

# The Pony Express

Volume 36

Spring 2019

## Indian and Forest Acres Camps

*“Celebrating 96 Years of Camping Excellence”*

### Alumni News



Congratulations to **Katie Herman Zecher** (1993-2000 Camper) who was married May 19, 2018 in Montauk, NY. Katie is a VP, Senior Business Director at Velocity OMC in NYC. In attendance were fellow alumni, **Leah Herman** (1996-2003 Camper), **Jenna Labinger Plakas** (1996-2001 Camper), **Marley Kotler** (1994-2000 Camper, 2003 Staff), **Trisha Engelman** (1996-2001 Camper), **Karen Douglass** (1991-2000 Camper, 2003 Staff), **Dani Janklow** (1994-2000 Camper), **Samantha Strauss Hanman** (1992-1995 Camper), **Kathryn Klein** (1996-2001 Camper) and **Kevin Klein** (1996-1998 Camper). Congratulations to **Maia Rowland Baram** (2000-2004 Camper) and her husband, Gali, on the birth of their son, Cory, August 18<sup>th</sup>. Maia is the N.A. Director for Riki Dalal Haute Couture. The Barams are living in Israel. Congratulations to **Johannah Cornblatt Lowin** (1997-2002 Camper) and her husband, Jeremiah, on the birth of their son, Jack, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Johannah and her family live in Washington, DC. Congratulations to **Nathan Cooper** (1998-2004 Camper) who was married on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Nathan is living in Chicago and is the Director of Business Development at project44.



Congratulations to **Rachel Sevel Shaul** (2006-2010 Camper) who was married October 20<sup>th</sup>. Rachel is a Campus Scheduling Coordinator at Johns Hopkins University. After 25 years of leading the Schusterman Family Foundation as their president, **Sandy Cardin** (1966 – 1973 Camper) has stepped down to become a Senior Advisor for the Foundation. Congratulations to **Betsy Fischman Flor** (1992-1998 Camper) who was married November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Betsy and her husband Ben recently started Lustir, a company that makes a reusable carbon fiber drinking straw. They are living in Connecticut. Congratulations to **Jon Balva** (2000-2002 Camper) who was married on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Jon and his wife, Nicole, live in Parkland, FL. Jon is the VP of Sales at Moroccan Gold Series. Congratulations to **Johanna Waldman** (1983-1999 Camper, 2002-2004, 2006-2012, 2014 Staff) and her husband, A.J., on the birth of their daughter, Lily, July 31<sup>st</sup>. Congratulations to **Jessica Law** (1991-2008 Camper, 2009-2012 Staff) who was awarded the 2019 Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award. Jessica is a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher at Mosier School in South Hadley, MA. Congratulations to **Ale Ferrara** (2002-2006 Camper) who was married on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ale and her husband, Sam, live in Washington, DC where Ale is a

Product Manager with Oracle, working on energy efficiency software. Ale's brother, **Daniel Ferrara** (2000-2005 Camper, 2008 Staff), is a Software Engineer at Google in NYC. Congratulations to **Hannah Shankman** (1997-1999 Camper) who was married in August. After three years as a member of the ensemble and as the understudy for Elphaba and Nessa Rose, Hannah left the show *Wicked* in December. Her brother, **John Shankman** (2006-2007 Camper), is living in Brooklyn, NY and is doing software development and playing in two bands. Their father, **Jim Shankman** (1965-1967 Camper, 1972 Staff) is living in NYC and keeping busy acting, playwriting and doing some directing. Last fall, Jim directed one of his own plays in the New York International Fringe Festival. **Sophie Cohn** (2005-2012 Camper) is living in NYC and is in the Inventory Management Training at Gap Inc. Congratulations to **Molly Sandler** (1996-2003 Camper) and her husband, Ari, on the birth of their son, Julian, November 20<sup>th</sup>. Molly is still living in Denver, CO and is an Internal Strategy Consultant for Kaiser Permanente.



