

GNE A HODT(IE)! The Everlasting Value of Camp

Michael "Hootie" Tesser is a 2nd generation camper/counselor. His Mom, Michele Taub, went to Towanda for many years as well. Hootie is currently entering his Junior year at Wharton and will be a Group Leader this coming summer for his Junior Boys, celebrating his "bar mitzvah" year at camp! He presented this sermon before the entire camp last summer.

In 1997, I arrived at camp as a quiet, shy 7-year old boy who went by the name Michael. Never in a million years would I have believed it if someone had told me that 12 summers later I would be on stage dressed as Sporty Spice teaching the entire camp a dance to "Spice Up Your Life" and going by the name Hootie. Ever since my first summer as a Jet, to my Club summer in 2004, to my current second summer as a counselor, I have noticed a major, overarching theme at camp – that *Towanda* is a place for people to defy expectations, break the norm, and become extraordinary. For over 11 summers, I have witnessed campers step out of their comfort zones to become unexpected leaders, energetic participants, and unbelievable campers. I've seen the guietest of campers cheer louder than all others during a Wayne County basketball game, an un-athletic underdog conquer the climbing wall with enthusiasm, and a Club boy who never before participated in Rope Burning to tough it out in getting to "build that fire higher, higher." I've seen countless stage-shy children sing, dance, act, jump, and scream in the Field House amphitheater, a Hootie, a Mini-Muffin, a Stick, a Brother Bear, and a Philly embrace their nicknames to the fullest, and polite campers eagerly lead cheers such as "Hey Dillies" and "Middies, Middies, Middies" in the dining hall when they would never even think twice about screaming at the dinner table at home. Camp Towanda is truly an amazing place.

13 summers ago I stepped off of Paramus Bus #1 not knowing what to expect and certainly not knowing that all that I've witnessed since then is possible. But I soon learned that it all is possible, which is why at the end of that same summer on the bus ride home I cried, clung to the seats, and pleaded for the bus counselors to take me back to camp while my parents waited for me with a welcomehome-hug in the rain. *Towanda* had me hooked right from the start. And thank God for that, or else I would have never learned that forming a tunnel for camper of the week winners to run through is a more fun way of saying "congratulations," that singing on the bus on trip days is a more fun way of passing the time, that chanting "let's get a little bit p-s-y-c-h-o" is a more fun way of saying "get excited," that banging on plates, cups, and tables in the mess hall is a more fun form of music, and that 26 boys singing to an entire Dorm is a more fun way of saying "we're sorry." As I said before, camp is truly an amazing place. Wear outrageously colored shoes. Shake your booty. Don't be shy. Enjoy it. Have fun with it. Trust me, camp is more fun that way. Step out of your comfort zone, embrace the unexpected, and don't simply go with the flow. Be who you want to be because there's only one place where you can easily get away with straying from the norm – it's here, at Towanda.



What We Hear From The Mansion Porch!!!





Charlie Nisenbaum is heading to China this summer to study at the University of Beijing but promises to visit in August...And Sister Emily Niesenbaum was just accepted to the masters program in public health at Columbia and will be back at camp all summer long!....Jamie Sokol is working for the NYC Department of Health...Brooke Roby says: Hey Towanda!! can't believe it has been almost 10 years! Towanda creeps into my thoughts every now and again...it's amazing how only 2 summers can create such a huge impact and memories in a life. I am married and have 2 kids and I still wear my Towanda staff shirts proudly!!...Glenn Brawn has a daughter!...Alissa Brandon is going for her Masters in Engineering at Tufts

University...Gary Sterba (1961) is doctor in Caracas and reports that His kids, (1993-97) Yonit is starting her pediatric residency and Ben is graduating as a Production engineer in Caracas...Alex Marshall represents CT at the first game at the Mets' new stadium (see photo)...Chris Avery (formerly known as Dr. Evil is engaged!...Lauren Eckstein is expecting a daughter in May and hopes to see everyone at the BIG ALUMNI REUNION in June... (psst, Alumni, if you haven't, please register today...see info in this issue)...Joel B. Grossman (1953-57), Professor at Johns Hopkins University says Hello Camp Towanda, I was a counselor, assistant head counselor (and archery and basketball instructor)...Leslie Shmaruk 1975-84 says hi too all her old camp friends and is an attorney for



