

The Pony Express

Volume 38

Summer 2020

Indian and Forest Acres Camps

“Celebrating 97 Years of Camping Excellence”

Alumni News



Congratulations to **Ali Stein Manning** (1995-2001 Camper, 2005 Staff) and her husband, Dave, on the birth of their son, Finley, December 21st. The Mannings live in Durham, NC where Ali is a Medical Instructor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Duke University School of Medicine. Congratulations to **Aaron Benn** (1994-2001 Camper, 2003 Staff) and his wife, Diana, on the birth of their daughter, Ellie, January 9th. They are currently living in Long Island, NY. Aaron is the Director of Strategic Accounts for the GDS Group in NYC. The entire Indian and Forest Acres family extends their congratulations to our long-time Food Service Director, **Alan Whitaker** and chef **Julie Denney**, who were married on Christmas Eve. We are so happy for you both.



Lindsay Bryan (1992-1995 Staff) is living in London, England and running her own Health and Wellness business. She is looking forward to attending the 100th Anniversary Reunion and seeing many of the friends she made in her time as a counselor. Congratulations to **Stephanie Tumlinson Hanson** (1999-2002, 2004-2006 Camper) and her husband, John, on the birth of their daughter, Wesley, January 10th. They are living in Atlanta, GA. Stephanie is an Offering Manager for OneTrust. Congratulations to **Paul Hoffner** (1977-1980 Camper), whose daughter, Jessica, gave birth to Paul's first grandson, Miles, August 21st of 2019. Paul lives in Newburgh, NY and is the Owner and CEO of John Herbert Company, a 2nd generation commercial flooring company serving the Tri-State area around NY. **Emma Shapiro** (1997-2003 Camper) is living in Los Angeles and is a Vice President, Communications at Participant Media. Congratulation to **Katie Herman Zecher** (1993-2003 Camper) and her husband, Michael, on the birth of their daughter, Zoe, January 15th. Katie is the VP, Senior Business Director at Velocity in NYC. Her sister, **Leah Herman** (1996-2003 Camper), is an Account Director at 1000heads, with offices in NYC and London. The first night home from the hospital, Katie and Leah sang “Darkness Falls” to Zoe. **Sara Morimoto** (1999-2006 Camper) is a Senior Consultant at Juniper Networks. She and her husband, Grant, are currently living in Columbia, MD. Her sister, **Amy Morimoto** (1999-2010 Camper), is a recruiter for Confluent in the San Francisco Bay Area and is living in Morgan Hill, CA. Congratulations to **Taylor Abramson Dribnak** (2001-2006 Camper) and her husband, Matthew, on the birth of their son, Jude, January 20th.



In February, **Jake Cohen** (1994-2003) Camper, became the Head of Product Marketing at Klaviyo. In February, **Eric Abromson** (1976-1979, 1982-1984 Camper) became a Certified Sports Psychology Coach and opened up his own practice. **Patricia Salom** (2001-2006 Camper) recently left her job with Coca-Cola in the UK and moved back to Madrid, Spain. She is now working for her family's business, the construction of playgrounds and waterparks. Her sister, **Maria Salom** (2000-2004 Camper), is living in Panama and is engaged to be married. Maria opened a branch of the family business in Panama and also has a furniture business. **Sarah Weinberg** (2006-2010 Camper, 2013-2015 Staff) is currently living in Los Angeles, CA and is an event producer; mostly for music festivals and tech events in Silicon Valley.