Congratulations to **Ashley Fischer** (1997-2003 Camper) who was married June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Ashley is a Senior Manager in the Strategic Planning Group at American Express in NYC. Among those in attendance for the celebration were **Peggy Lowenstein** (1966-1971 Camper), **Olivia Cholak** (1998-2003 Camper, 2006 Staff), **Katie Zinman** (2000-2006 Camper), **Amy Weissman Drezner** (1972-1976 Camper, 1978 Staff), **Alyssa Meyer** (1998-2003 Camper, 2006 Staff), **Katie Scholss** (1997-2003 Camper), **Haley Knobler** (2012-2019 Camper), **Shannon Knobler** (2012-2016, 2018 Camper), **Alexa Fischer** (1997-2003 Camper), **Molly Sandler** (1996-2003 Camper) and of course Ashley's mother, **Julie Rosenbaum Fischer** (1965-1967 Camper). **Brooke Schneider** (2007-2013 Camper) is living in NYC and is the Global E-Commerce Coordinator for MAC Cosmetics. Congratulations to **Sam Demers** (1993-1995, 1998-2004 Camper, 2005 Staff) and his wife, Nadine, on the birth of their son, Oscar, February 7<sup>th</sup>. Sam had decided to follow in his father's footsteps, **Jacques Demers** (1993-1995, 1998-1999 Nurse), and has gone back to school to get his degree in Nursing. Congratulations to **Andrew Adelsheimer** (2000-2008 Camper) who was married June 1<sup>st</sup>. Andrew recently graduated from Medical School, completing a 5-year MD/MBA program at NYU. He will be starting residency in internal medicine at Weill Cornell in NYC and is planning to specialize in Cardiology. **Jeremy Adelsheimer** (2002-2010 Camper, 2011-2012 Staff) is living in NYC and working for Blackrock, in a financial/technology group called "Aladdin." In May, **Eric Adelsheimer** (2005-2014 Camper, 2015 Staff) graduated Colgate and will be joining Blackrock. Congratulations to **Kendall Sisisky Valliere** (1997-2006 Camper, 2007-2008 Staff) and her husband, Eric, on the birth of their son Burke, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Congratulations to **Kimberly Lam** (1997-1999, 2001 Camper) who was married March 10<sup>th</sup>. Her husband, Guarav, is Indian and with Kim being ½ Italian and ½ Chinese, they had a "cultural fusion" wedding in Boca Raton, FL. They are living in San Francisco where Kim is the Head of Marketing for a small Femtech company that makes products for women and new mothers.

**Tennis for Life**  
**85-year-old Dan “Tampa Tennis” Holcomb**  
**Wins Another USTA Tournament**



“Tennis for Life” is the title of a tennis book. It also is used as a catch phrase and advertisement by many tennis pros, to help promote tennis and their programs. If there was ever a “poster boy” for the tennis for life concept it would be Danny Holcomb. Danny, who turns 85 in June, continues to train, improve his tennis and compete. He enjoys teaching and playing but his secret is competing. While many tennis players his age stopped competing in singles tournaments many years ago, Danny never stopped. The counter stress that competing in tennis offers has helped to keep Dan young. While many have adapted a “fixed” mindset about their tennis game, Danny takes the “road less traveled” approach and is of the mindset that he will continue to get better. Danny’s latest victory came in early March. Danny won the 85 and older division in a USTA tennis tournament in Lakeland, Florida. He has taught many generations of campers how to play tennis over the years. We are very lucky to have Danny as part of our camp family. Congratulations Danny!!!

**America Ninja Warrior Is Coming to “our Summer Place”**

American Ninja Warrior obstacle courses and competitions are a phenomenon sweeping the nation. At press time, our top-notch Maintenance Director is laying the foundations (one at Forest Acres and one at Indian Acres) for the courses. We are excited to have these at camp; no doubt providing hours of fun for our campers. These are examples of what the course will look like.



## Congratulations and Thanks to C.J. Law



Last summer, at the 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion, Riding Director CJ Law, received a special recognition for her dedication to camp. In honor of her 33 years of service to the Indian & Forest Acres Equestrian program, the barn at Forest Acres was named for CJ. Staff, family, friends, former riders, and Dick Krasker (who hired CJ) were all in attendance. Thank you, CJ, for your years of dedication to riding, our campers and to our camp community!