Caterpillar...Jacqui Hopmeyer says hi to all from Montreal!...Childs Koon almost has psychology

degree...Claire Spence is working in a Chiuldren's Home in England but shouts out to the dorm 2009...While in Florida, Matt and Lauren Tancer, along with "Aunt Jo" saw Evan and Carly Lapidus, Jerry Garcia Friedman, Molly Spiesman, Mikey & Ken AustinRoss Devore getting ready to be a counselor (see whacky "green" photo)... Yasgurs bumped into Kornfelds in DisneyWorld ... According to our sources, famed alum Hank Azaria is expecting his first child later this year...Louise Dally loves being a mom but misses camp sooooooooo much!....

Thanks for the updates, keep sending us your news to share with the CT family!!

'What is a tree's favorite drink? Rootbeer! - Jacey Mossack

Some Senior Snow Girls!

C.A.M.p TOWANDA

> 'What's the difference between Roast Beef and Pea Soup?` You can Roast beef, but you can't pee soup!" Max Zimberg

STAFF THANKS

Z Man, our man on the recruiting road has traveled the globe yet again meeting and interviewing potential new staff. While we are looking at a record breaking return of former Towanda-ers this year, we are always excited to welcome new staff. Besides the year round help of Dusty Fox, Erica Media Gulliver and Tyler Price, Z would like to give a shout out to those that have helped him while on the road:

Serena Seeger.....Joelle Hache....Janique "Cheeks" Melanson.... Stephanie "Carter" Carter.... Tiffany Jewer.... Mark MacDonald.... Adam MacDonald....Duncan Chisholm....Tara Chisholm....Karen Gormley..... Julia Clarke.... Michael "Poncho" Snow.....Aimee Smith... and Tom Neaverson.



WELCOME Welcome to the Summer of 2009! Since our previous issue, we want to welcome the following new campers (as of press time) as the newest members of our camp family. It wont be long until you are feeling comfortable and at home at camp. We have taken the opportunity to give you a temporary nickname as we imagine a new one will develop once we are altogether at camp! Welcome All to the Summer of 2009!: Zoe "A-Z" Albom (sister Jordan, brother Zachary), 2nd generation, Mom is Jody Neuman), Eden "Garden" Brody (sister Miranda), Devin "DCV" Cooper-Vastola, Colby 'Lil Finkel" Garfinkel (sister of Casey & Jonny), Heather "Ready" and Mitch "Other" Ginsburg, Olivia "Livers" Hamwee (cousins Joey, Ari and Jessie Goret, and Alana, Dani and Callie Pines), Ally 'Ally Eye" Ignasiak, Bria 'Bree" Igo, Jessica "Liker" Leichter (2nd generation, Mom is Jodi Feingold), Sammy "Jr Sam" and Josh "Lev-E" Levy, Lara "L2" Logan, Max "M Squared" Mancino, Julia "J-MC" McGrath, Julia "JM1" and Joan "JM2" Mitchiner, Tess "tee-Oh" Ostroff, Kai "Guy" Ritchie, Jake "Silver" and Jordan "The Berg" Silverberg, Reece "Piece" Spielberger (brother Shaun) "Why did the cookie go to the doctor? "What did sushi A say to sushi B? Because he felt crummy!" Wasabi! (pronounced wuz-up-B!)" - Jacey Mossack - Hannah Seley "What did the tie say to the hat? "Why did the farmer go to school? You go on a head and I'll just hang around! Because he wanted to improve his weeding!" – Zach Keller - Molly Cohen KEEP READING FOR MORE JOKES! THIS JUST IN FROM DRAMMMMMA TONY and the 2009 Camp Towanda Drama Department: Anyone can participate, on stage, on scenery, behind the scenes with lights, sound, video, playbills or in the crowd! The amphitheater will be the place to be! Here is the updated summer play list: July 6: The Seniors- Dorm- Club Present: Pippin' July 12: The Middies & Tweens Present: Music Man, Junior July 22: The Debs-Jets-Dillies-Cadets Present: Jungle Book Kids August 1: The Inters & Nationals Present: L'il Abner **TBA:** The Staff Present: A Broadway Review 2000 Plus, assorted Talent Shows!