January saw another “camp wedding” as **David Gale** (2000-2006, 2011, 2013-2015, 2017 Staff) and **Leah Kugler** (2006-2011 Camper, 2013-2016 Staff) were married in Phoenix, AZ. In attendance were **Joey Lovett** (2003-2013 Camper, 2014-2017 Staff) and **Todd Baumgarten** (2001-2007 Camper, 2010-2019 Staff). Todd officiated the ceremony. The Gales are living in Phoenix and are both teachers. In April, we caught up with **Zachary Kilmartin** (1990-1998 Camper) who is living in Cork, Ireland. Zach is an Environmental Health & Safety Advisor for a large construction company. Brothers **Casey Kilmartin** (1989-1997 Camper, 1998 Staff) and **Jeremy Kilmartin** (1992-1999 Camper) both work for a graphic design company in Charlottesville, VA. Casey serves as Vice President and Jeremy is the Shop Manager. Congratulations to **Adam Caslow** (1992-1999 Camper) and his wife, Sari, on the birth of their daughter, Wylie, March 28th. Adam is the Co-CEO and 4th generation owner of Acme Smoked Fish Company in Brooklyn, NY. Congratulations to **Lucy Schulson** (1998-2001 Camper) and her husband, George, on the birth of their daughter, Penelope, May 14th. Lucy is a Primary Care Physician at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, MA. Congratulations to **Tim Atwood** (2009-2018 Staff) and his wife, Mae, on the birth of their daughter, Ava, April 2nd. Tim is a Senior Business Account Manager with Wayfair. **Max**



Demers (1993-1994, 1997-2000 Camper, 2001-2002 Staff) is a Cruise Director and Assistant Entertainment Director for American Queen Steamboat Company. His brother, **Sam Demers** (1993-1995, 1998-2004 Camper, 2005 Staff), is currently a Nursing Student at the University of North Carolina. **Melissa Moskow Stone** (1991-1997 Camper) is living in Scottsdale, AZ and works for Voss Water, managing the Southwest and Mountain Regions. Congratulations to **Jordan Pollack** (1999-2001 Camper) and his wife, Emily, on the birth of their daughter, Billie, April 12th. The Pollacks live in Fairfield, CT. Jordan is working in Property Management for Acorn Group in New Haven, CT. Congratulations to **Kimberly Lam Abbi** (1997-1999, 2001 Camper) and her husband, Guarav, on the birth of their son, Jayden, March 17th. The Abbis live in San Francisco where Kim is the Associate Director of Marketing for Ingrid & Isabel, LLC, a maternity brand. **Jessica Stein** (2002-2004 Camper) is living

in NYC and works for RxSense. Her focus is on partner pharmacy relations and strategic opportunities. Her sister, **Rachel Stein Zane** (2002-2003 Camper) lives in Brooklyn, NY and is an attorney at Simpson, Thacher & Bartlett. Congratulations to **Nathan Cooper** (1998-2004 Camper) and his wife, Ariel, on the birth of their daughter, Sadie, July 10th. Congratulation to **Lauren Noble Grasso** (2002-2004 Camper) and her husband, Nick, on the birth of their daughter, Rachel, May 30th. The Grassos live in Branford, CT. Lauren works for Yale University. (We want to hear from you. If you have news that you would like to share with the IA/FA community, please email it to moe@indianacres.com.)

In Memorial

Diane Pyle McWilliams (1976-1978, 2000 Staff)
 Stephen Goldman (1956-1964, Camper; 1965 Staff)
 Carl Solway (1944-1950 Camper)



Members of The Indian & Forest Acres Scholarship Foundation Board believe that Camp made us better people. We know that Camp enabled us to form life-long friendships, that Camp gave us opportunities to dare to risk, and to learn what community means. Why not help share the gift of Camp and make a positive, forever-impact in the lives of future campers?

The Board of the Indian & Forest Acres Scholarship Foundation has been working hard this past year to create such opportunities for children of lesser means. As we announced in May, we were thrilled to award three boys Campership Awards to attend camp. Since, a result of COVID, Camp was unable to open this season, the Foundation Board happily decided to roll over these Awards to the 2021 camping season. Also we will be accepting new applications in November to determine additional 2021 Campership Awards.

