

THE TOWANDA TIMES

OUR 87th YEAR

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CAMP TOWANDA, HONESDALE PA



For Boys & Girls - Established 1923
Nestled in Northeastern Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains
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Winter Issue, Vol 87 No 3

"See You Soon in June!"

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BETTER FOR IT

The other day someone asked why am I so enthusiastic and upbeat. Stephanie remarked that I was always like this; I thought it had to do with camp. I went on to explain the value of camp...

I believe that despite these challenging times for everyone, we are in the position of "life normal" at camp. Parents know that their children are safe 24/7; that we have in-depth staff training and supervision; that the experience of camp changes the lives of their children in immeasurable ways that enhance social skills, maturation, physical and emotional development, character, courage and responsibility; and most importantly, it helps children to separate from family and friends in comfort and support and return home better for it.

There have always been ups and downs, everywhere in life. At camp, some days we have banana splits, some days we don't! We have had rainy summers and very hot summers; some of have said not all Olympic Breakouts were the best ever and many have loved those awesome psych-outs! Sometimes your team wins the World Series, sometimes they don't. We believe the key to it all is related to the long term and in the case of camp, it is the unique compounding experiences.

The experience of camp is sometimes tough to verbalize. Some call it "the magic of camp", some say "you just have to be there", some say "you know, it's camp" and others feel that it is just the single greatest experience and influence in their life. Michael Eisner, the former head of Disney, who wrote the book, *CAMP*, explained

that his camp experience was one of the most important and influential impacts that affected the path of his life.

So, what actually is it about camp that makes a difference in a child's life? There seems to be a consistent effect that produces and fosters quality in confidence, self-esteem, leadership skills, hope, support, potential, smart choices, respect, friendships, camaraderie, sense of belonging, cooperation, conflict resolution, character, tolerance, healthy independence, enthusiasm, spirit, interest, enlightenment, creativity, sharing, teamwork, sportsmanship, and skill development; to name a few!

The compounding result of the camp experiences helps build the foundation of who our children will become, building upon itself day by day, week by week and year by year. The power of camp is truly a unique and special opportunity for those fortunate to attend.

We are proud to be the Directors of Camp Towanda and take the responsibility seriously. Camp is fun, camp is safe, camp is awesome and camp is what we need. It is continuing education, but stuff that one can't learn at school or at home. We have often said that camp is the way life used to be, or ought to be. We can all continue to count on camp...and the summer of 2009 promises to be the "best ever", once again! The staff is shaping up, the program is prepared and in just over 100 days, we will all be together! We can't wait! Get ready, get psyched as we SHINE in 2009!

Mitch & Stephanie

What We Hear From The Mansion Porch!

Craig Russell (2006) is teaching in New Brunswick, Canada...The GG's of 2008 impersonate in good fun the Senior Staff (see photo) Aimee Smith as Bob the HC; Shelly Field as Micahel "clap,clap" Pelton; Kate Hopper as the GG detective; Megan Canfield as Linda the HC; Joelle Hache as Mitch;



Serena Seeger as Marni; and Jenny Stern as Program Director Cathy! We are happy to say that all GG's except Jenny are able to return for 2009!!...Gracie "clap, clap" Pelton reports to her nursery class weekly with Camp Towanda anecdotes...And speaking of the Pelton's, Michael & Lisa, who met at camp, have both just achieved their Master's of Science in Educational Leadership and School Administration (congratulations)!!...3rd generation Alexa Birnbaum is spending the year in Spain and enjoying it...Barbara Tenzer-Rosenbaum (1960-69) has logged online and has wonderful memories and would love to hear from alumni from the 1960's....Nurse Debbie (mid 90s) reports that Matt Martin is going to be a Dad!...2001 Basketball Coach Shannon Dykstra is enjoying being a dad...Chris "Dr Evil" Avery (1998-2004) sends his regards to all...Stu Balfour (1994-2001) is a teacher in Malaysia...Siobahn McCormack