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### A Letter to Camp

Indian and Forest Acres,

“From the outside looking in you could never understand. From the inside looking out you could never explain.” At first, I did not understand this quote, but now I do ... In my first summer at IA in 2016, I was a 23-year-old guy who was a bit lost in life and needed a break from study, so I decided to challenge myself and break out of my comfort zone by travelling to the other side of the world (literally) to work at this camp. Already nervous as hell, I arrived in the pitch black, with rain pouring down, to a bunch of strangers ... imagine how I felt! To my surprise as the days and weeks went on, I had made friendships all around the world and bonds that could never be broken. I said goodbye to camp that year not knowing if I would ever get to return. Unfortunately, after making my way back to Australia, my mum got very ill and passed away on Christmas morning. Having lost a huge part of my life and family, I felt even more lost than ever. I was no longer ready to go back to study and decided that I would return to camp. What brought me back to camp was that it now felt like home ... the one I had just lost. My friends and family at both Indian and Forest Acres were both so inviting to have me back at “the summer place.” For three years in a row I attended Indian Acres camp and every year was just as special as the last. Memories made I will cherish forever. To the staff, counsellors and campers, I’m not sure if you all could ever understand just how much you have done for me. So, I would just like to thank you all for everything that you have done for me in the past 3 years. I have bonds and friendships that I will cherish forever with so many of you around the world! To you future counsellors, open your heart and expand your mind to the world which is camp! If you allow yourself to break out of your comfort zone you will truly be able to “get camp.” That is what is meant by the previous quote. I could tell my friends back here in Australia all about camp, but still they wouldn’t fully appreciate or understand what camp has done for me. Whereas if you are there you will understand by the end of just one summer, just how capable one place is at changing your life for the better. I wish I was returning this year, unfortunately I cannot due to studies and other commitments. But I hope to see you very soon. I also hope that the summer of 2019 is a great one for you all! Until we meet again,

Scott Oldfield (2016-2018 Staff)

## A NOTE FROM LISA AND GEOFF

As we sit and write this note, we want to take the time to reflect on our time at camp. It is Memorial Day Weekend and the heat is building in South Florida. It is the earth's way of telling us it is time to go to Maine for the summer. We are also warmed by the outreach of our summer family after the recent death of Lisa's dad. The parents, alumni, staff and kids have resoundingly supported and given us love and kindness during this time of mourning.

As we look forward to the Summer of 2019, our 21<sup>st</sup>, we are more excited than ever to rejoin our summer family. This serves as a tonic for the sadness we feel. Seeing the kids arrive on June 27<sup>th</sup> with eyes wide open and tremendous excitement and enthusiasm gives us a feeling that cannot be beat. Knowing that we are responsible for making sure each and every child has the best summer of their lives is an obligation and duty we embrace.

As we have said over the years, we have pledged from the start to maintain the strength of our community and to keep the many traditions of camp secure. Keeping these timeless traditions and experiences sacred is our number one mission. While the world is rapidly changing around us, our lifeblood is always going to be the camp experience for your children and your children's children. To keep camp vibrant, **we need you** and everyone from the entire camp community to tell people about us, and *not keep us the best kept secret in camping*. Almost always, our best new campers are the ones who were recommended by our current or past campers and families. We need you!

The start of camp is a short time away. We welcome all of you to the Summer Place for a meal or a visit to Friendship Circle/Campfire. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you this summer! As always think IA and FA!





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### A FINAL WORD

As I put the wraps on this issue of the Pony Express, I want to thank everyone who has helped contribute to the newsletter over the past 21 years. Whether it be sharing a camp memory, sending a wedding or birth announcement, or a life update, I love hearing from all of you and hearing about what you are all doing. And of course, it gives me material for the Pony Express. Please keep the emails coming. I am blessed to have the job that I have. This job allows me to give back, every day, to “our Summer Place.” I can say truly that the work I have put in has been “paid back in Spades.” Remember to share your news with me: [moe@indianacres.com](mailto:moe@indianacres.com). Have a wonderful summer and keep those emails coming.

*Moe*