To continue its good work, the Foundation needs YOUR help, which you can give in the following ways:

- Join the [Board](#) at large- we are a working board, and would welcome alumni who want to “dig in” and contribute to fulfilling our mission!
- Help us create a database! Got experience with this? We would love your help!
- Want to work on special projects but don’t want a Board commitment? [Let us know!](#)
- Join the Young Alumni Committee: contact us at iafayoungalumni@gmail.com
- Help us Raise Money: contact us at info@iafafoundation.org
- [Make a Donation to the Foundation](#)
- Follow us on social media!
 - Instagram: [iafa_foundation](#)
 - Facebook: Indian & Forest Acres Scholarship Foundation

Please join us in giving the gift of Camp. We hope you will take the time to learn more about [The Foundation](#) and choose to support its efforts. Your help in sharing the joy of summers in Fryeburg will be immeasurable!

With our thanks,

Board Members: Barrie Cohen-McMullen, Debby (Peltz) Fedder, Jerry Greenberg, Charles Rudnick, Haley Miller, Sue (Landgarten) Pearson, Marjorie Porter-Kuhn, Emily Young

Honorary Board Members: Moe Burness, Ang Cornblatt



A note to Forest Acres from Karen Douglass (1991-2000 Camper; 2003 Staff):

In 1991, Dick Krasker sat on the couch in my living room and convinced my mom to send my 8-year-old brother to Indian Acres. They agreed, though, that I was too young to go to Forest Acres. As a 6-year-old, that simply was not going to work for me. My mom always instilled in me a sense of female empowerment and I chose this moment to empower myself. I threw a temper tantrum. Never one to give me what I wanted after a show of complete and utter nonsense, my mom made me what she thought was an impossible bet. If I could stop sucking my thumb and sleeping with my stuffed animal, she'd send me to camp. I'm sure she and my brother and maybe even Dick Krasker got a good chuckle out of that. But I, the ever-stubborn 6-year-old, took up the challenge with gusto and that very night, I put my stuffed animal on my mom's pillow and never sucked my thumb again. I was going to summer camp.

My poor mom.

I grew up in a town where I had to fight for the space to be different. I might have looked like everyone else and had lots of friends, but I saw the world so differently and that just wasn't accepted. I liked to challenge the status quo and even at 6, I would drive my teachers nuts asking "Why?" and "What if?" Let's just say that I didn't belong. Not truly. Little did I know that the second I stepped off that Maine Line bus for the first time, I'd find a place where I whole-heartedly belonged. I would find my home.

Over the next 10 summers, I would come to know, admire, and love some of the most phenomenal women. I would learn to ride a horse, dance with a boy, eat more chocolate chip cookies/cinnamon rolls/French Toast sticks than I care to admit and even play soccer for IA. I would learn the beauty of sitting in silence with your best friends as you watch a sunset and the joy of conquering the Vermonster. I would learn how to argue with respect and love; how sometimes, it's okay not to get your way and how to apologize with humility and sincerity. I would learn the security of being accepted **because** you are different, not in spite of it. I would learn that it's ok to ask for help, it's okay to cry and that saying goodbye does not have to be permanent. I would learn who I was and who I wanted to be.

I would learn that true friends make an indelible mark on your soul. They are the women who call you after nearly a decade to say, "I'm getting married," and before the girly screams stop, you've already booked your tickets to Vegas for the bachelorette party and packed your songbooks. They are the women who can look you right in the eye, deliver hard truths, and instead of getting angry, you listen. They are the women who still send hand-written cards because, let's be honest, bus notes forever. They are the women of Forest Acres.



So, to all of the women of Forest Acres who have touched my heart, fortified my soul and helped me become who I am today - thank you. The laughter, arguments, tears, hugs, tradition and love that we all bring to this community make FA what She is and what She will always be. And for that, I love you, Dear Forest Acres.



Heigh-Ho, Heigh-Ho. It's home to work we go....

Campers departed last summer on August 15th and our Maintenance Staff went to work at continued upgrades to the facility. The front of the Art Center at Indian Acres had a facelift. The bridge leading into the building was removed and a full-length deck was built. Another door was added to access the building.



