



CAMPBILL SPECIAL SCHOOL

reflections

A PUBLICATION FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND SUPPORTERS



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Leta, on our cover, is a busy, social seventh-grader. According to her parents, Camphill “nourishes her body and soul every day.”

continued on Page 3 >



Joe Heenan Believes Camphill Students and Staff Walk a Little By Guy Alma Closer to Heaven

IN THE SPRING OF 2005 Joe Heenan was introduced to Camphill Special School by a business associate at PECO. Learning about Camphill's work with children with intellectual and developmental disabilities immediately struck a chord with Joe, but his initial encounter with the school came at the Camphill ProAm. Two thoughts crossed his mind. The first was "Wow, these folks throw a good party!" followed by an appreciation for the level of dedication staff members had for student performers at the gala. "It made a big impression on me," says Joe. "It was clear that this was much more than a job."

After that, Paul Restall Company, the general contracting company Joe is president of, and Joe and his wife Kathleen have supported Camphill Special School for the last six years. Joe's offer to look over the plans for the extensive new construction at Beaver Farm was especially welcome! "It was wonderful to be involved in the project from the design stage onwards," he says. "It was a big undertaking for the School, and now to see students living and learning in the new buildings is terrific."

Joe says, "I've seen what you do and how you do it. I feel the entire school community, both students and staff, gets to walk a little closer to heaven than is often possible in our world."

Family and friends are important to Joe. His grandparents, from whom he has his Irish citizenship, taught him that every human life is a gift of tremendous value. Joe sees that ethos as central to his experience of Camphill, where every student has a part to play in the fabric of daily life.

Joe loves local sports, riding his Harley with his son, and visiting Ireland as often as he can to see family there. Joe encourages others to travel, too: not to Ireland, but to see Camphill Special School for themselves. "You need to see the School and the farm in action," he asserts. "This is a sustainable community at work, and it is impressive. The School is very flexible, and if you choose to become more involved, whatever you have to offer is valued."

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

(continued from Front Cover)



Photos of Leta by Robin Kaip.

Our **Leta** By Lainey Moseley

Our daughter Leta began her sixth year at Camphill Special School in September. Leta is fourteen, non-verbal, and small for her age, but as her teachers and house parents will agree, what she lacks in size, she makes up with her larger-than-life personality. Most of our friends are surprised when we remind them that Leta is non-verbal; she always seems to have so much to say!

If Leta could speak, we know she would tell anyone she meets how happy she is at Camphill and how patient and loving everyone is in her extended family at Garden House. Oh yes . . . and how much she loves the healthy food. (This is a girl who will tackle a grown man for a

bag of Cheetos at home!) Camphill nourishes Leta's body and soul every day and she is happier and healthier now than when she first started.

We can't pinpoint how the magic works at Camphill; we hope it is enough to say it just does. Camphill has created an inner sense of calm and kindness in Leta, together with more mature behavior. This year, when I dropped her off at her new house, I expected tears and an emotional departure. Instead she climbed into a rocking chair on the porch and with the sun back-lit on her hair, waved me away and contentedly said one of her few words: "Bye-bye."

▼ **EDITOR'S NOTE:** ARIEL GRADUATED FROM CAMPHILL SPECIAL SCHOOL'S TWELFTH GRADE IN JUNE 2011 AND NOW IS A STUDENT AT CAMPHILL SOLTANE, OUR SISTER COMMUNITY FOR YOUNG ADULTS IN CHESTER COUNTY. HER PARENTS ARE DAVID HOROWITZ AND ROZ HEIKO OF CARY, NC.



HOW DO YOU MEASURE SUCCESS?

A Poem *for* Ariel

By David Horowitz

“She’ll never learn to read
Or write
Or tie her shoes.”

This from the best teacher our
school system has.
But she’s only 9.
Isn’t it too early to write her off?

“She’s too damaged to benefit from
exposure to
Science
History
Literature.”

This from the head of special education
services.
Why are all other kids expected to achieve
their potential?
But not our child?

“We can meet her needs in our
local schools.”

(Warehouse her till she’s 21.)

“She needs to be in a class with children
like her
Who can’t read
Or who are nonverbal.”

But her verbal skills are her strength.
How will she learn to read in a class of
non-readers?

“You forget,
She will never learn to read.”

We found out about a special place for her.
A place where she will be treated with respect
Where they really care what SHE needs
Where she can help others.
But it is 500 miles away
And she is only 12
And the choice is agonizing.

And now she’s 19
We have seen her thrive.
She knows how to
Read

And Act in Shakespearean plays
That the Ganges is the longest river in India
That the human heart pumps blood
And the lungs take in oxygen
And chemistry is involved in our daily lives

And how a car engine runs
And Athena is the Goddess of Wisdom
And so much more.

She has
Friends
Is on the Student Council
Goes to the Prom
And doesn’t know what Special Needs means
And isn’t lonely anymore
(Except when she misses us).

So the tears we shed when she left were
worth it.

But the ache in our hearts every time we
leave her is still there.
And yet, the school system was right,
Because she still can’t tie her shoes.

But who cares?