GUVNA

Mitch & Stephanie had the opportunity recently to discuss with New York Governor David Paterson Camp Towanda's involvement with the Foundation Fighting Blindness' VisionWalk. Needless to say, the Governor was quite impressed with our campers and hopes to lend a hand in the future. As you may know, the Governor is blind.



Mitzvah Projects

Camp provides the opportunity and exposure to several charitable organizations. Many of our campers have incorporated this connection to their Mitzvah Projects. We are happy to assist and guide if there is continued interest.

LIVE CAMP CAM CONSTRUCTION COVERAGE!

The Camp Towanda CampCam has been active all winter. You may have noticed the snow, the rain, the leaves and now the trees budding. Our main focus recently has been on the cement foundation of The Alley Building Project. Casper was helping relocate Chef Jonesy's Cabin! See photo. In coming weeks you can watch the progress of that project and catch a wave from the pre-camp prep crew. During the summer, sporadic glimpses of the Courtyard as





well as smiling campers (only!) passing by!

Warning: Do not become addicted to this webcam!

" How did the refrigerator get into Harvard? Early Appliance!" - David Golkow

Naturally Green

Naturally, being at camp is green in itself...that is, being aware of the outdoors, the environment, appreciating the sights, sounds and smells of the outdoors. Be it the sunshine, rain, nighttime, morning dew or just a bird chirping. Camp is naturally what green is about.

Although camp in general has been environmentally minded for years, we want to help everyone become more aware and involved.

- Reuse your water bottle
- Recycle batteries, newspapers, boxes
- Use our recycling containers and bins
- No littering
- Encourage vendors to conserve and think green.

Already we are mostly a fluorescent bulb facility, but as our incandescent stock is depleted, we will only replace with CFLs and then eventually as the technology improves, LEDs. Staff carpooling will continue to be encouraged and we need everyone to pitch in with litter, turning off lights, identifying water leaks and not wasting food.

STAFFTASTIC 2009

We are excited to welcome our 2009 Staff to camp....many returnees, familiar faces and names.....along with a great 1st year crew..... Over 22 states and 27 countries represented in our camp family. We'll all be together very soon!

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST TIME STAFF

USA: ALABAMA: Chrystal Logan; ARIZONA: Jackie Arnett; CALIFORNIA: Zack Mercer; COLROADO: Beth Schmahl; FLORIDA: Tina Fields, Will Fields, Kendall Heath, Kelley Igo, Josh Langdon, Tommy Sullivan, Scott Westlund; GEORGIA: John Champagne; ILLINOIS: Megan Kleemann, Sarah Knapp, Amy Kreiser, Kelly Southworth, Gina Pizzolato, Robert Warren; INDIANA: Sandra Kohut, Kyle Techentin; KANSAS: Libby Goldsberry, Eddie Ferreiro, Brianna Green, Jessica Marak, Vanessa Owings; KENTUCKY: Emily Wilcox; MARYLAND: Ryal Yingling; MICHIGAN: Jackie Duchene, Ethan Sedman; NORTH CAROLINA: Stormy Ritchie, Alexa Wertman ;NEW MEXICO: Nancy Bergman; NEW JERSEY: Julie Laracy, Ellen Levy, Adam Shale, Randy Silverberg, Jane Spielberger; NEW YORK: Brandon Brechue, Mike Fahey, Theresa Gaynor, Jared Heit, Mike Irish, Amanda Iseppon, Nicole Iseppon, Bethany Stephens, Kristine Trujillo; OHIO: Kelsey Lewis, Jazmin McNeal, Jenn Moore; PENNSYLVANIA: Ari Bonefont, Greg Hunter, Sean McCarroll, Ryan Petz, Phil Pochatko; TENNESSEE: Tracy Waters, Buster Waters; TEXAS: Amy Brooks, Megan England, Haley Holmes, Susan Mitchiner; VIRGINIA: Brad Carter, Jean Kukucka; WASHINGON: Ashley Eckman; WISCONSIN: Jeralyn Klopotic

