs!

Come alone or bring your family. Individuals must be 21+ to stay over. COST: \$125.00 per person \$75.00, pp under age 16 To Register: Go to ALUMNI section of our website





REUNION INFORMATION



This is our 4th year at: South Beach Park, Boca Raton, Florida.

(This is not in South Beach, it is in Boca!) Check out the live web cam: http://evsboca.netfirms.com/default.htm

Friday, December 26, 2008, 11:30am to 3:00pm

Everyone's welcome to join the fun: campers (old & new), staff, parents, alumni, friends, prospective campers and their families. If you're heading south for the holidays, we'd love to see you!! Bring lunch, lotion, camera & towel! We'll supply plenty of soda, fun and maybe sun!!

Rain or Shine we will be there.

LUNCH: Please bring a complete picnic lunch (there is a pizza place across the street).

Be prepared for the sun, fun, volleyball and hanging on the beach with new and old friends!

DIRECTIONS: SOUTH BEACH PARK is located at the intersection of A-1-A and PALMETTO PARK ROAD. (This is just a mile or so south of Spanish River Park, our old reunion spot). To find us on the beach, walk down the stairs and we will be just to the left.

PARKING: In case the main lot is filled, there is additional parking just to the north of the main entrance.

New Camper Group Scoop

- For all new for 2009 campers and their parents
- Sunday Jan. 11, 2009 1:00pm Sharp till 3:00pm 📝
- At the Double Tree, Fort Lee, NJ
- This is an RSVP event!

Sunday Jan. 18, 2009 at Elk Mountain, Scranton, Pennsylvania (Martin Luther King Weekend) -not too far from camp (a good day trip, or stay close by) Call in advance, meet, and ski! Meet at

Noon outside the main lodge by the big ski map. Get your photo taken for the Towanda Times! Call the camp office to rsvp!

If I wasn't busy, I would attend! Day Weekend at Camp

Sept 4-7, 2009

No better way to end your summer with no worries, no hassles, no thinking and just relaxation.

THIS IS FOR:

CAMP FAMILIES---YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY---ALUMNI Leave it to Mitch & Stephanie to take care of your plans!

> Register by May 1, 2009 to receive a 15% discount per adult! \$250.00 per person for all amenities Friday through Monday, Labor Day Weekend. Click on Alumni section of our website for more details!



President Obama says:

SENIORS WINDER

(at The Mansion!!!)

Girls Weekend - Saturday January 24, 2009

Boys Weekend - Saturday January 31, 2009

Snow, sledding, toboggan, ice fishing, s'mores and campfire in the middleof frozen Sunset Lake, sleepingin sleeping bags in front of the Mansion Fireplace... details have already been mailed..you need to RSVP!



Happy & Healthy New Year!

Winter Address
4 York Court
New City, NY 10956-4418



2009 DATES TO REMEMBER

Florida Beach Party

New Camper Group Scoop

Meet & Ski At Elk Mtn

CHAT ROOMS

Senior Girls Sleepover

Over 21 Winter Event

Senior Boys Sleepover

Vision Walk in Central Park

87/20 Alumni Reunion

Flying Camper Arrival

First Day Of Camp

Visiting Day & Sibling Sleepover

Last Day of Camp

Labor Day Family Weekend

December 26, 2008

January 11, 2009

January 18, 2009

January 14, 2009

January 24, 2009

January 29, 2009

January 31, 2009

April 26, 2009

June 13-14, 2009

June 26, 2009

June 27, 2009

July 25, 2009

August 14, 2009

September 4-7, 2009