Ariel, accompanied by an usher, recently
served as a bridesmaid at her older
brother’s wedding.



Spacial Dynamics® offers “quiet beauty” and **confidence**

By Becky Rutherford



ON JUST ABOUT ANY GIVEN WEEKDAY you will find Andrea Janisch leading classes in movement activities. Most parents know Andrea in her role as a house mother in Rock Crystal, but Andrea also has undergone four years of training in Spacial Dynamics®. This developmental gym program grows out of the work of Fritz Graf von Bothmer, the movement teacher at the first Waldorf school in Stuttgart, Germany. Together with Rudolf Steiner, von Bothmer created a physical education curriculum that continues to inspire teachers and therapists today.

The Spacial Dynamics® website tells us that von Bothmer's exercises, with their "quiet beauty and strong geometrical quality, offer both a sense of order and the possibility for experiencing the different dimensions or 'planes' of space. They also give a foundation for age-appropriate, developmental exercises for the growing child, teen, and adult."

If you look into the Blue Room during Andrea's classes, you might see students crawling, running backwards, or rolling on the floor in a particular pattern. You might hear noisy laughter or witness every student raising and lowering their arms in silent harmony, a major accomplishment masked as a seemingly simple task.

Camphill Special School's educational program recognizes the connection between physical movement and cognition. We know that providing opportunities for our students to engage in and master ordered sequences of movement will decrease anxiety, improve focus, and have a positive effect on academic progress. In turn, this increases self-esteem and contributes to a sense of self-worth. Naturally this helps the child to develop confidence when facing the next challenge. And our students are courageous!

Moving harmoniously with grace and intention is the goal of Andrea's classes . . . oh, and having a lot of fun along the way!



Andrea Janisch works with a student in her Spacial Dynamics® class.



Betsy Herman, watched by her husband Bill, cuts the red ribbon held by Transition Program students Taylor and Nicholas.

RIBBON-CUTTING AT BEAVER FARM A HAPPY OCCASION

On September 24 nearly 200 people gathered at Beaver Farm, the home of Camphill Special School's Transition Program for eighteen- to twenty-one-year-old students, to celebrate the ribbon-cutting and official opening of a new student residence, Silver Maple, and The Sarah Jane Herman Education and Resource Center.

Because the day was slightly "damp," everyone assembled in the education center to be welcomed warmly by Warren R. Gleicher, President of the Board of Directors. Guy Alma, Director of Development, detailed the history of the Transition Program and expressed the community's gratitude to the many friends who made our two new buildings possible.

President of the Camphill Foundation's Board of Directors, Roger Begelman, expressed the Foundation's happiness in supporting the project. Mr.



Craig Adams named the community room in the new education center for Ursel Pietzner, who, with her husband Carlo, founded Camphill Special School in 1963. Here they are before the plaque in the community room.

Begelman also announced that in appreciation for their decades of support, the Camphill Foundation chose to recognize Bill and Betsy Herman by naming the new education and resource center in memory of their daughter, Sarah Jane. A portrait of Sarah Jane now hangs in the atrium of this state-of-the-art "green" building.

Bill Herman spoke briefly, quoting from Leonard Cohen's "Anthem" to describe his feelings about Camphill.

*Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack, a crack in
everything
That's how the light gets in.*

After Betsy Herman cut a huge red ribbon, held carefully by Transition Program students Nick and Taylor, guests enjoyed a delightful "Camphill spread" (no one can do refreshments the way we can!) and toured both buildings.



Guy Alma, Director of Development, with Bob Ingram from Chester County Bicycles. Bob designed the routes for the Challenge.

FIFTH ANNUAL CAMPHILL CHALLENGE “BRAKES” ALL RECORDS

By Courtney Coffman

October 16 was a picture-perfect day for the most successful Camphill Challenge bike ride ever, as over 300 riders pedaled fifty, twenty-five, ten, or two mile routes through the hilly countryside of Chester County. Music, a picnic, and plenty of friends from the host Camphill communities awaited cyclists upon their return.

Together, Camphill Special School, Camphill Village Kimberton Hills, and Camphill Soltane raised nearly \$40,000 for their communities. Everyone at each community offers their sincere appreciation to sponsors, donors, in-kind contributors, volunteers, and cyclists for their generous support.

Special thanks to the following for providing support to Challenge riders throughout the day:

Eastern Mountain Sports – Collegeville

Main Line Cycles

Phoenix Cycles

Scott USA

Venga Venga Venga Bike Club

2012 Camphill Challenge

Sunday, October 14, 2012

“Wheel” see you next year!



Camphill Challenge founder and parent of seventh-grader Leta, Rick Moseley pedals through the scenic foliage.



Philip, Tricia, Oliver, and Phoebe Holland get ready to ride.

CAMPHILL ProAM: NEW LOCATION, SAME GREAT CELEBRATION!

ProAm Gala Chairs Amy and Bob McHugh, ProAm Tennis Tournament Chair Anthony DeCecco, and the Steering Committee are hard at work planning Camphill Special School's 2012 signature fundraising event!