Indian Acres' Head of Volleyball, Rick Strader, asked that the beach volleyball court down by the campfire area be moved up to the area by the pool, creating a "complex." Geoff directed Maintenance to make this move and also to build a "cabana", creating a sheltered area for kids waiting to play.

At Forest Acres, the volleyball court will no longer be down by the Saco. A new volleyball court with sports court flooring will be located next to the pool and the Logs.



Centennial Celebration ----- Summer of 2023

(100 years, wow!!!)

We are finalizing dates for the 100th Anniversary celebration in the Summer of 2023. Be on the lookout for exciting news, coming late this fall or early winter. All of our reunions are special, but you only get to celebrate 100 years once.



A NOTE FROM LISA AND GEOFF

We hope this letter finds all of you well, staying healthy and coping as best as possible with the Coronavirus. We reach out to you acknowledging that life as we know it has changed, and simply hope that everything returns to “normal” as quickly as possible.

Simply put, the past five months have been extraordinarily difficult, both from a personal and business perspective. As we write this note, we are residing at the camps hosting a Jewish Orthodox camp from New York State. While it is rewarding and refreshing to see *any* children occupy our camps, it is simply not the same. Not hearing “we don’t mess around” in the IA dining room, or “Darkness Falls” in Tip Top, is surreal. While the surroundings are beautiful and the weather is lovely, it is just not the same here without *our* children and staff.

On behalf of the entire Indian and Forest Acres camp community we want to thank all of the people who reach out to us, provide words of encouragement and support us during this most trying and difficult time. The support is unwavering and is helping to strengthen our collective resolve.

We are spending our weeks up here at camp thinking, preparing, improving the physical plant and getting ready to make 2021 the best summer ever at IA and FA. Given what is happening in the world, we are counting on your support more than ever. We need all of you - alumni, parents, and campers - to shout from the highest mountains about the wonders of our camp. Please, don’t keep Indian and Forest Acres a secret from your communities, friends, and classmates. Your referrals and positive words about our camps to potential new families are incredibly important.

We made the difficult decision not to open camp this summer for the safety and protection of our families, campers and staff. Now, we need your help in rebuilding, rejuvenating and growing our enrollments to ensure our future success and longevity. While nobody could have forecast this situation, we have no doubt that, with the collective power of our alumni, we can build a bridge for success next summer and beyond.

We promise to keep you informed of our preparations for camp. For 2021, you can count on us. We’ll be ready to open camp safely and with boundless enthusiasm. We have learned so much about how to handle this virus and are counting down the days to next summer already.

As summer ends, we know that thoughts turn to the school year. Whether virtual or in person, despite uncertainty of these times, we hope that the school year is a happy and healthy one for you and your children and grandchildren. May every day and every week bring some good news. There is so much to be grateful for and so much to look forward to over the next several months and years. As we enter our 98th season we are beginning to turn our attention to our 100th Anniversary celebrations!

Let thoughts of a campfire be a light at the end of the tunnel! We can’t wait to welcome you home next summer.

With love and gratitude



Lisa and Geoff Newman:

Phone: 207.935.2300 x2

geoff@indianacres.com

Moe Burness

Phone: 207.935.2300 x4

moe@indianacres.com

www.indianacres.com

www.forestacres.com



A FINAL WORD

There is an adage that says, "out of bad, comes good." This summer, we were all disappointed that we had to make the decision not to open camp for our campers. As fate would have it, shortly after that, the governor of NY, made the decision that residential camps in NY could not open. That left some camps scrambling to find a place that they could call "home" for the summer. We were able to open our doors and allow two separate camps to operate. It is a great feeling to know that we were able to make it possible for other children to have their camp and it was heart-warming to hear from every single camper and staff member, how much they loved our camp and appreciated our hospitality. In these unprecedented times, things are changing day-to-day and everyone is looking for things, even if it is something small, which makes them feel good. As members of the Indian and Forest Acres family, we can all feel good that children, albeit not ours, were able to experience the beauty, the charm and the healing powers of "our Summer Place."

Moe