CANADA: BRITISH COLUMBIA: Rajpal Hundal, Kirk Prince, Dian Ryan; **NEW BRUNSWICK**: Morgan Ludforn; **NOVA SCOTIA**: Casey Babb, Natalie Bond, Matt Bordian, Sean Snell; **ONTARIO**: Marcia Bruder. Jill Davis-Arnett, JF Gionet; **QUEBEC:** Brian Vrouvas; **SASKATCHEWAN;** Meagan Cumpstone

AUSTRALIA: Jonathan Carrett, Luke Lambourne, Bree Mapps, Scott Newland, Sally Thompson, Justin DellaZoppa, Patrea Quine; COLOMBIA: Chrystian Tamaya; CZECH REPUBLIC: Tereza Eichmannoza, Martina Kadlecova, Gabriela Piskackova, Lenka Bartosova, Ivona Francova, Helena Kurkova; ENGLAND: Claire Cleverly, Adam Ditch, Christopher Johnston, Cal Owen, Dan Perry, Sean Morgan, Nicki Burke, Charlotte Knight, Ruth Marlow, Lianne Smith; GERMANY; Annika Paulus; HUNGARY; Csaba Revai, Daniel Odor; ISRAEL: Reem Eluk. Liraz Levi, Omer Zuckerman; KENYA: Kerry Otieno; SCOTLAND: Natalie Melvin; SOUTH AFRICA: Silvia Porter; TURKEY: Yasemin Dolak, Selma Saglam



WELCOME BACK TO OUR RETURNING STAFF

RETURNING FOR THEIR 2nd YEAR: Alon Artzi, James Beswick, Maggie Bukowska, Kate Cachova, Bill Canfield, Stephanie Carter, Zach Caudo, Julia Clarke, Sara DeLeo, Joanna Dendra, Marni Denenberg, , Katie Facciola, Tunde Farkas, Alicia Florin, Joelle Hache, Tina Hechler, Martyna Kantorysinska, Judith Kennedy, Lenka Kremlackova, FSD Eddie Molinar, Jen Monkman, Monica O'Hanlon, Pete Oakley, Ashley Olford, Peter Ozsvath, Greg Polovin, Tony Prather, Blake Readett, Serena Seeger, Michael 'Poncho' Snow, Fowzi Suleman, CC Szilard, Fabio Tamayo, Matt Tolchin, Lenka Tylova, Nicole Webb, Andrew Widmaier, Keira Williamson

RETURNING FOR THEIR 3rd YEAR: Cathy Anderson, Widget Baranowski, Karolina Boino, Justine Brechue, Megan Canfield, Kylie Cheetham, Laura Goldwasser, Erica Gulliver, Susan Hecht, Kate Hopper, Petr Krsek, Adam McCarthy, Siobhan McCormack, Tom Neaverson, Kerbie Piotrowski, Britta Pryall, Shawn Riedinger, Adan Rodriguez, Carrie Stack, Dr. Cindi Slater, Kate Voelkner, Angel Vilchez Casares, Nathaniel Whitmore, Nimi Willner

RETURNING FOR THE 4th YEAR: Lindsay Kwan, Cory McCarty, Ira Meltzer, Tyler Price, Christine Roy, Eric Sacks, Jimmy Sams

