

## BROWN LEDGE CAMP



# ALUMNAE LEDGER

SPRING-SUMMER 2009

[www.brownledge.org](http://www.brownledge.org)

## 2009 AT BROWN LEDGE CAMP

### NO OTHER YEAR THE SAME

By Bill & Kathy Neilsen

We are fully immersed in the 83<sup>rd</sup> season of BLC; off, running and catching our breath. The energy couldn't be better here, with staff and campers focused and excited by all they see, and propelled by all they are accomplishing. The essence of Brown Ledge is solidly in place.

However, effects of the economic crisis which began last fall have clearly impacted camp finances. While second session is totally full, the enrollment in first session is down by twenty percent. We take heart in the fact that we have a normal number of returning campers from last summer, yet a shortfall of new campers has created a significant budgetary hurdle. Even in a normal financial year, tuition does not cover all of camp's expenses. You may wonder how this could be with 2009 tuition set at \$6600 for full season and \$4600 for half season. The answer lies mainly in the seasonal nature of camp, the large number of staff that the camp program requires, and the need to maintain the camp facilities which include 71 buildings. On top of this are significant recurring outlays for items such as property tax and insurance which alone add up to about \$150,000, along with unique expenses which occur each year. For instance, this spring we had to replace the trees which support the dining room, the Point House porches and roofing, along with roofing on the office, and Strawberry Hut. While we have not yet received bills for all of this, we are expecting the price tag to be in the \$50,000 to \$60,000 range.

Even in "strong" financial years there is little discretionary spending. The list of needs is long and the pot of money is small. Next summer it appears that we will have to invest \$60,000 in an upgrade to the sewer system before we consider any other capital needs.

This year we postponed re-roofing buildings, rebuilding a tennis court, stable renovations and purchasing a ski boat.

The question of what to do about

finances in the future is always pressing and realistic solutions are few. We could significantly raise tuition. Some camps similar to BLC now charge \$10,000 for 7 or 8 weeks. Over the past 10 years BLC tuition has been increased by over 60%, which is over two times the rate of increase of the Consumer Price Index for the same period. Some Brown Ledge families could bear further increase, but the majority could not. We know of a number of current camp parents who have lost jobs or who have taken significant reductions in pay in recent months, not to mention the ubiquitous hits to 401K and other retirement assets. Significantly increasing tuition would likely impact the culture of camp by reducing the diversity of camper family economic backgrounds and threatening enrollment in future years.

This summer's shortfall leaves us with few options in the short run. We are committed to giving campers the same wonderful experience that we all remember. Even if it were possible, we know it would not be prudent to significantly alter spending on this summer's program as it would change the essence of BLC. We have asked staff to forgo any unnecessary spending but unfortunately, this leaves no big ticket items to eliminate, only a collection of lesser savings. We are looking closely at all non-program items to find cost savings but there are no easy answers. For the little comfort it provides, we are not alone. Many other camps are reporting similar financial impacts.

As directors, we often feel like the captain of a large ship heading up river against the tide, maneuvering around

### BULLETIN BOARD:

- Register as soon as possible if you plan to attend Alumnae Camp August 14-17. Contact Lori Angstadt with questions.
- It is not too late to donate items for the Silent Auction at Alumnae Camp. Contact Liz Bell if you have anything to add.
- Be sure to inform Liz Bell of any address changes.



**Richard Currie** directed and starred in the *15 Minute Hamlet* during the first week of one act plays this summer.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I sit writing this letter camp is opening and, like past summers, campers are running to greet their friends while parents say their goodbyes. Now that I am a parent, I can see what a bitter/sweet time this is for parents. It must be wonderful to watch your daughter embrace her camp experience, but sad to say goodbye to her for a part of the summer. In the end, the sweet outweighs the bitter and parents drive out of camp with an empty car knowing that their daughters will have an incredible summer.

However, as you all know, in these difficult times, many families across this country are not able to send their children to camp this summer. Brown Ledge families are not immune from these tough times and some young girls are not able to spend their summer on Mallets Bay. As a parent it saddens me to think that campers are unable to attend camp this summer because I know how important camp is to them. As President of the Board, I also think of the financial impact

By Cara Jacobstein Zimmerman

this has on camp. The Brown Ledge Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and as such, depends on tuition and the generosity of our donors to cover our operating expenses. When campers are not able to come to camp, we take in less money through tuition and therefore rely more heavily on the generosity of our donors.

In these unusual times, I urge all of you who are able to give to the Brown Ledge Foundation. A donation to the Mr. Mac Operational fund will ensure that Brown Ledge continues to provide our campers with a high quality camp experience. A contribution to the Marjorie P. Brown Scholarship Fund will give young girls and their families the financial assistance they need to come to camp.

Thank you to our dedicated alumnae and I hope to see many of you at Alumnae Camp this summer.



## THIRD ANNUAL BROWN LEDGE EVENT DERBY

By Lori Angstadt

As this ledger goes to press, plans are underway to hold the third annual Brown Ledge Event Derby the weekend of July 11th & 12th. Friday will be lessons with our guest instructors, **Wendy Wergeles** and **Di Glossman**. Saturday will be clinics and Sunday will be the actual competition. Volunteers make this event possible and successful. Their dedication, hard work and time allow current campers to have an amazing riding learning experience. At this time, we anticipate that the following alums will once again assist Di and Wendy: **Alena Arent McDonough, Debbie Fox Roderer, Ann Hazelett Cordner, Melissa Fishel**



**Mauer, Megan Mauer, Barbara Bagel Muench, Donna Miller, Denise Hill Thorn, Barbie Stott Cairns, Robin Manookian Fleck, Nancy O'Day, Cathy Brodie, Beany Richter, Lindsay,**

**Chelsea & Lee Cordner, Dean Witham, Rachel Greene, and Liz Kiggen.**

Jenny Wilkinson who is the current head of riding says that "the riding staff is really looking forward to The Event Derby this year! We appreciate all of the alumnae support and have our fingers (and hooves) crossed for warm weather and good footing. This year, we are attempting to take the cross-country course through the woods, which will be a great learning experience for the riders and horses."