ProAm Gala ~ June 1, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at Phoenixville Foundry (Wait until you see this incredible venue!) Queen of Hearts Catering will provide a delicious menu, the live and silent auctions will have tempting items up for bid, the band

will be rocking, and we will have plenty of seating for everyone (we learned our lesson last year!).

ProAm Tennis Tournament ~ June 2, 2012 ~ Location TBA

This year's tournament day will include a children's tennis clinic and, of course, awesome tennis action from local pros and amateurs. And perhaps there will be a rematch between Anthony and house father Andreas Schuschke?

RAFFLE TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE for a five-day four-night trip to a Castle in the Canadian Rockies (includes airfare)! What marvelous holiday gifts (see page 11)!

There are many ways for you to support the Camphill ProAm — become a sponsor, buy a program ad, contribute an auction item, buy raffle tickets, make a donation, attend the events. No matter how you contribute, proceeds directly benefit the students at Camphill.

Contact Courtney Coffman, Events and Volunteer Manager, at 610.469.9236 x132 or ccoffman@camphillspecialschool.org.

Mark your calendar and get ready to dance the night away at the 2012 ProAm Gala! *Photo courtesy of: Marc Bryan-Brown*



THE CAMPHILL ProAM RAFFLE WANTS TO SEND YOU TO A
CASTLE IN THE CANADIAN ROCKIES

FIVE DAYS AND FOUR NIGHTS FOR TWO AT THE FAIRMONT BANFF SPRINGS

Airfare Included



Few hotels in the world can rival the [majesty, hospitality, and scenery](#) of The Fairmont Banff Springs located in [Alberta, Canada](#). Its unique blend of [opulence and seclusion](#) has been a symbol of [Rocky Mountain magnificence](#) for more than a century. Styled after a [Scottish baronial castle](#) and surrounded by the majestic [Canadian Rockies](#), the legendary Fairmont Banff Springs offers stunning vistas, championship golf courses, unparalleled skiing, classic cuisine, hiking, fishing, and Willow Stream, a world-class [European-style spa](#). Experience timeless beauty and luxurious comfort in a [pristine wilderness](#).

YOUR TRIP FOR TWO INCLUDES: Round-trip Economy Class air | 5 days/4 nights accommodations at The Fairmont Banff Springs | Daily complimentary breakfast
All room-related taxes | Free concierge reservation service

WINNING TICKET WILL BE DRAWN AT THE PROAM GALA ON FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 2012

YOU NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN!

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: All proceeds from the Camphill ProAm and this raffle will benefit the students at Camphill Special School. Camphill Special School coworkers, employees, and any persons living in their households are not eligible to win. Travel packages are non-refundable and subject to availability. Certificates/gift cards cannot be replaced. Passport required for travel outside the U.S. Airport taxes and fees are the responsibility of the passenger. Flights may not be upgraded with miles. Travel is valid for 12 months from date of issue. A 30 day advance reservation is required. Package originates from the Contiguous US or Canada. Limited blackout dates may apply. (Trip insurance is available and strongly recommended. To purchase, simply call 1.800.348.9505 and reference Code 83502694.) First Class air available upon request. Car rental available upon request.

TICKETS ARE \$50 EACH OR 3 FOR \$100 (WHAT A GREAT GIFT!)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____
STREET CITY STATE ZIP

Send me one (1) ticket Send me three (3) tickets Send me _____ tickets

Check made payable for \$ _____ to Camphill Special School enclosed

Charge \$ _____ to my Visa Mastercard Discover American Express

CARD NUMBER _____ EXP. DATE _____ CW* _____

SIGNATURE _____

*Three digits from the back of card or four digits on front of American Express

MAIL TO: Camphill Special School Development Office,
1784 Fairview Road, Glenmoore, PA 19343

ORDER BY PHONE: 610.469.9236 x133

All proceeds from this raffle will benefit the students at Camphill Special School. Camphill Special School coworkers, employees, and any persons living in their households are not eligible to win.



CAMPHILL SPECIAL SCHOOL

1784 Fairview Road, Glenmoore, PA 19343
610.469.9236 camphillspecialschool.org



JOIN US ON FACEBOOK.

Camphill Special School consists of The Children's Village and School at Beaver Run, The Transition Program at Beaver Farm, and The Camphill School of Curative Education and Social Therapy.

Our mission is to create wholeness for children and youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities through education and therapy in extended family living. The Camphill School of Curative Education and Social Therapy offers a four-year professional course of studies in anthroposophical curative education, youth guidance, and social therapy in a practice-integrated environment. Camphill Special School does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, or disability.

PLEASE JOIN US

- March 17** **Admissions Open House**, 10:30 a.m.–1 p.m.
Beaver Run Campus
- April 24** **Presentation by Laura Shumaker:**
“Launching Teens and Young Adults with Autism”
7:00 p.m., Ursel Pietzner Community Room,
The Sarah Jane Herman Education & Resource
Center at Beaver Farm
- June 1** **Camphill ProAm Gala**
6 p.m., Phoenixville Foundry, Phoenixville, PA
- June 2** **Camphill ProAm Tennis Tournament**
Location and Time TBA

VISIT CAMPHILLSPECIALSCHOOL.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT ALL EVENTS.

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