(06-09) plans on returning and just wants a shout out to everyone in the meantime...Ali "Minnow" Balick is doing just fine in law school and says hello to all her old camp friends (Mitch & Stephanie had dinner with her dad, Frog, Mitch's old bunkmate, in Florida)...and The Fabrizio's (1996-02) of Australia (many recall Fab and Jode-eye) send their wishes to all, too... Many, many Towanda-ers got hungry on February 3, the anniversary of "the day the music died" (hey, who out there doesn't know all the words to American Pie? ...Charlie Niesenbaum claims to have "American Pie" thoughts every now and then and just visited with Adam Shelly, his sister Emily and Alex Neff recently in Philly, reporting that Neff was rocking out her 1996 Blue Navy shirt, which now looks legitimately retro!...Camp countdown credit goes to Sam & Alanna Ross for declaring January 20 the "tipping point", making it halfway until camp starts up again (we are getting closer)...Tom "Cold Cuts" Colcott (2000-05) is teaching in a remote 3 teacher school in Oombulgurri, Australia and still plans on returning to camp one of these years...Tom "Roady" Rode (2000-2003) says hi to all old friends....Lee Sudakoff (80s & 90s) is looking forward to attending the BIG ALUMNI REUNION with many old camp friends...SHEELAH from our Culinary School, TORTE KNOX, appears on many cooking shows and magazines during the winter (see pictures), as she looks forward to and is already preparing for this summer's cooking classes with our campers (CULINARY CLASS still is the most popular OPTION)...Alyson "Veno" Veinotte (GG of 2002-03) lives in Calgary, is a Child Life Specialist for the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Program at the Alberta Children's Hospital and keeps in touch with many of her campers and reports that her brother Robbie lives in Australia and has visited Wade Rugg and others...2nd generation Joey Herman has launched a new charitable website and asks for everyone to check out, <http://thanks-4-giving.org>...Perry Feinstein saw Brother Bear Russnow in Israel by spotting his CT backpack!...Jared Reiter has a restaurant review column at Boston University...



Dylan Lauren (80s) of Dylan's Candy Bar in NYC was recently quoted in the NY POST, "thinking about camp"... Ben Levine (1994-99) is a manager at the newly refurbished Fontainebleau Hotel in Miami Beach and this is the very last call for anyone to send in clothing to the winter office to be embroidered with the CT logo at no charge!!! Keep your news and gossip coming!



In the next issue . . .

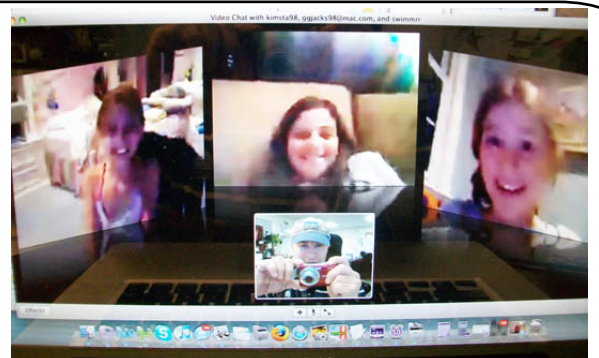
A LOOK AT RETURNING STAFF
INTERVIEW WITH CASPER THE CAMP DOG
SCAVENGER HUNT CLUES



Don't forget to Check the Check Lists!!

Chat Room

The Camp Towanda Chat Room on January 14th, kept the tradition alive of being a crazy, fast paced mid-winter "connection" for those able to log in. The Chat Room, for those "old schoolers" out there, is like having a conversation with over 63 people, all talking at the same time! Basically, just another excuse for us to get psyched for the summer!



Kimi Rose, Gillian Bloom, Marti Rosenberger & Mitch

**UPDATED
INFO!!!**

Vision Walk '09



The VisionWalk has been changed.