## BECOME A BROWN LEDGE BOARD MEMBER

Are you interested in sitting on the board for Brown Ledge? Liz Bell can send you a brief outline of a board member's responsibilities, along with where to send your resume and cover letter. Sitting on the board gives you an opportunity see all that goes into running camp and keeping Brown Ledge in top shape. It also lets you meet other Brown Ledgers from different eras – and make new friends!

A board member term is three years long, with the chance to run for a second term. After two consecutive terms, you are required to take a year off before running to sit on the board again (if you choose to do so). The board meets three times a year – fall, spring and summer.

You can learn more about the board when you visit with the current board members at alumnae camp in August. They will introduce themselves to you and look forward to answering questions, providing information and encouraging you to submitting your resume.

## JOIN THE ANNEX CLUB

**Want to be a member in our new club? The Annex Club** is a new club we have started that has members who have **donated to the last five campaigns without skipping a year** or years. For now, we have **148 members** who have donated to the 2004 through 2008 campaigns – but we'd love to see the membership increase at the end of the 2009 campaign! If you would like to see a list of the members you can send Liz Bell an email. Remember, if you miss a year, you have to start over at the next campaign and give to five consecutive campaigns before you can be a member of the **Annex Club**.

## O'FISHEL NEWS

By Melissa Fishel Mauer



Fred and Twylla are spending their summer at home in Miami for the first time in 51 years. As you all know, Brown Ledge Camp had been their summer home and Brown Ledgers their extended family since 1957. They are no longer able to make the trek to Vermont and do miss camp and all those involved. Twylla broke her wrist this winter and is recovering from surgery and has completed a course of physical therapy. Fred has become very handy around the house, taking over the duties of cook, maid and chief bottle washer. Both myself and my daughter (their granddaughter, Megan) get down to Miami when possible to add a hand. And Fred hired my son, Andrew, to help him paint the outside of their house this winter. Despite limitations, they still stay in contact with many Brown Ledgers and have even had some winter visitors. **Sue Mooney** and Tish and their two boys were down for a brief visit, which Fred and Twylla enjoyed tremendously. Their two boys are growing like weeds. **Don Sharp** and family: wife Mako, son, Leo (4) and daughter, Luna (2) came all the way from Japan for a whole week. They visited the Miami Zoo, shopped, and did the usual touristy things, as well as spent time catching up with my parents. They are expecting their third child in December. My parents are no longer at camp, which is a strange experience for me, being here without them. But I know they are here in spirit and there are signs of them everywhere, from the instructors on the waterfront who grew up under their instruction and guidance to the sprinklers in the riding ring that Fred always over saw. They will always be a part of Brown Ledge!

Fred and Twylla love to hear from Brown Ledgers. You can write to them at 19435 Ridgeland Drive, Cutler Bay FL 33157.

In April, we had a celebratory/good-bye dinner with Brown Ledgers: **Di Glossman**, **Marilen Hartnett** and **Betty Resch**. Chris was there representing the Brown Ledge spouses. Also present was the offspring of a previous Brown Ledge staffer. Andrea Beukema is the daughter of **Beth Donahue** (riding counselor, summer of 1974). I thought I'd give you an update of the horse related happenings here in Florida.

Di completed another successful season of dressage competition aboard her fleet of warm bloods (4 she competes on herself and the 5th, generally ridden by her trainer Hans or his son). She competed from the training level on up. The normal show weekend (which meant 5 different shows this

year) for Di includes riding all 4 horses each day, which means 4 different dressage tests to remember. Sometimes in 40mph winds or temperatures on several occasions this year in the upper 80's. All of her horses received qualifying scores this season, including her big mare, Cher, who moved up to Intermediare (which is very impressive!). Needless to say, only someone very fit and passionate (or perhaps a little crazy) would be able to accomplish this.

Also of note are the fantastic grooms Di had this year. For her first 2 weekends of competition, our fellow Brown Ledger, **Nancy O'Day**, came down from Mass. to groom for all 5 horses which is A LOT of work (baths, braiding, cleaning tack, keeping track of times, etc.). Nance did a fantastic job and I had the fun of being able to spend some time with her. And for the last 3 weekends, Di had the pleasure of having Andrea Beukema (also of Mass.) groom for her. I am happy to report that Andrea is a graduate B pony clubber and has had the advantage of being around horses her whole life since her mother (Beth) does run the equine program at Johnson and Wales University in Providence, RI. Andrea is a wonderful young lady who would be a great asset to any equine activity she is involved with.

And last, but not least, there is news to report on behalf of **Donna Miller Brown**. Donna brought her adorable, athletic stallion, Arctic Celt or "Art", down to Jupiter (my neck of the woods) for his inspection in March. As she reported to me "The inspection went well. He passed with flying colors. All 7s in dressage and 8s in jumping for total score of 221.5 (200 needed to pass). He now has a lifetime breeding license".

Well, despite the fact that Fred and Twylla aren't back, there are still Fishels in camp. That would be myself and my son Andrew. I have been overseeing the infirmary (what for me was the last place I'd ever go when I was a camper) for the past many years. Times have changed and one of the indications of this is reflected in the role of the nurse. We were able to get away with one nurse and her "assistant" for most of our years until recently (1990's on) when the role became more demanding for a variety of reasons including: ACA regulations, more medications being dispensed on a regular basis (drugs that didn't even exist in the 1960's and 70's), more Dr.'s and ER runs (liability is always a concern), lots of phone calls from parents worried about their child who may only have the sniffles and I could go on and on. At any rate, I look forward to a visit from my daughter, Megan (who hopes to be back as a riding counselor) and my husband Chris (who has been coming to Brown Ledge as a visitor, spouse and parent since 1977). You see, Brown Ledge is a way of life for the Fishels!



