March 2010

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Camp 2010 is going to be epic!

We have loads of return campers, listed on page 4, and are welcoming new campers every day. Some bunks are already full! So, if you haven’t registered yet, and you are thinking about coming to camp, get in touch soon.

Many of your counselors from last summer are also excited to return, and we are finding interesting new counselors from all over the world including a record number of former campers returning as counselors. Look forward to meeting Merci, Amanda, Jack, Ben, Chris, Aliza, Dot, Emily — and maybe even a few more former campers!

You’ve already heard about some of our new ideas, like the solar array and new daily activity schedule. In this issue, Wesley will introduce Community Campfires on page 5, and you can look forward to reading about the Camper Council and trip days in May.

You will all receive the Camp Handbook along with your camp forms by the end of March. Be sure to read the handbook as a family, complete your forms, and mail them to Appel Farm within two weeks.

Camp is really right around the corner....

Jennie and Cori

Call or visit our website to register for Camp 2010 before March 31st to receive a $250 discount off your 4, 6, or 8-week tuition!

(856) 358-2472
camp@appelfarm.org
www.appelfarm.org

Send Your Camp Forms

- Success Form
- Transportation Form
- Major Selections Form
- Camp Contract
- Camper Card w/ Photo
- Camper Health History and Recommendations

New & Exciting Camp 2010

- Community Campfires
- Camper Council
- Trip Days
- 2 Majors & 2 Minors
- Solar Energy
1. When were you at camp?
1972-1975

2. What was your major and what were some of your minors?
Music with a large focus on jazz. Honestly I don’t remember if I had a formal minor at that time, but 4-5 others and I started the Appel Farm Amateur Radio Club in the cedar cabins. One of the (positive) memories that I have is the distinct odor of the cedar cabins — there is really nothing like it. Although I don’t operate the ham radio now, it was a terrific hobby to master and I made great friends through it. I’m still in touch with my former Appel Farm Amateur Radio members who all continue to tap away at Morse code! I remember the incredible thrill we had when we were able to contact far away countries like Australia or Jordan in the middle of the night just when the atmospheric conditions were right. Think about how easy international communication is now! Morse code sounds so antiquated in the day of Broadband internet, doesn’t it?

3. What was camp like when you were a camper and what are some of your favorite memories?
The physical structure of the camp is very different now but the wonderful spirit of Appel Farm remains. There are so many memories — how do I choose?

A few notable ones are: Trips to Phillies games; mud slides during rain storms outside North; learning jazz theory and playing with Bliss Rodriguez, a remarkable blind jazz pianist; my introduction to country music through my counselor and singer songwriter extraordinaire John Reese; my first kiss (can’t really describe that one in detail); Vera’s cooking; pink bug juice; lying out in the fields on August nights watching the meteor showers; learning how to sing Gospel after lunch in the Dining Hall with Gary Pitts singing “When was the baby born now?”; Gordon riding around on his red motorbike; street hockey matches between campers and counselors on the basketball court.

4. Where are you living now, and what are you doing for work and fun?
I’m living outside Boston with my wife and three beautiful daughters. I am a family physician at Boston University and focus on research, education, and clinical practice of complementary and integrative medicine for underserved urban populations.

For fun, I still play jazz alto saxophone and attribute much of my love for the instrument and music to my Appel Farm days.

5. How do you think you were influenced by your Appel Farm experience?
Like many teens, in my home environment I always felt not part of the “cool” crowd. Appel Farm had the effect of making me believe in myself, that I had talents and was worthy of good friendships. This was a huge confidence booster as I grew older and progressed through high-school and college.

6. What advice or suggestions do you have for present day Appel Farm campers?
Dear Appel Farm provides a wonderful safe environment for you to stretch and explore other parts of yourself. Take risks. Take full advantage of it — submerge yourself into the new friendships you have — you will have them for life. Also practice your art form, whatever it is. When you return home you will see what kind of difference it made.

Alumni Day
Sunday, July 18
Sunday, August 15
12:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Let’s all get together for a bbq lunch and afternoon workshops! Explore the arts, remember your camp days, and catch up with old friends.
Let us know you are coming at camp@appelfarm.org
Continued on page 5...

Happy Birthday Appel Farm

It was great to see so many of you at the Camp Reunion this January, where we celebrated Appel Farm’s 50th birthday! Here are some photos of the celebration: birthday cake by Irene, Alyssa’s photo booth, clay tiles for our newest mural, and catching up with friends!

New Kid On the Block

When I arrived in Elmer, New Jersey in June 1987 I had no idea how to get to Appel Farm. There were no road signs as there are now and I had to ask several people in town before I found someone who knew. It was a great metaphor for that summer.

Without road signs and feeling lost characterized my first summer at Appel Farm. It’s not easy being the new kid on the block. Many of the returning counselors and campers were suspicious of me. I probably confirmed some of their suspicions by being incredibly gung ho in enforcing the rules. Sometimes I would race up and down the North Bunks trying to catch kids and staff who were visiting other bunks. Or I would conduct raids on neighboring bunks if there was the slightest hint of food. I suppose I was a bit obnoxious.

My job was Head of North. The North Bunks were where they are now. However, the age range of North was a bit broader. Bunk 8 then, as now, was for the Head of North. Bunk 9 had the boy CITs. Bunk 7 had the girl CITs. North included kids age twelve to seventeen. In other words North included today’s North, Coop and Hill.