The NEW date: Saturday, May 9, 2009

The New Location: Riverside Park, NY City

The time: 10:00 AM (registration starts at 9am)

Register & Sign Up :

http://www.fightblindness.org/site/TR?fr_id=2180&pg=entry

What to do in advance:

As part of our community service programs that our campers are involved in and led by LITs and CITs....the Foundation Fighting Blindness' VisionWalk has evolved into a great cause and another excuse for us to get together!



This year, the campers of Camp Towanda are The Youth Chairs of this fundraising event. Those that would like to be MORE involved are invited to attend a "kick-off dinner" on March 24, at

Sarabeth's Restaurant
40 Central Park South
New York, NY 10019
6:00-8:00 PM

If you will be attending, please let Mitch know in advance.

If you will be able to attend the VisionWalk on May 9, please let Mitch know that as well.

WELCOME NEW CAMPERS!

The New Camper Group Scoop Orientation session in January was another fun introductory ice-breaker for our rookie group of new campers. Some of Mitch's jokes and loads of good ways on how to puke on the bus ride to camp, makes the Group Scoop worthwhile....and some ice cream, too! This year, all participants received their very own official

Camp Towanda Group Scooper!

Thanks to all our former campers, counselors and senior staff that were on hand to help welcome our new campers.

See you soon!!



Group Scoopers Pictured (from left) Shappy, Randials, Lil Spiz, Sunscreen Man, DTS, DotCom and Garden Girl



Boca Beach Party!

If anyone ever needed an excuse to go to the beach or attend a camp reunion, this was the best day yet! 80 degrees, sunny and a huge crowd of about 200 Towanda-ers on the beach! Campers, staff, parents, alumni and prospective families all enjoyed this great day together. And by the way, it wasn't true that we didn't have soda at the reunion because of the recession!! It was hot and the supply exhausted rapidly!

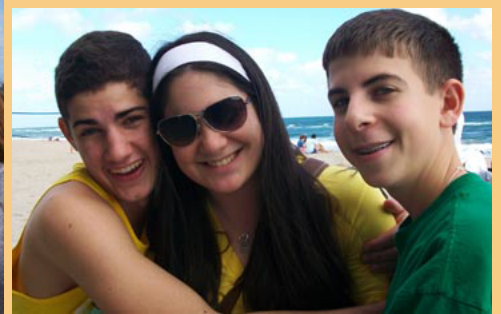
If you didn't make it, mark your calendars for December 26, 2009!



Those that signed in:



Chelsea and Peter Roth, Karen Sher Balsamo, Karen Lucas & Michelle Feigenbaum, Laura, Amanda, Ryan & Andrew Goldwasser, Jared, Brandon, Mitch & Stephanie Reiter, Jesse Wolff, Adam Krause, Eric Shapiro, Randi Morgenstern, Jordan & Jamie Hammer, Liza, Ava & Stacy (Glass) Goldstone, Sam Frankel, Bari Abrams, Matt Tolchin, Ali Spiesman, Peter Roth, Dani, Callie & Alana Pines, Lauren Welger, Eva and Harrison Goldstein, Joey, Ari & J-R Goret, Skyler & Bryce Brandfon, Alec & Matt Feigenbaum, Addison & Bailey Abramowitz, Lauren & Matt Tancer, Adam Spivack, Ben Sackler, Carly & Evan Lapidus, Haley & Ilyssa Pastolove, Aunt Jo Tancer, Sydney Steiner, Darren, Doug & Drew Schweibel, Jason & Ally Wolpov, Joey Levine, Casey Schwartz, Carly Werner, Phoebe Dinner, Griffin Lanel, Brian & Emily Josephson, Halle Feuerman, Dana Friedman, Melissa & Lindsay Kaplan, Harrison & Eve Goldstein, Perri & Jacob Gillon, Olivia Acker, Kevin Sacks, Gabby & Robert Kayton, Corey 'NJ' & Brett 'NJ' Singer, Bocky and Jakey Bockstein, Spencer & Sam Kirsch, Sammy Brown, Olivia Sackler, Meredith Gerber Frydman (husband going to be a camp doctor this summer) and Caren Hammerman.