## THE FIRST (BUT NOT THE LAST) BROWN LEDGE WORK WEEKEND

By Kathy Neilsen

Brown Ledgers gathered at camp on the weekend of May 30<sup>th</sup> to help us get repaired, cleaned, spruced up and fixed up and ready for the summer. It was amazing to see how much can get done when twenty-two BLers (and two friends) come together. The fix-it shop was rewired, Nut Hut was raised and leveled, buildings were cleaned, leaves were raked, cabins were numbered, shelves were built, trees were planted, gardens were weeded, lawns were mowed and weeds were wacked. *And* we all had a great time. **Mills Knight** organized the weekend and made sure everyone was well fed and we had all the right tools and equipment to get the jobs done. We worked hard, laughed a lot and reminisced endlessly. Many, many thanks to Mills and those who participated in our first work weekend: **Deb Fox Roderer, Charlotte McCorkel, Jenna Fahey, Lynn Fahey, Andy Butterfield, Meghan Donoghue, Liz Kiggen, Garland Middleton, Bob Fardelmann, Lucy Allen, Rose Lovshin, Allen Smith, Catherine Alston, Kemper Alston, Wayne Banks, Kim McManus, Mike Shapiro, Bob Murphy, James Key-Wallace, Judith Dry, and Mark Miller.\***

\*Mark Miller was just beginning his annual 5 day pilgrimage to Brown Ledge where he puts his considerable building and fix-it skills to work at camp. This year Beehive was his special project. He re-shelved the entire cabin to accommodate our 18 second-year JCs.

## NEW BLC WEB PAGE



Make sure you check out the new and improved Brown Ledge Web Page. The spirit of Brown Ledge is captured with new pages and interactive features were added. There are also discussion boards and opportunities for alums to make donations online.

The Alumnae sections includes information about the history of the Brown Ledge Foundation, ways to get involved with camp, information about donations, alumnae discussion boards as well as a searchable database of alumnae who have registered with the site. It just another way that alums can keep in touch with each other and keep in touch with camp.

Whether your last summer was two years or decades ago, the web page allows you to relive your Brown Ledge experience.

## CHAPEL 2009

By Violette Perrotte, 1<sup>st</sup> year JC

Change. What Brown Ledge means to us. These are two themes that are really vague and it's really hard for me to put on words what BLC means to me, not because I'm French and I can't find the right words in English (though that's one of the reasons!) but because it's complicated to explain how a place can bring so much to a sixteen year-old girl.

When I started complaining of how "cliché" the theme was that I couldn't write about it, I was given an advice. One of my Bunkie asked me something so simple, but so obvious: What if Taylor wasn't here? What if Sarah wasn't here? What if Alenka, Kylie, Brenna, Devin, Franny, Claire, Margaux weren't here? What would I do without you, Jamie, who knows me better than anyone? I couldn't answer those questions because I cannot even imagine being here without the girls that became one the most important part of my life. This is what BLC means to me: everything.

But in general, Brown Ledge it means trying, discovering, learning. It means tears and laughs, it's failure sometime but never giving up. It means effort, but then accomplishment. And mostly friendship. Not summer's friendships, Brown Ledge it's way more. It's writing to each other, visiting, even when you live in Paris, and above all, it's knowing that even if you don't call or write to each other, you will always share something for the rest of your life. Something so strong that all the phone calls in the world couldn't beat.

Now change. For me, changing is growing up. BLC has been so important to me throughout the years, it helped me become what I am today. I am not the little Frenchie who just arrived in Moron Manor, looking for other French people, discovering what a chipmunk is and asking the definition of each English word anymore. Yes, I'm still a Frenchie and my English isn't perfect, but I feel home at Brown Ledge and I can today say that I belong to BLC. I didn't make BLC but for sure BLC made me. Being a JC is a big part of this change. I have only been a JC for what? A week? And I can already feel that after this summer I won't be the same.

In one year I went from waiting for my JC to arrive to tell her what I did in the morning to listening to four girls talking about what they are going to do in the afternoon. And I love it. It's new and scary but it's a part of growing up at Brown Ledge Camp and it's really exciting.

It's sharing a cabin with ten people, not having a counselor to complain to, not having a JC you can take example on, but it's also doing the best you can to teach and feeling a tiny bit proud when someone stand up in waterskiing though you just helped putting the skis on! It's also learning to solve the problems on your own and it's new responsibilities. And it's amazing.

So thank you Brown Ledge for helping me become a better person, I will never forget what you taught me. You're not only two months out of my year, but a once in a lifetime experience that happens every year.

## BLC HISTORY RECOVERY PROJECT

**Name of Alumnae:** Meg Hadley

**Years at camp:** 1958 last year camper, 1959 store JC, 1960 swimming JC

**Interviewed By:** Liz DeOreo

Meg, who went by Marion at that time, was sent to camp by her grandmother. Meg lived in Rahway, NJ, where her older sister was her schoolteacher and her father was the superintendent of the school system; grandmother felt that Meg needed a place of her own.

