

# The Pony Express

Volume 35

Summer 2018

## Indian and Forest Acres Camps

*“Celebrating 95 Years of Camping Excellence”*



### We Are Family

Three hundred alumni gathered at Our Summer Place on Saturday evening, July 21<sup>st</sup> and Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> for the celebration of our 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. Former campers and counselors from 25 states and 8 countries were in attendance. Alumni showed up in force on Saturday to enjoy camp while current campers and their families were out of camp for the day. A walk down to the Logs, a stroll down to the Saco, shagging fly balls on the Upper Field at IA, and a full court basketball game were all on the agenda.



On Saturday evening alumni assembled at the Fryeburg Fairgrounds for a 2-hour “Meet and Greet.” Laughter echoed from wall to wall as stories were recounted and memories were relived. After the Meet and Greet, a small group headed to Indian Acres for a coed campfire. The stars were out en force, the fire was blazing, and the air was crisp.

As “Reunion Sunday” started at Forest Acres, Greens and Tans gathered for Rallies. At Indian Acres, through the falling raindrops, Reds and Browns competed in the Classic Relay. Following lunch, alumni packed Tip Top for a reunion edition of Coed Chorus. There wasn’t a dry eye in the house as we finished with our anthem, “A Summer Place.”



Reds and Browns headed to The Abe for a game of Dodgeball and Greens and Tans stayed in Tip Top for Family Feud, followed by the Forester’s Meeting. Then everyone took a short break before heading back to the Fryeburg Fairgrounds for a Lobster and Steak dinner. Kudos go out to Food Service Director Alan Whitaker and his staff for another delicious meal.

Alumnae ended at Forest Acres with Friendship Circle followed by a special Sunday Night edition of campfire. At Indian Acres, the evening ended with a reunion edition of Sunday Night campfire.



Thanks to everyone who attended, and we look forward to seeing everyone in 2023 for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

## Alumni News



Congratulations to **Casey Mullin** (1999-2005 Camper, 2006 Staff) who was married on October 15, 2016. Casey is an associate attorney at Kelley Kronenberg in West Palm Beach, FL. **Sam Casper** (2000-2005 Camper, 2009 Staff) is living in Orlando, FL and is working for Iron Galaxy Studios on various gaming projects. Congratulations to **Alli Flynn** (1999-2004 Camper) who was married June 4, 2016. Alli is a camp counselor at Camp Bow Wow in Portland, ME. In May of 2017. **Jennifer Manzelli Patterson** (1984-1987 Camper) moved to Lisbon, Portugal with her husband, Brian and their dog. Jennifer is currently working as an art therapist with English-speaking residents and is the designer of two coloring books; the Color Because series, currently available on Amazon. Congratulations to **Taylor Abramson** (2001-2006 Camper) who was married November 11, 2017.

Taylor and her husband, Matthew, are living in Stuart, FL. Taylor is a material engineer for Infrared Associates, Inc. **Jacob Rubel** (2004-2007 Camper) is living in Minneapolis, MN and working for Sportradar, a sports data company, doing data entry for live sporting events. Congratulations to **Ariela Newman Kronberg** (1999-2004 Camper) and her husband, Brian, on the birth of their daughter, Zoe, September 8, 2017. Ariela is the director of patient financial services at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach, FL. In May, **Allie Sigadel** (2006-2011 Camper, 2013 Staff) graduated Hartwick College with a nursing degree and became a registered nurse. She is currently living in Lido Beach, NY and is a nurse in the bone marrow transplant unit at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in NYC.



Congratulations to **Adam Caslow** (1992-1999 Camper) who was married on July 29<sup>th</sup>. Adam is the Managing Partner at Acme Smoked Fish in Brooklyn, NY. **Emma Kleeman** (2003-2010 Camper) graduated the University of Rhode Island with a degree in Textile Merchandising and moved to NYC to do an internship in fashion. Her sister, **Jessica Kleeman** (2002-2006 Camper), is also living in NYC and is an associate media buyer for Horizons Media. Congratulations to **Lauren Flynn** (1999-2000