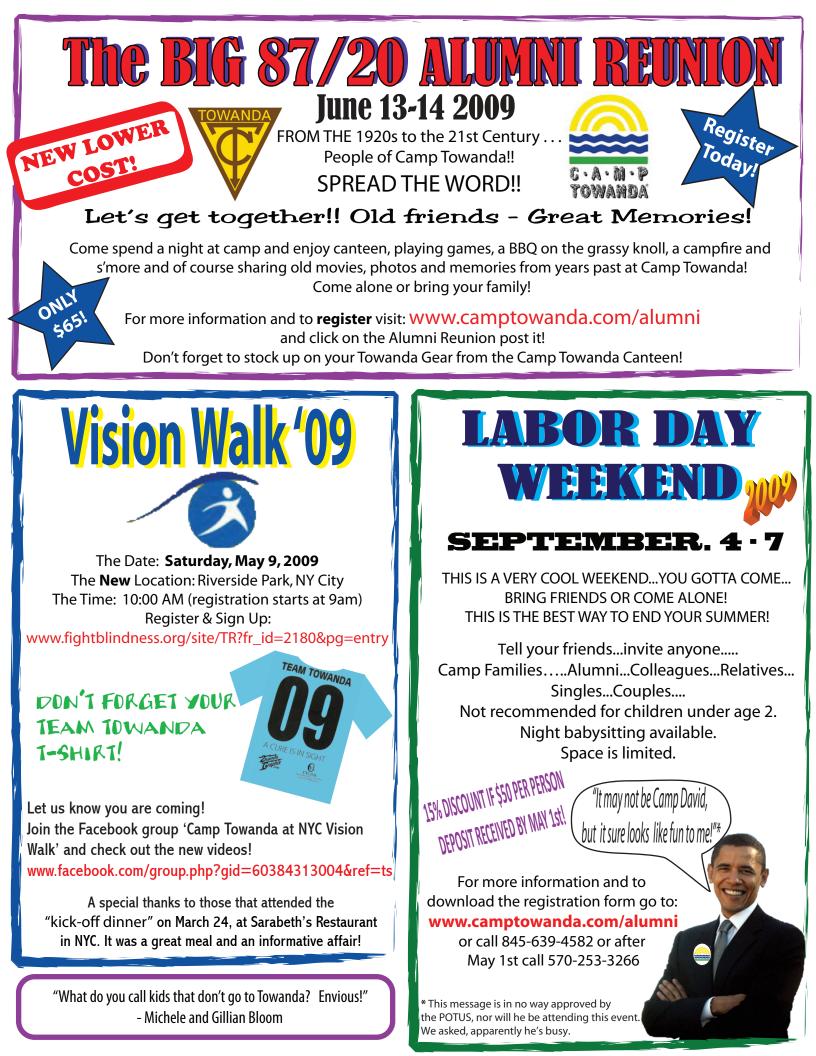
JOINING THE 5 YEAR CLUB: Marc Cormier, Neil Brazer, Mike Connolly, Jiri Eischman, Shelly Field, Dusty Fox, Alan Katz, Mark MacDonald, Aimee Smith, Mike Thompson, Boston Sean Trindall, Pavlina Zbrojova

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE 'OLD TIMER' VETERANS: 6: Tiffany Jewer, Linda Lowell; 7:Sean Allen, Karen Gormley, Zak Krouner, Risa Rabinowitzs, Eric 'Shappy' Shapiro, Joe Slick; 8: Rob Devore, Stephanie Fox, Dan Lemelman, Morgan Steinberg, Lauren Welger, Shelby Wyetzner 9:Ashley Brennan, Jackie Ferszt, Karen Feuerstein, Drew Halpern, Rachel Heimler, Geri Hochman, Julia Kessler, Spencer Kirsch, Steven Lerche, Jeff Needleman, Zach Realberg, Adam Silverman, Lauren Spierer, Blair Wallach, Samantha Wallach

JOINGING THE 10 YEAR CLUB: Bari Abrams, Jody Albom, Robert Edwards, Sam Frankel, Adam Krause, Hannah Lyons, Jake Morgenstern, Lisa Pelton, Paul Springer, Stacey Zander

AND BEYOND: 11: Andrew Bromberg, Jessica Heimler, Chef Jonesy, Matt List, David Mueller, Amanda Ryman, Max Sussman, Jesse Wolff; 12: Emily Niesenbaum, Michael 'Hootie' Tesser; 13: Heather Meisner, Paul Ward, Mark 'Z' Zides; 14: Dr. Dan Slater; 17: Matt Miller, Michael Pelton; 20: Mitch and Stephanie and Jared Reiter; 24: Ernie Simmons; 29: Michael 'Spiz' Spiesman; 39: Bob Miller