Meg describes her first summer at BLC as “a magical dream for me.” In 1958, camp was run by Marjorie P. Brown and Barbara, as HEB had recently died. Fred and Twylla were not at camp that summer (busy having children!) so Bill and Freckles Palm were the head of waterfront. Although Meg can’t recall the name of her first cabin she remembers that she had “a wonderful bunkmate,” Gerry Kent. They had a summer-long running bridge game with the score meticulously kept on a roll of toilet paper which was draped all over the cabin as the summer progressed. That first summer Meg had promised herself that she would try every activity, and she did! She recalls that at riflery she spent too much time “swatting mosquitoes” and arts & crafts kept her indoors when she wanted to be outside. She was in her first and only play, but her biggest passions became riding and swimming. Funniest memory Meg recalls from that first summer: During a thunderstorm in the middle of the night, Meg and Gerry heard a commotion at the docks. Even though they knew better, they braved the storm to see what was happening. They found a group of drunks in formal attire stranded in a canoe! The two went for help from counselors and never knew how that situation was resolved.

Meg was a 1<sup>st</sup> year JC in 1960 and she lived in the middle room of Beehive. She was a Store JC! When asked how this was actually possible, she stated that it was one of Barbara’s ideas; camp was pretty much full and all the departments had their JCs. Barbara wanted Meg to be able to come to camp, so she suggested Meg run the store. Meg’s main duties were sorting all the mail and, of course, managing the store. The most popular item was definitely Sugar

Daddy’s lollipops.

As a 2<sup>nd</sup> year JC, Meg was a swimming JC. Although she tried for her vanguard in swimming, she did not get it. She did, however, receive a starred intermediate in riding and “most improved rider in camp” award. This award was a silver bracelet that was inscribed “Marion 1960” and Meg said she was “completely stunned and thrilled. She wore the bracelet all the time, and still has it to this day.

Meg has wonderful memories of Barbara! During Meg’s first summer she was assigned to Barbara’s lunch table and recalls: “Barbara was captivating to watch – I couldn’t take my eyes off of her. She was so awe-inspiring, so dramatic! She smoked right there at the table and she could blow smoke out her mouth and inhale it up her nose like a reverse waterfall! I really felt I’d arrived!”

Brown Ledge played a very important role in shaping who Meg would ultimately become. Because her sister was her teacher and her father the superintendent of the schools, Meg never really knew if the praises she earned were for actual merit or because of who she was. At camp, where no one knew her, Meg was assured her accolades were merit based and this served to inspire both confidence and motivation. One night while walking alone on the camp road, Meg says that she realized “I can make my own decisions all by myself. I can determine who and what I am going to be. I can do anything I want.” This revelation has carried Meg through life since Brown Ledge.

Meg currently lives with her husband in Montpelier, VT. She was a teacher and has recently retired and spends her free time biking with her husband and swimming. She attends a summer singing camp called Ogontz in Maine, also attended by a *Marion Palm* (who asked not to be revealed as “Freckles” in that particular venue!). Meg visited camp once several years ago just to look around and was amazed at how “small it seemed.” She has never attended an Alumnae Camp for fear that “the magic just wouldn’t be there.” I have done my best to convince her otherwise for 2009!!



## ONCE LOST, NOW FOUND. WELCOME BACK TO BLC!!!

**Curt Brown (70s)**

2943 E 17th St

Tucson, AZ 85716

[cbrown317@cox.net](mailto:cbrown317@cox.net)

**Blair Kelsey Bickford (50s)**

7220 Shirland Avenue

Norfolk, VA 23505

[blairbickford@verizon.net](mailto:blairbickford@verizon.net)



**Greg Levine (90s)**

209 Beakes St.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

[fursx@yahoo.com](mailto:fursx@yahoo.com)

THERE ARE 36 JUNIOR COUNSELORS AT BROWN LEDGE THIS SUMMER! EIGHT ARE IN TENNIS, FIVE ARE IN THEATRE AND FIVE ARE IN WATERSKIING.

## DEAR TWYLLA & FRED

Dear Twylla & Fred,

In recent days, my mind has been bouncing around--rummaging thru old boxes, as it were--and I find myself remembering your arrival at Brown Ledge, lo, so long ago (over 50 years, eh?).

It started out to be a godawful summer. There I was, a JC and, for the first time in my years as a BLCer, set to be there for The Whole Summer (instead of only one month)--and furthermore, to do that (The Whole Summer) at the express, personal request of Mr. Brown. I was **so** excited and **so** flattered & **so** looking forward to it all -- and at the same time, so worried (not to mention scared) about HEB's obviously deteriorating health. I hit camp with all engines revved to the max, ready to tackle any job put in front of me.

And I ran smack head-on into Mr. Grover.

Remember him? A scary human, for sure. He **began** by tacking up black & white photos, all over the Point House, of the most horrendous, gory "water accidents" imaginable and then ordering all of us to "study" them. I can still (over 50 years later) clearly see a picture of some human who'd been

chopped to pieces by an outboard motor (although I've tried, I've never been able to get it out of my head). In keeping with the pictures, he gave us lectures on the sorts of the things that **could** happen that very summer (death, drowning, dismemberment, body-parts floating in the crib...).

I was terrified. Terrified **not** of "things that could happen" but of **him**, Mr. Grover--of

what he was doing to me; to the waterfront & the kids who'd go there; to Mr. Brown, ill & struggling to deal with the horror of this man; to the entirety of camp. 1-9-5-7 at Brown Ledge Camp, straight for hysteria & rage. It was AWFUL.

And then Mr Grover was gone & y'all were there.

Just as clearly as I remember that man's horrible pictures & ideas of what life is like, I remember that meeting in Barbara's cabin (which many of us still thought of as The Bryan's Cabin, but that's another story)--with Mr. Brown sitting in a chair, introducing you to us & us to you, & telling us that everything would be all right. And we knew it would



be (and, of course, it was). How and why we knew that, I can't explain. But we did. I left that meeting feeling that a huge weight has been lifted from my heart (my next task: to get my mind/mouth around "Twylla," a name I'd never encountered before).

I remember many other things from that summer (for one, Twylla teaching me to teach swimming, which I **loved** doing). But what stays with me most, all these many years later, was that one day, when you first arrived, and darkness turned to light. Storm into sunshine. Winter into spring. Despair into delight.