Camper) who was married September 24, 2017. She and her wife, Laura, live in Clarendon Hills, IL. Lauren is studying to get her real estate license and has started her own company with Laura. **Nikki Casper** (2002-2010 Camper) is living in Boston, MA and working for Wayfair, an online home goods retailer, in the recruiting department. Congratulations to **Olivia Cholak** (1998-2003 Camper, 2006 Staff) who was married September 10, 2017. Olivia is an emergency department nurse resident at Weill Cornell

Medical Center at New York – Presbyterian Hospital in NYC. Congratulations to **Ana Alicia Perez-Paris** (1996-2000 Camper) and her husband, Gustavo, on the birth of their son Gustavo, October 8, 2017. Ana is living in Seattle and is a technical account manager for Microsoft Corporation. Congratulations to **Tina Cohen** (1990-1994 Camper) who was married August 26, 2017. Tina and her husband, Sean, live in Chicago, IL where Tina is a managing director at Major, Lindsey & Africa in Chicago. After graduating the University of Connecticut in May of 2016, **Avery Moses** (2003-2010 Camper) earned her master's degree from George Washington University and is now working in Residence and Greek Life at the University of Rochester in Rochester, NY.



Congratulations to **Rachel Shapiro** (2002-2003 Camper, 2004-2006, 2008 Staff) who was married on September 9, 2017 at Hardy Farm in Fryeburg, ME. Rachel is an Associate Attorney at Collora LLP in Boston, MA. **Miguel Vences** (2001-2004 Camper) was married in August of 2016 and is a lawyer in Madrid, Spain. His brother, **Carlos Vences** (2001-2006 Camper) is a music composer and composed all of the music for Miguel's wedding. Their sister, **Paloma Vences** (2006-2010 Camper) is currently completing a master's program in Electrical Engineering at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, IL. Congratulations to **Jill Marcus Smith** (1994-1999 Camper, 2002 Staff) and her husband, Reed, on the birth of their son, Grayson, December 31, 2017. Jill is living in NYC and is a Director of Brand Marketing for J. Crew. **Olivia Fass Spiewak** (1999-2007 Camper, 2008 Staff) recently launched a new company, KO Events, which specializes in the planning, marketing and management of corporate events. Congratulations to **Ali Kudish** (1992-1999



Camper) and her husband, Peter, on the birth of their son, Aiden, September 24, 2017. During the summer of 2017, while on vacation in Bali, Indonesia, Ali met up with Jill Marcus Smith. Congratulations to **Sarah Waldman** (1985-2001 Camper, '93-'01, '03, '07-'08 Staff) and her husband, Justin, on the birth of their daughter, Riley, July 23<sup>rd</sup>. **Haley Miller** (2003-2007 Camper, 2011-2013 Staff) is living in South Florida and working for the accounting firm Kaufman Rossin. Congratulations to **Janelle Amidon Kapusta** (1992-1998 Camper) and her husband, Ron, on the birth of their daughter, Mackenzie, October 17, 2017. Congratulations to **Diego Bustillos** (1994-1999 Camper) and his wife, Mariana, on the birth of their son, Diego, February 4<sup>th</sup>. Diego is practicing law and living in Houston, TX. **Jessica Hoffman** (2007-2012)

graduated the University of Alabama and is now a Special Education teacher at the Phebe Anna Thorne School at Bryn Mawr College in Bryn Mawr, PA. **Amanda Zinman** (2000-2007 Camper) is currently living in Dublin, Ireland, getting her Master's in Tourism and working for a bespoke travel firm. Her sister, **Katie Zinman** (2000-2006 Camper) is living in NYC and working for the tech start up, Lofty, an online marketplace for fine art, decorative art, and collectibles. Congratulations to **Lauren Blatt Owen** (1992-1999 Camper, 2002-2003 Staff) and her husband, Chris on the birth of their daughter, Lennon, December 19<sup>th</sup>.



**In Memoriam**

Jean Dellert 1976-2000 Staff. At the family's request, donations in her memory can be made to the Indian and Forest Acres Scholarship Foundation.

## Pickleball Anyone?

Pickleball, the wildly popular and fastest growing sport in America, continued its popularity at camp this summer. Campers and counselors of all ages took to the courts and had fun learning and playing this new sport at camp. At Forest Acres, lines are painted on the outdoor basketball court and this past Spring, two dedicated courts were laid at Indian Acres. Both camps participated in our first inter-camp competition against Camp Tapawingo and Camp Wigwam. We are excited to see what the future holds for this fun sport that everyone can play.