The physical scene was very different then. In fact, the North Bunks are the only bunks that have remained unchanged. Standing today in the tennis court (which did exist) and traveling through time, South, Coop, Hill, the Art Barn and the Dining Hall would vanish. Where the Dining Hall stands was an extended part of the farm, which stretched into where the Art Barn now stands.

Where the South Bunks now stand was a place where we kept animals. Each summer the camp would buy animals. The feeding and care of the animals was a community responsibility. There were five South Bunks where the Staff Bunks now stand and there was a separate program for six to eight year olds called Junior Camp, near where the Valero Room now stands.

A word about the animals. My first summer we had a nanny goat. When the camp bought the goat nobody realized that she was pregnant. After all, it was not a requirement that animals had to take a pregnancy test to work at Appel Farm. In any event, the goat went into labor in the middle of the summer.

There were no animal mid-wives at Appel Farm that summer. Albert was away at the time that the goat gave birth. And it fell to Dr. Sarvananda to deliver the new goat baby. The other staff and campers were too freaked out. And, after all, hadn’t I grown up in the office/house of my father, a country doctor? What other qualifications did I need?

Fortunately, there were no complications. Looking back, I probably wasn’t even necessary. I mean goats have been giving birth without human intervention for a long time. But I fancied myself a real Dr. Doolittle. And, in fact, I did very little. The mother goat took

Nine campers from Bunk 15 (in white) are coming to camp, it’s about time you signed up too! Register today!

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**Appel Farm Library**

Save your books, and bring them to camp this summer for the Appel Farm Library.
- Introduce your favorite author to Appel Farm. Check out what other Appel Farmers are reading.
- Borrow a book to read during rest hour or wind down.
- Donate books you have already read, and borrow ones you haven’t!
Another, less appealing, creature was a wild goose with a long colon who occupied the parking lot. Periodically, he would poop prodigiously on people’s cars. I thought this was amusing until it happened to me.

In other summers we had pigs. They are very piggy. They stank. After all, they were pigs. If the wind was in the wrong direction, the residents of North would hold their noses. And little piglet would regularly escape the pen running and squealing until it was caught.

Back to the tour. The old Art Barn stood where the Pavilion now stands. It was a beautiful and wooden barn. On the middle floor of the Art Barn was a small dance studio. On the second floor, in the back, was a costume shop.

As for the Dining Hall, it stood where the practice rooms, Coffee House, Video Classroom, Dance Studio, laundry room and Costume Shop now stand. We would enter from the courtyard through what is now the Coffee Shop. Waiting in the courtyard has always been lovely. The three joined buildings in the courtyard have always felt like arms that held us together as we waited for the Dining Hall doors to open. In the heat of the day, the trees provided shade. And it was on the long wall of that courtyard that we drew the first mural.

I worked all that first summer to find my bearings. I had never been to a camp like this before. The camp I had attended had less than thirty kids. There were some similarities. My old camp was a farm, too — Journey’s End Farm. And the boys lived in converted chicken coops just like North except that at Journey’s End we had no electricity or running water in the bunks.

That first summer I was just the Head of North. I wasn’t writing or directing or doing anything creative. I wasn’t to become a theater director until the next year.

Since I was outside of the creative process at camp, I was totally unprepared for performance week at the end of the first session. It totally blew my mind. I couldn’t believe how much people had accomplished in four weeks. What a burst of creativity there was. My awe has not diminished and each summer I am blown away by performance week.

The first summer was exhausting for me, but something told me I had to continue. I returned in 1988 more relaxed and more familiar with this special place.

Each summer, for the past twenty-three years, I have returned to Elmer, New Jersey. Each summer I have been able to grow in a community of caring artists. Each year it gets better. Each year I am thankful for the gift of this place and, more important, the people that come together each summer to celebrate themselves, each other and their art.
Camper, Staff, and Alumni News

Anything interesting going on in your life? E-mail us at camp@appelfarm.org!

Zosia Cassie (2008-09) is currently doing her teaching practicum at Marcos de Niza High School in Tempe, Arizona, with a ton of cool kids, and is involved in putting on the spring musical — which is none other than High School Musical! Luckily, she has a little ol’ dance show video to inspire the cast with ;) “Miss you all xoxo!”

Amy Zipkin (2000-06) is pledging Alpha Psi Omega, the National Theater Honors Society, at McDaniel College.

Lydia Green (2008-09) sang at Radio City Music Hall with the Brooklyn Youth Chorus in October. “I miss Appel Farm sooo much and I can’t wait for next summer!!!!”

Kathryn Prouse (2008-09) came to Appel Farm in March to help with one of our Camp Tours!

Kimberley Keegan née Elderton (2006, 2008) and Peter Keegan (2008) tied the knot in August!

Hylla Evans née Poland (1969-71) majored and minored in Dance, and so she only walked through the Art Barn to get to the dance studio upstairs. Now she manufactures encaustic paint — that’s beeswax-based paint for fine artists — at Evans Encaustics. “Hello and love to Al.”

Phoebe VanDusen (2009) is in a national TV commercial for Tide! In the commercial, she gets ready in front of a mirror with her pals, pulls up her knee socks, and runs down stairs. (She has short hair so look closely :-D) She can’t wait to be back for 2010, Second Session. “GO BUNK 6!!!”


Amy Zipkin, the National Theater Honors Society, at McDaniel College.

Jazz Hands!

Congratulations Kim and Pete!

2008 Counselors at the wedding.