Why I'm suddenly remembering that time, I don't know -- getting old, I suppose, with short-term memory beginning to short-circuit & long-term memory taking over. Why I'm writing you about it, I clearly **do** know.

I'm writing to say thank you. Thank you for what you have brought to me, and to Brown Ledge--not only that first day, that first summer, but all the days and all the summers since then. "Thank you" hardly covers it, obviously, but it's the best I've got, and it's what in my heart, right this minute. Thank you.

Where I'm writing this, thinking this, is San Diego--blue sky, warm sun, a dog asleep against my hip. I'm fine. I hope this finds you the same.

Love,  
Bonnie  
February 18, 2009

By Bonnie Royster



*Editor's note: Special thanks to Bonnie Royster for allowing us to publish this letter and to Stephanie Zimbalist for bringing it to my attention. Bonnie is pictured above with her dog, Razzle. Fred and Twylla are pictured with her dog, Boofer.*

**MILESTONES**

**Congratulations to the following Brown Ledgers for their new additions to the Brown Ledge family:**

**Laura Bailey Brown (83-84)** and her husband had the joy of bringing Ruth Ellen Brown into their family on November 7, 2008.



Congratulations to **Katy Robbins Reitz (84-90)** and Monte Reitz who welcomed in their second child, Rose Eleanor Reitz on March 16, 2009.



**Jen (Hlavna) Feaster** wrote to say “James Thomason Feaster ("Jamie") joined us on March 18th, 2009, 3+ weeks early but healthy and strong at 6lbs 11oz and 20 inches! Mom, dad, and big sister Casey (age 2.5) are so happy to welcome the little guy to our family.”

**Cara Jacobstein Zimmerman (85-91 & 95)** informed us that “Charles (Charlie) Brett Zimmerman arrived a little ahead of schedule on Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:33am. He is a beautiful baby and we are overwhelmed with joy! His arrival was uneventful so we are very thankful for that. Ellie and Ian



are thrilled to have a baby brother.”



**Rob Pugh and Kate Chapple** were married at Nurringingy Reserve, in Blacktown Sydney Australia at 4.30 pm on the 4th of April. BLCers attending were **Annabelle & Sarah Rasmussen, Karen Bertram and Wayne Banks.** “We spent our honeymoon traveling all over New Zealand for 25 days seeing some of the breathtaking scenery that New Zealand has to offer.”



**Jane Grundy (96-97)** married Ian Price on April 10, 2009 at the Alice Springs Turf Club. She had a horse and carriage entrance with her horse, Savanna, pulling the buggy!



On May 8, 2009, **Kay Diaz (76-80, 82-83)** and Kate Adamick were legally married in Connecticut in a conference room at the Stamford Government Center. The next day they had a public ceremony in the three-story atrium of 632 on Hudson, a 19<sup>th</sup> century New York town house. Kay and Kate were fortunate enough to have the New York Times write a fabulous article about their love at first site! It can be read (and pictures viewed) by typing in the following web site link:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/24/fashion/weddings/24VOWS.html? r=1&emc=eta1>

**Lisa Bedell (90's)** is getting married on the 4th of July to a Brit named Dominic Clive. They are getting married in London, and there will be one BLC friend in attendance - **Amanda Perwin (90-93).**

**We regret to inform you of the passing of these Brown Ledgers.**

Many of you remember **Anne Lipe Zielenbach (71-76).** Anne died on Sept. 1, 2008 at the age of 49. **Martha Buttenheim (70-75)** forwarded Anne’s obituary on to us in February. Martha noted, “Anne & I grew up as inseparable and best friends starting in nursery school. After I moved at age 10, we spent our summers together at BLC for 6 years. After that time, we lost touch and I saw her only one more time when we were both newlyweds. A few weeks ago I kept thinking about her because I knew her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday would have been January 12<sup>th</sup>. I googled her that very and felt socked in the stomach when her obituary popped up. One of our bonds of friendship was our love of animals, particularly dogs. Her dog at the time of her death was named Bosco and he was listed along with the rest of the family in her obituary. I had to smile at the coincidence as my saintly black lab, Bosco, died a few years ago. I am deeply saddened by the lost opportunity to reconnect with Anne now.” Contributions may be made to the Kobacker House, 3595 Olentangy River Rd., Columbus, OH 43214-4034.

**Helen Swan Hope (40s)** passed away on December 23, 2008.

2009 THREE ACT  
 JULY 11  
 THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK

## NEWS FROM YOU

**Curt Brown (Sailing, 68-72)**, who now lives in Arizona, found us on the web. When he was told about Alumnae Camp this summer, he sent this note: "Last time I flew, I could have walked in less time. And once I get to BLC, I may just stay for good. Back in the winter of '67 Barbara gave me her keys and permission to hike into camp. Crunching snow and frostbite. I slept, none too comfortably, in the Point House. Ice all the way up to the lower porch. Sad place without campers, but I really loved the solitude. But, heck, with a portable heater and a coffee pot, I probably could survive even now. Doubt the new management would go for it, though. Barbara, by the way, was the single greatest influence on my callow young life. Guess she enjoyed silly boys with a romantic streak (I don't mean romance as in novel - I mean as in morbidly sentimental). Anyhow, I loved her. Bet you didn't know that I knew Mrs. Brown - not too many left who can say that, I'm sure. A few months after we met (in her nursing home), I cut some classes and went to her funeral. Guess that cemented the BLC connection. Sadly, I wasn't around when Barbara died. Didn't even know for years. Stupid to get so involved in one's own life that you let the best parts fall by the wayside. Maybe I'll make up for it yet."