Senior Sleepovers!

Imagine camp all covered in several feet of snow, temperatures sub-zero with negative windchill factors (and we are talking Fahrenheit my little international friends)! That is camp in the winter for the Seniors 2009 during the last two weekends in January at The Mansion!



It is a great bonding experience; sleeping in The Mansion and Office, sled rides on the grassy knoll, snowmobile rides and s'mores in the middle of frozen Sunset Lake, trekking to The Field House for Basketball (the boys made it); eating Mitch's famous spaghetti dinner & garlic bread, sitting in front of the fireplace talking about camp, waking up to a special hibachi egg breakfast and just seeing camp in the winter. The tradition of our Senior Campers coming to Mitch & Stephanie's home for a winter weekend continues to be a great treat and a wonderful bonding time.... we look forward to doing this for the future generations. Pssst, any items left behind will be on your bed when you get to camp!



Frozen Times!

Of course we want snow for the Meet & Ski at Elk Mountain, BUT, it was accompanied by crazy winds, frigid temperatures and impassable roads. So, no one made it to the mountain. Mitch & Stephanie stayed at camp and snow shod while Cooper, Noah and Spencer Seligson cut the ride short and made it to Camelback Mountain. We'll try again next year!



CHECKLISTS



PARENT CHECKLIST

SHOULD HAVE DONE ALREADY:

- Visiting Day Hotel +/-or Dinner Reservations
- CLOZ uniform and packing list order
- OPTIONS CHECKLIST completed online
- Confirmed and double checked personal data online
- Complete/Review/Update MEDICAL FORM
- Last call to send in any clothing item you would like us to embroider for free.
- Register MEDS AT CAMP (for vitamins and medications) with the new KidsMedsPacks
- Labor Day Weekend at Camp! You can't beat this experience! For more details and to register go to:

<http://camptowanda.com/alumni/laborday.php>

- Submit your website to the camp office for "Links We Like" for parent networking
- ANYTIME: Contact Mitch & Stephanie with any questions or concerns!



ALUMNI CHECKLIST

- Update your information in the online Alumni Directory
- Register for the BIG ALUMNI REUNION, June 13-14 2009 celebrating camp's 87 years and Mitch & Stephanie's 20th at camp!

For more info and to register go to :

http://camptowanda.com/pdfs/2009_forms/Alumni_Reunion09.pdf



STAFF CHECKLIST

- Returned Your Contract
- Complete the Travel Survey & other online forms
- Send us a digital picture of yourself
- Review the online checklist
- Complete your online medical form



CAMPER CHECKLIST



- Do your homework. -Get psyched for camp!



YOU SAY IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY!

MARCH 1: Jonny Wiener; 2: Hariet Weltz, Anna Baran; 3: Jacqueline Maier; 4: Adam Albert, Marcia Bruder; 5: Claire Howells, Rachel Tannen; 6: Stephanie Fishbein, Gaby Lee; 7: Ben Gellert, Samantha Leibowitz, Adam Lowell, Sara DeLeo, Scott Westlund; 8: Jayde Grossman; 9: Sean Allen; 11: Jason Carlson, Emma Trokel, Randy Silverberg, Paula Szymanska; 12: Chloe Hirsch; 14: Remy Aronson, Lauren Capelli, Sydney Levy; 15: Grace Lang, Charlie Wyetzner; 16: Yasemin Dolak; 17: Sophie Davidovich, Dane Rucker; 18: Blake Axelrod, Josh Lowell, Lukasz Adamczyk; 19: Ben Shaw; 20: Jake Epstein, Nicole Lehrhoff, Ewa Wiktorczyk; 21: Kayla Isaacs, Greg Lubin, Ryan Zicherman; 22: Noah Platte; 23: Amanda Gershowitz; 24: Marta Frasquier Esteller, Adam Guest; 25: Jesse Perel; 26: Cody Hecht, Drew Schweibel, Shaun Spielberger; 28: Rachel Feldman, Chelsea Burke; 29: Brianna Green