CHECKLISTS Define Medical form & emergency contact information accurate and update Online Medical form & emergency contact information accurate and update Online Medical form & emergency contact information accurate and update Online Medical form & emergency contact information accurate and update Online Medical form & emergency contact information accurate and update Online Medical form & emergency contact information accurate and update Online Medical form & emergency contact information accurate and update Ontacted KidsMedsPacks if MEDS AT CAMP are necessary. Vacation itineraries sent to Mitch's email. New Campers should have heard from their Big Brother/Sister Oning soon to read in May: Parent Guide & Final Instructions. Name Tags on everything! Practice saying good-bye. May 9 VisionWalk in NYC	
"The better part of happiness is to wish to be what you are" -Erasmus — Erasmus — Email a picture of yourself to our office.	
 "It is never too late to be who you might have been" George Eliot Ok, the above ones aren't jokes Name Tags on everything! Contacted KidsMedsPacks if MEDS AT CAMP are necessary Coming soon to read in May: The Staff Guide May 6 Staff Chat Room 	y.
but they are good quotes!	~
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June 1: Neil Brazer; 2: Mack Stein, Nicki Burke, Beth Schmahl; 3: Dillon Weinberg, Susan Mitchiner; 4: Laura Klarsfed, Eric Lugassy, Ashley Olford; 5: Molly Cohen, Kendall Gaynes, Jamie Hammer, Jonathan 'NJ' Heller, Maggie Bukowska, Will Fields, Jimmy Sams; 7: Widget Baranowski, Morgan Ludford; 8: Shari Bergman, Ben Berke, Melissa Peskin, Sydney Wolin; 9: Zach Hecht, Sammi Kravietz, Hillary Lehrhoff, Jordana Peskin, Matt Bordian; 10: Rachel Holtz; 11: Harris Fein, Zac Gelfand; 12: Nicki Gold, Aliza Sabin; 13: Kevin Dorf, Michael Pelton; 15: Derek Hassan, Sonya Kirpke, Amanda Winkler, Megan Kleemann, Bob Miller; 16: FSD Eddie Molinar, Joe Slick; 17: Jessie Frankel, Maryl Goldberg, Doug Schweibel; 18: Matt Perel, Phil Pochatko; 19: Daniel Odor; 20: Emma Bolog, Alec Taitz, Julia Clarke; 21: Tony Prather, Ethan Sedman; 22: Jared Portal, Isabel Schwartzapfel. Spencer Steinberg; 23: Justin Lafazan; 24: Cooper Seligson, Chrystal Logan; 25: Julie Eichner; 26: Henry Russnow; 27: Josh Langdon, Chrystian Tamayo; 28: Cayla Kusnierz, Adam Lanel, Jenna Yasgur; 29: Hallie, Abish Cassidy Kurzer; 30: Jillian Weintraub, Marni Denenberg	



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

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CLIP & SAVE 2009 DATES TO REMEMBER

Former Camper Orientation/ Senior staff meeting **Outdoor Adventure Staff** Media, Office, GLs and AGLs, Waterfront, Lifeguard course June 12, 2009 The BIG 87/20 Alumni Reunion Medical Staff, Arts and Crafts, Baseball, Softball, Drama All Staff Orientation Flying Campers Arrive **First Day of Camp Visiting Day & Sibling Sleepover** Last Day of Camp Labor Day Family Weekend Fall Foliage BBQ NJ REUNION **FLORIDA REUNION** New Camper Group Scoop

June 6, 2009 June 9, 2009 June 13-14, 2009 June 15, 2009 June 20, 2009 June 26, 2009 June 27, 2009 July 25, 2009 Aug. 14, 2009 Sept. 4-7, 2009 Oct. 3, 2009 Nov. 21, 2009 Dec. 26, 2009 Jan. 10, 2010