**Bobbi Collins Degnan (58-64, 84)** informed us that her husband, Marc, was recently diagnosed with AML (Acute Myelogenous Leukemia). She sent us an update that she would like us to share with you: "We came home to Westport on April 28 - after 25 days in the hospital. We are doing a lot of resting, getting good sleep, and walking every day. Marc is getting stronger, and finding his voice. We have a long road ahead, but it is great to be home." In late May, we got another update from Bobbi and Marc: "Since the Oncology folks are getting anxious to get going on the next round of treatment, we expect to have decisions in early June - and I am guessing we will be back in the hospital shortly thereafter. By the way, the next round, although expected to be a shortened hospital stay, is the same amount of chemo as the first, but each dose is much stronger and takes less time to administer. Most have the same risks of the high fevers and other unpleasanties, etc. So keep your good thoughts & prayers coming. It can be a ghastly process, as some of you know first hand. We send lots of love and big hugs - p.s. we do hope to be at Alumni Camp! Bobbi and Marc" If anyone would like to contact Bobbi or Marc, please let Liz Bell know and she will send you their contact information.

Many of you know **Kathy Roberts-Snedeker (76-82, 84-90)** who is well known on the waterski dock at BLC. Kathy, and her husband **Greg Snedeker (86-89)** shared with us the news that Kathy was diagnosed with breast cancer in

May. She had a double mastectomy on May 22, and the good news is that the lymph nodes were negative. However, both the oncologist and the surgeon are recommending chemo and most likely radiation now. Although the lymph nodes were negative, the vessels to the lymph nodes were invaded so that's why they are recommending chemo. The radiation is being recommended because there was more cancer than they thought and it was close to the skin, so they want to radiate the skin in that area. Kathy wrote recently "I have recovered quite well from my surgery on May 22nd. I just need the discipline to do the exercises I am supposed to be doing to get my full range of motion back. I will probably go for physical therapy soon to help with that. I started chemotherapy on Monday the 22nd. The hardest part is knowing about all the horrible side effects and not knowing how your body will react. I actually did ok with it, so far. Things are quite well regulated with drugs. I am getting tired, but that is pretty common. I am having 4 treatments, one every 3 weeks, for a total of 12 weeks. At least my body has 3 weeks to recover between each treatment. My hair should fall out within the next 2 weeks. I am waiting for a wig to come in, as I am not a scarf person! I kept threatening to go long and platinum, but the long wigs did not look good on me. Your cards, emails, phone calls, flowers, meals, visits, etc have been wonderful and we cannot tell you all how much we appreciate it. It sometimes takes me a while to return calls and emails and I apologize for that, but there are just many times that are not good for me to be on the phone or the computer...so bear with us!

**Jim Glossman (80's)** directed the show "The Price" starring **Stephanie Zimbalist (69-74)** at Shadowland Theatre in Ellenville, New York. The show ran from May 29 - June 14.

**Lynn Kirsopp Hammal (89-91)** wrote "I have a contract as a business management coach probably till the end of Sept '09 here in Kintyre, and am doing a few nursing shifts at the local hospital (acute admissions unit) - which is great - to keep my registration current." She is pictured with her son Joseph.



Congratulations to **Kat Yaroschuk** for finishing her degree at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg on May 8, 2009. As this ledger goes to press, we have just learned **Sarah Maggs Riley (85-92)** and her husband, Brendon, welcomed Chase Grant Riley into their family on June 1, 2009. He weighed 6lbs, 5oz. They are all doing well!!



## TO SEE AND BE SEEN!

By Liz Bell

**Jordan Boughrum (91-01)** sent us a link to a short that she did last spring with the wonderfully talented Libby Barker. This link was Libby's final project from NYU. Jordan is proud of it and thinks it came together quite well. Jack Perry, the man who plays Daniel, scored the film and it adds this beautifully eerie tone. If you would like to take a look at it, go to <http://www.vimeo.com/4245678>.

**Cindy Hubbard (60-63)** has published a book! *The Pleasure of Their Company* relates the story of the Cindy's nearly twenty-year journey hand-raising orphan fawns in her barn in the hills of West Virginia, and the unique relationships and bonds that developed with these gentlest of creatures. Cindy had the opportunity to do a Book Signing in late May at Al Lestini's book shop, "Words and Music," in Wheeling, WV. She and her three sisters (**Nancy, Dana & Mary Paull –BLC'ers in the late 50's and early 60's**) were all there.

**Wendy Wergeles (64-73)**, who is the creator of the fabulous **Event Derby** well known in California (and at BLC!), was acknowledged in a wonderful article about the Event Derby volunteers. The article is in [www.examiner.com](http://www.examiner.com) and written by Marla White. Marla notes, "While volunteers are the lifeblood of any event, for the Derbies they are the heart, lungs and soul of the show. Geared towards education, safety and fun, Event Derby riders are allowed to have do-overs, riding the same course up to four times. Basically, you won't find a more encouraging, relaxed show venue for a first timer to dip their toe in the eventing pool. Organizer **Wendy Wergeles** is dedicated to making eventing accessible to everyone, no matter what your riding level or tax bracket. To keep the costs down, only the clinician and dressage judge are paid. Everything else, from building and decorating the course to scribing, stabling, jump judging and all the other jobs that make a show come together are done by volunteers." Brown Ledge is thankful to Wendy, **Di Glossman (66, 69-74)** and all the fabulous alumnae volunteers who have brought The Event Derby into the BLC riding program. You can read the entire article at: <http://www.examiner.com/x-2967-LA-Equestrian-Examiner~y2009m3d23-Volunteering-at-The-Event-Derby-has-its-own-rewards>

**Nina Cheney Mills (74 & 75)** spent 2 weeks performing and teaching circus arts in Qatar in March as part of the 4-person "Wild Rumpus World Circus." She writes, "I'd never been in the middle east and it was very interesting and fun to work with both ex-pats and people from all over the world. We made some good contacts and hope to expand the tour next winter. Circus transcends age, race, and culture. It's great to be in a business where people can come together, laugh, learn, and appreciate the skills human beings are capable of."