**In Volume 33 – August 2016, we published a “Thank You Letter to Summer Camp” by Aly Kruger, a then first-year staff member at Indian Acres. We are so fortunate to have Aly as a member of the Indian Acres Staff. She’s back with more thoughts.**

### *A Toast to Camp IA*

*By Aly Kruger*

*~Because my first thank you letter just wasn’t enough~*

Three years ago, I started a job at a random camp in my hometown. I didn’t know anything about it, it was just a place that I passed everyday going to school. I needed a summer job, a way to make money that wasn’t a tedious job. I knew that if I had no chance to get outside EVER I would explode. Being at a summer camp seemed perfect. My college friends had either been counselors at a camp, were going back to being counselors, or were going to be counselors. I thought I might as well try. My friends had all seemed to think it was a good idea for me to try; I mean, I loved kids, I liked the outdoors, and I was willing to be around kids and read books for the rest of my life (I was majoring in English Ed). Going to a camp would be a great experience, a good resume addition. I had no idea what camp would become, what it would mean to me.

This August was the end of my third summer at Indian Acres. Those two words mean so much, it’s hard to know where to start. It is a camp where kids from all over the world can learn about and perfect their favorite sport or activity and maybe try a few new ones; it’s a place where the counselors are former campers and love it just as everyone else, and often live vicariously through the campers. Yes, it is a





home away from home, it builds relationships across borders without even trying. But it is so much more than that.

It is also a building block, and what I mean by that is this: Some kids come to camp, and they know what they are good at; they are the star of the football team in their hometown; they are big fish in big ponds. Some kids come with apprehension, having never been away from home before, wondering how to make friends, if anyone will like them, and will anyone else speak their language. Some kids are in the middle, the year-round average athletes who breathe sports, and the idea of going parent-free for the summer completes them. For all those kids, and everyone in between, camp grows them. It raises them up, from whatever level they launch. The kids start camp as people conditioned by their home life, whatever it happens to be like. But once they pass the totem poles and come to Indian Acres, who they are at home and at school becomes a shadow of who they blossom into at camp.



Slowly I watched as the kids grew, and the days, as long as shadows sometimes, turned into weeks that went all too quickly, and the weeks became the summer. And I learned to appreciate camp because there is nothing like it.

There is nothing like looking across the upper field and seeing the sun float through the trees in late afternoon, there is nothing like the cheer at the end of Color War when the whole camp runs into the Saco, there is nothing like setting a 4:30 alarm to drive to camp at the end of summer to say goodbye. There is nothing like the next ten months without camp looming in front of you. It's hard to explain to someone who has never known the Acres, but to its alumni and current campers, it is hallowed ground.

I am not a counselor at camp, I don't live with the kids, camp is not "my life" for the summer. I had other jobs, too. But none have impacted me as much as this camp. It really is a family. Even though my 8:30-6 days didn't consist of a lot of one-on-one time with the kids, I soon grew to love them. I could tell who the jocks were, and who was thriving, who was just trying swimming that day, and who was just trying to kick a soccer ball. As the summer went on, I saw the magic of camp work on these kids. The kids who were shy became the loudest kids once Color War started. The kids who were the youngest in their family became leaders and mentors to the littler ones. Kids found their niches, and if they didn't at first, they kept trying until they did. It sounds cliché to say they discovered themselves, but it's true. And in a way, camp discovered them. Yes, camp changes the kids, but often, it becomes the kids who change camp.

I don't think I really changed camp, I think I added some water appreciation and some announcements, but I felt like a camper as camp changed me. I feel so incredibly privileged to be part of the Indian Acres family and how special it is, and how impossible it is to explain to my friends and family. When people ask me "what did you do over the summer?" telling them "I worked at a summer camp" doesn't seem to do it justice.

It's almost like one of those things where you don't know what you've got until it's gone. It was not until some of my favorite guys told me "I'm not coming back" or "I can't come back" that I really understood



the brief bliss that camp is. It seemed all too much like a glorious pause button, stopping just long enough for us to sit on the bank of the Saco and watch the sun sink below the mountains one last time. It's like the release of a sigh from real life, even when the days come that make you hate kids and curse your co to the depths of hell. Believe me, soon enough, we miss those days too. But it is the finite nature of camp that makes it so special, as if the summer spilled out across the river just for us, for a tiny moment. It makes it all the more sweet.