APRIL: 1: Shappy Shapiro, Lindsay Kwan; 2: Allie Chaikin, Duncan Chisholm; 3: Lara Margolis, Alex Kain, Alex Neff; 4: Zach Khazzam, Jen Kravitz, Brittany Seitzman, Rhona Sinclair; 6: Jenny Winkler; 7: Jeremy Steinman; 8: Harry Goldstein; 9: Mandy Hutchinson, Fabio Tamayo; 10: Ryan Goldwasser, Jordan Zgodny, Jackie Agzigian, Stephanie Maillet; 11: Kylie Clancy, Dana Kisberg; 12: Gabby Abramowitz, Sydney Agona, Sydney Brown, Pablo Lopez Rancano; 13: Carly Schwartz, Stacey Zander; 14: John Mark Dias, Dusty Fox; 15: Joey Levine; 16: Alex Perel; 17: Andrew Tepper, Mimi Szymanska; 18: Tyler Fein, Mason Gruber, Beth Lee, Andrew Widmaier; 19: Ali Dulman, Rachel Labarre, Jonathan Brawn, Serena Seeger; 20: Carl Gold, Dan Rosenthal, Jonesy Jones; 21: Carson Hechler, Logan Kornfeld, Adian Laming; 23: Jesse Luftig, Jack Schwartz, Amanda Peyser; 24: Peri Margolies, Jalena Robinson, Daniel Shavin, Ashley Stern; 26: Sammy Denberg, Kimi Rose, Darren Schweibel, Tunde Farkas; 27: Brian Carlson; 29: Ryan Goldberg, David Golkow, Antonio Garcia Ruiz; 30: Sam Kirsch, Jake Miller, Jared Reiter, Jordan Tekenos-Levy

The BIG 87/20 ALUMNI REUNION



June 13-14 2009

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

SPREAD THE WORD!!



Let's get together!! Old friends - Great Memories!

Come spend a night at camp and enjoy canteen, playing games,
a BBQ on the grassy knoll, a campfire and s'more and of course
sharing old movies, photos and memories from years past at Camp Towanda!
Come alone or bring your family!



★ A \$25 discount per family
if registration is recieved
by March 1, 2009!!! ★



For more information and to register visit:

<http://camptowanda.com/alumni/welcomealumni.php>

and click on the Alumni Reunion post it!

Don't forget to stock up on your Towanda Gear from the Camp Towanda Canteen!

**15% DISCOUNT IF \$50 PER PERSON
DEPOSIT RECEIVED BY MAY 1st!**

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

DATES: FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 4, 2009 - MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2008

ARRIVE after 3:00 PM Friday (Dinner Served 6-7:00 PM);

DEPART after lunch, Monday.

THIS IS A VERY COOL WEEKEND...YOU GOTTA COME...

BRING FRIENDS OR COME ALONE!

THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO END YOUR SUMMER!

NO WORRIES - NO HASSLES - NO THINKING - JUST RELAXING!

Tell your friends...invite anyone..

Camp Families.....Alumni...Colleagues...Relatives... Singles...Couples....

Not recommended for children under age 2.

Night babysitting available.

For more information and to download the registration form go to:

<http://camptowanda.com/alumni/laborday.php>

or call 845-639-4582 or after May 1st call 570-253-3266

Space is limited.



Countdown To Camp!!!

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



CLIP & SAVE

Important Dates to Remember in 2009:

VISION WALK IN NYC

THE BIG ALUMNI REUNION

FLYING CAMPER ARRIVAL

FIRST DAY OF CAMP

VISITING DAY & SIBLING SLEEPOVER

LAST DAY OF CAMP

LABOR DAY FAMILY WEEKEND

FALL FOLIAGE BBQ

May 9, 2009

JUNE 13-14, 2009

JUNE 26, 2009

JUNE 27, 2009

JULY 25, 2009

AUGUST 14, 2009

SEPTEMBER 4-7, 2009

OCTOBER 3, 2009

NEW DATE!