**Melina Nacos (84-92, 95)** let us know "that a show that I've been working on for a few years is finally going to be shown to the public! *After the Crash* was originally developed in 2006, commissioned by Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, and has been touring conferences and hospitals since then. FINALLY, it's coming to the Toronto Fringe this July. **What's it about?** The brakes slam, tires squeal and Elliot Miller's life is changed forever. Once a successful, silver-tongued lawyer, Elliot's life dissolves around him as he must now navigate the world as a person with a brain injury. He discovers that the most devastating circumstances can also be riddled with unforeseen gifts and rewards. With dynamic physicality, grace and humour, Ruckus Ensemble tells the story of a man finding his new way in the world. Our website: [www.ruckusensemble.com](http://www.ruckusensemble.com)"

**Leslie Buxbaum Danzig (78-85, 91-92)** directed "500 Clown and the Elephant Deal" at the Upstairs Theatre in Chicago June 20 – July 11, 2009. You can find information on 500 Clown and all their work by visiting their web site at: [www.500clown.com](http://www.500clown.com)



### ➔ 2009 AT BROWN LEDGE CAMP

hazards and under bridges with only inches of clearance. This year the cross wind is exceptionally strong, making the navigation trickier than ever.

Within its 83 year history, Brown Ledge has weathered many economic storms. You may remember Barbara's essay on the history of Brown Ledge that tells of campers arriving on the same train as the dining room chairs during the Depression! In recent decades Brown Ledge alums have supported our mission and allowed us to continue to be a strong and positive force in the lives of young women. We do hope you will consider a donation, or an additional donation, to Brown Ledge to help us over the current hurdle. 2009 is truly an unusual financial year, delivering impacts which camp may feel for a number of years. Your donation this summer will help us immediately and significantly.

### ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS

#### 2008 Results Booklet for the BLC Foundation:

It is with a sincere apology that we inform you of the error in the 2008 donor listing booklet. **Martha Braun, mother of Lindsey Braun and the late Heather Braun**, gave her 2008 gift in memory of Heather, who passed away in 2007. Martha's listing failed to note the gift being in memory of Heather.

Donors whose gifts arrived after the results booklet went to press are:

**Elizabeth Brown Powers (30s)**

**Cheney Patrick Edmunds (80s) & Berkeley Edmunds**

# WHERE ARE THE JC'S NOW?

**Name: Katherine Elizabeth Dee**  
**Birthday:** January 20, 1968  
**JC years at BLC:** 1983 & 1984  
**JC Department:** Archery  
**College attended:** Yale University  
**Graduate program/school attended:** Yale University School of Medicine  
**Degree:** Doctor of Medicine  
**First employment after graduating:** After spending 6 years completing internship, residency and fellowship programs in Radiology, Kate took an Assistant Professor position at the University of Washington in their Breast Imaging program. She spent approximately two and a half years in academia before transitioning into private practice.  
**What you are currently doing:** Kate now works at the Seattle Breast Center where she specializes in breast imaging. The majority of her time is spent reading mammograms, performing breast ultrasounds, breast tissue biopsies and MRIs. She is also a dedicated mother to her 4-year-old twins Sierra & Zoe and her two-year-old son Jason.

**Has BLC helped you pursue this path? If so, how?**  
 "Definitely. I was a shy kid and Brown Ledge gave me so much confidence." Some of Kate's specific memories related to this were getting a standing ovation on awards night when she received her Archery Vanguard as a camper and speaking at last chapel as a second year JC. She noted, "Those experiences were critical for me. I didn't really get confidence from any other source."