Camp reminds me every summer of the more important things in life. The kids, without knowing it, inspire me. They encourage me to step out and try new things fearlessly, to rely on family and friends like brothers, and to do everything without taking yourself too seriously. Like the saying "don't sweat the small stuff...and it's all small stuff," Camp is like that, underlined three times. It becomes a welcome chill pill, albeit the hectic days that make pens fly (and disappear) and admin have a collective conniption.

Now, at the end of the summer, I'm looking at my last year of college. I have to graduate and get a job and enter the real world like an adult. I hope I can come back to camp. It has brought out a piece of me that I didn't know I was missing. It shows me what's missing from my life at school. The kids showed ME how to break out of my comfort zone, and with style (that's them, not me). I can say, with no doubt in my mind, that I love camp. It usually takes a long time for me to fully love something, but camp took one week. That's it.

This summer was so wonderful, my last truly free summer that I truly felt like a kid and didn't have to worry about jobs or where I wanted to live. This was the summer I tried to swallow as much of camp as I could, really breathe in the magic of Indian Acres. I began to appreciate even more the truth that no one really knows if they can come back. I learned to love it while it was here. The people, moments, jokes, pranks, and interactions all meant so much, especially this year. To my camp guys, and by that, I mean all of you, I hope you know how much my days were brightened by you, every day, without fail. You are all heroes and are so very valued. Thank you for that. I loved watching you become leaders and father/brother figures to your campers. Teaching kids, the important life lessons along with being examples and role models builds all aspects of kids' character from the minute they get here. It really is those experiences that build character, and these kids will grow up with a hell of a lot of character thanks to you.



I hope with all my might that I can come back to the sacred ground of IA until I'm old and cantankerous. Nothing would make me happier than leaning on the porch of the FO and watching the classic relay or the football tournament, telling the kids to hustle or the counselors to shut up and hydrate. I can honestly think of no better way to spend the summers.

As they say at FA, "you'll be back".

Damn right.

## A NOTE FROM LISA AND GEOFF

We hope this letter finds all of you doing well and enjoying the last breaths of summer. It was so wonderful being able to celebrate our 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion with so many of you. For those of you who couldn't be at camp for the Reunion, we missed you but understand you were with us in spirit.

The Summer of 2018 was a wonderful summer, with many successes on the fields and in the cabins. The kids continued to carry out the mission of our founders by setting and accomplishing their own unique challenges.

As we close up camp after another successful summer, we want to thank you for your unwavering support for our community. It was wonderful to see many of you during the summer. As always, we enjoy talking with you about your camping experiences. Please know that you are always welcome to stop by for a visit, have a meal with us and share your experiences with today's campers. Our current campers truly enjoy listening to stories of what camp was like when you were a part of it. Many of our alumni have not only been campers but also have had the privilege of watching their own children make their way down the cabin line. These shared moments are special and truly a part of the reason that our two camps were voted "The World's Greatest Boys' and Girls' Summer Camps." This is all because of you!

Have a great fall and winter season! We hope to see you during the upcoming year as we travel to see our current camp families. Hopefully we can visit with as many of you as possible.



**Lisa and Geoff Newman:**

Phone: 207.935.2300  
[geoff@indianacres.com](mailto:geoff@indianacres.com)

**Moe Burness**

Phone: 860.882.4536  
[moe@indianacres.com](mailto:moe@indianacres.com)  
[www.indianacres.com](http://www.indianacres.com)  
[www.forestacres.com](http://www.forestacres.com)



### A FINAL WORD

...and seemingly in the blink of an eye, our 95<sup>th</sup> Summer is over. It was such a treat seeing all of the alumni (some who attended camp from as far back as the late 30's) who were able to attend the reunion. Time flies and the Summer of 2023 will be here before we know it. I have already heard from alumni who are asking to help in the planning of the Centenary; our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We hope to start forming different committees and beginning the planning very soon. Stay tuned for more info. In the meantime, if you'd like to plan or host a gathering of alumni in your area, please let me know and I will be happy to help you organize it. The dream continues....

*Moe*