**Any future plans?**  
 Kate and her partner Shireen, who is a pediatric radiologist, are currently building a house in West Seattle on the sound. They are looking forward to moving into their new home shortly after the whole family returns from their trip to Alumnae Camp in August. Kate is also excited to send her twin girls to Brown Ledge one day.

~~~~~  
**Name: Andie Dee Butler**  
**Birthday:** August 16, 1986  
**JC years at BLC:** 1985 & 1986  
**JC Department:** Riding  
**College attended:** University of Wisconsin at Madison (English Major)  
**Graduate program/school attended:** Cornell School of Veterinary Medicine  
**Degree:** Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, 1995  
**First employment after graduating:** Andie's first job after graduating from Cornell was at an Equine practice in Delaware. She has almost fifteen years of experience as an

equine vet, having worked in Delaware, Connecticut and New Jersey.  
**What you are currently doing:**  
 Andie now runs her own practice, Cokesbury Equine Associates, located in New Jersey. She describes the most rewarding aspects of her job as having the opportunity to really make a difference for horses and their owners in critical



**Andie Dee Butler and Kate Dee**

**THOSE EXPERIENCES WERE CRITICAL FOR ME. I DIDN'T REALLY GET CONFIDENCE FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE."**

cases where the horse is seriously injured or sick. She also enjoys "building relationships with horses and their owners over time".

**Has BLC helped you pursue this path? If so, how?**  
 "Absolutely. Brown Ledge is where I learned most of my horsemanship skills. It's where I came to understand that many of our horses' medical issues are a direct result of our management of them, and of the demands we place upon them. Brown Ledge is where I decided I wanted to give back to horses [on the ground] because they gave me so much to me when I was in the saddle".

**Any future plans?**  
 Andie is content focusing on her veterinary practice and riding. She and her husband Matt, whom she describes as "A Brown Ledge convert" are also looking forward to this summer's Alumnae Camp.

**CAMP DATES 2009**  
**CAMP OPENED JUNE 18**  
**EVENT DERBY JULY 11 & 12**  
**SWITCHOVER JULY 15 & 16**  
**BLC STOCK SHOW AUGUST 1**  
**HORSE SHOW AUGUST 8**  
**MUSICAL AUGUST 9**  
**AQUACADE AUGUST 10**  
**CAMP CLOSES AUGUST 12**  
**ALUMNAE CAMP AUGUST 14-17**

## NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

By Liz Bell

### 2009 Annual Campaign for the Brown Ledge Foundation (January 1, 2009 – June 26, 2009)

It is hard to believe we're already more than halfway through the 2009 campaign. As you read this article, camp will be halfway over, too. Although we had yet another cold and rainy start to the season, the campers didn't miss a beat and have managed to take in all that BLC has to offer.

The campaign got off to a quiet start in March of this year. Fortunately, the gifts continue to arrive and it is so great to see the alums reaching into their pockets to help BLC get through this difficult economic time. As you may have read in Cara Jacobstein Zimmerman's letter, camp needs your financial support. With less kids than usual coming to camp during July (not only BLC, but throughout the entire camping industry), we are searching for ways to cut costs and keep Brown Ledge in the best condition so that we can provide the same phenomenal experience we all had when we were campers.

Please consider joining those who have already made their pledge toward keeping BLC alive and well!

#### **Totals pledges per fund as of June 25, 2006**

Mr. Mac Operational Fund: \$30,420

Marjorie P. Brown Scholarship Fund: \$5,310

**GRAND TOTAL TO DATE: \$35,730**

We are hoping that the Silent Auction and Alumnae Camp will help us increase the total donations that have been given to the 2009 campaign.

#### **Weekend Phone-a-thon**

It's that time of year again -- the phone-a-thon is scheduled for **Saturday, July 25 & Sunday, July 26**. Not only is it a great way to give your pledge toward the campaign, but it allows you to experience that feeling you had at rest hour -- talking to a JC and learning more about BLC. The calls will be made between 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm (camp time). If you have a specific time during those hours that you would like us to call, please email me at [lizblc@mindspring.com](mailto:lizblc@mindspring.com) or call 877-BLC-ALUM and let me know.

#### **Give your gift with a monthly charge on a credit card!**

You can let us know that you would like a pledge payment charged to your Visa, MasterCard or American Express on a monthly basis. It allows you to spread your payments out over the rest of the year, as well as provides you the ease of not having to write a check, or open a monthly invoice. Just fill out your pledge card with your credit card information and let us know how much to charge each month. It's an easy way to give a gift to BLC!

## THE BROWN LEDGE CAMP NETWORKING PROGRAM

Harvard and Princeton do it. Smith and Bryn Mawr do it. It's called networking through alumnae clubs—for a new job, a new career, a new life in a new city. Brown Ledge is doing it, too. Brown Ledge Camp alumnae represent an extraordinary pool of talent, diversity, and success dating back to 1927. They hail from over 25 different countries, are leaders in many fields and professions, and are a generally friendly bunch.

If you are just out of college and need more information to take some first steps in a field of interest or if you are an older alumna seeking to take your career a step further, the Brown Ledge Camp alumnae list should be on your radar screen. Likewise, if you move to another city—or country—and need some directions, a good doctor, or an insider's advice on house hunting, hook up with Brown Ledge Camp alumnae.

Brown Ledge has a professional mentor and a college mentor program already in place with at least 250 active members. We want to expand the size and scope of this program by including those who are simply interested in lending a friendly hand rather than specific career or college advice.

The following is a list of some of the areas in which alumna are ready to offer guidance.

**Academia • Law • Computer Programming/ Software Research • Development/ Corporate Fundraising • Education • Equestrian Training • Feng Shui • Finance • Fire Investigation • Design • Journalism • Publishing • Marketing • Public Relations • Library Science • Massage Therapy • Medicine • Nursing • Pharmacology • Performing Arts • Real estate • Social Work/ Psychology • Veterinary Science • Yoga.**

The strength of an alumnae network lies in each of its members. Whether or not you believe you have anything specific to offer, please let us know if we can pass along your contact information to a current or former BLCer. If you haven't already volunteered your networking interests, you may do so simply by sending an email to [lizblc@mindspring.com](mailto:lizblc@mindspring.com) and typing "yes, please include me in the network" in the subject line. If you want to provide more specifics, please feel free to do so.

Hope to hear from you soon!





**THE  
BROWN LEDGE  
CAMP  
MISSION  
STATEMENT**

Brown Ledge is a non-profit camp that exists to develop community, self-discipline, responsibility and achievement in girls and young women, through self-directed participation in varied activities in a high quality summer program.

**BROWN LEDGE CAMP**

**DIRECTORS**

**Bill & Kathy Neilsen**

Summer Address:

Brown Ledge Camp  
71 Brown Ledge Road  
Colchester VT 05446

Winter Address:

Brown Ledge Camp  
25 Wilson Street  
Burlington VT 05401

Phone: (802) 862-2442

or (800) 246-1958

Fax: (802) 658-1614

E-mail: [blc@brownledge.org](mailto:blc@brownledge.org)

**DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT**

**Liz Bell**

Brown Ledge Foundation  
136 Peachtree Memorial Drive NW  
Unit #MA-6

Atlanta GA 30309

Phone: (877) BLC ALUM or

(877)-252-2586 (Toll-free!)

E-mail: [lizblc@mindspring.com](mailto:lizblc@mindspring.com)

Please send all address changes to Liz Bell.

**ALUMNAE LEDGER NEWS**

**Lori Angstadt**

2181 Kecks Road

Fogelsville PA 18051

Phone: (610) 285-6106

E-mail: [LoriBLC10s@aol.com](mailto:LoriBLC10s@aol.com)

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

[www.brownledge.org](http://www.brownledge.org)

**KEEP IN TOUCH WITH BLC!**

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