



News From Camp

2019 Edition 3 August



From Dossett (Inter Group Leader): The inters have had a wonderful two weeks! Learning how to go from activity to activity and keep our bunks and bodies clean at camp is sometimes a challenging task, but I'm happy to report these kids picked it up in no time. We have a mix of newcomers and veterans who have done a wonderful job of integrating and making camp their own this year. After an exciting trip to the circus, we arrived back at camp for share and proceeded to play a favorite game amongst Kinderland campers: Patroosh! This session some activity highlights have been late night games with director Cindy in the dining hall, making hats in arts and crafts, folk music with Ira on the porch, and of course daily swims in Liberty Lake. The bunks Pablo Neruda and Emma Lazarus are where the inters spend

morning, rest hour and bedtime. In them we have been witness to impromptu union song-singing sessions, ERS card tournaments, and collaborative pretend games. While they enjoyed the regularly schedule activities, some kids have also taken to the stage this summer to show off their acting chops in inter-written and directed plays at Share. Others have spent their shmooze period playing basketball, tether ball, or trying their balance on the super saw. After a rousing camp wide trip to Lake Compounce last week, we are looking forward to blueberry picking and one final visit to Gran-val Scoops!

From Diana (Seniors Group Leader):



The seniors kicked off the August session with enthusiasm and good cheer. Many of the campers breezed through the nervously anticipated swim tests. Drama games and endless rounds of mafia fill our free time. Two groups of hikers have set out so far for intensive morning hikes, with one more group going at the end of the week. Although group 2 got caught in the rain, they had fun visiting an antique store to fill time. On Monday night the seniors enjoyed a cookout and an overnight stay in the teepees, including the classic campfire with s'mores and camp songs. Julia and Dylan

displayed their vocal talents on share, Asher and Sadie enjoyed several "golden ticket" prizes won at this year's carnival, and many of the campers discovered a knack for softball they didn't know they had. Add to that a great trip to Lake Compounce! It's been a fun and exciting August.

From Leda (GTBNL Group Leader):



The Group to be named later has been having a great summer this August. Though the nights have been chilly, GTBNL can stay warm making fires through the fire recipe outdoors expert Tes taught them in week one. GTBNL loves being active and playing basketball whenever possible. They've worked on essential skills for softball, ultimate, and soccer in addition to thinking about the purpose of sports at Camp Kinderland. The group had an amazing time sleeping in the teepees and listening to stories about the camps past with Dennis. The group thoroughly enjoys drama games with Raquel, and loves the opportunity to show their goofy side whenever they can!

From Kate (14s Group Leader):



The 14s had a blast on our trip to Cape Cod last week! After setting up camp, the 14s biker gang (pictured) took Marconi Beach, and rounded out day 1 with a trip to the Wellfleet Drive-In movie theater to see the Lion King. Day 2 was just as full: after a refreshing dip in the frigid Atlantic, we headed up to Provincetown for whale watching. We braved the drizzle to see a mama humpback whale and her calf feeding and breaching. We were then set loose in Provincetown to gorge ourselves on candy and ice cream (and decide if the \$20 lobster roll was worth it). In case that wasn't enough sugar, we returned to the campsite for the traditional campfire and s'mores. In the morning, we packed up camp and headed to the Bass River to kayak. After an arduous paddle upstream (into a headwind!), we cooled off in the river and headed to the Whydah Pirate Museum. We began the long journey back to

camp, but first stopped in Norwich, CT to watch the Connecticut Tigers take on the Aberdeen Ironbirds. The game was rained out after the top of the 5th inning, but I have no doubt that the cheers of the 14s pushed the Tigers to their 3-0 victory. We pulled into Camp Kinderland after bed time, and enjoyed a well-deserved late wake-up the following morning. We've had a relaxing few days back at camp and are looking forward to our final week!



From Rosy (2nd year CIT group leader): The 2nd year CITs recently returned from our camping trip to Acadia National Park! Right away we went for a strenuous bike ride around Bar Harbor's carriage roads. The kids were troopers, and very patient with each other. Lots of water and blueberry-picking breaks. Afterwards we found some relief from the heat by wading into the ocean along the "bar" of Bar Harbor: the land bridge, it's called, connecting the mainland to Bar Island, is a massive sand bar accessible only at low tide. Artie was insistent that the water here is very brackish, and there was some debate about whether it could truly be called saltwater. Regardless, hermit crabs abounded, much to the delight of everyone except for Josie, Malena, Nikita, and Shiori. We hiked to the summit of Bubble Rock—more blueberries here—and went swimming at Sand Beach. On the last day, everyone woke up before the crack of dawn to watch the sunrise over the sea wall, and later watched the sunset from our seats behind home plate at a Lowell Spinners minor league baseball game. We ended the trip on a high note with a dazzling fireworks display over the field. Every single CIT pitched in to make this trip run smoothly by cooking, packing, and organizing equipment. As a staff we were wholly impressed and very grateful for their tireless work and good spirits.



Back at camp, it's rehearsal, rehearsal, and more rehearsal! We've hit the ground running on preparing for The Pajama Game and once more the 2nd years are hard at work. Songs from the soundtrack can be heard playing in the bunks at all hours. We look forward to seeing you next Friday, August 16th, for the show!

From Sandra (1st Year CIT Group Leader):

The first year CITs have had quite the summer. Busy, eventful, educational, and extremely fun and rewarding. Over only a couple short months, their individual and collective growths have been astounding to watch. Their staff is in awe of their progress in learning to work with children, take on new responsibilities, educate themselves and others on current events issues, and more. In Week 3 the first-years played an invaluable role in the camp-wide Peace Olympics, teaching their fellow campers as well as leading them in cheers and creating songs, skits, dances, and a mural--all why participating in various sports events! Many of the first years are just as athletic as they are intelligent.

In Week 4, the first year CITs went on their four-day overnight trip to the Finger Lakes in upstate New York. The trip was a blast. We went to a waterpark as well as an amusement park, shopped in Ithaca, visited an animal sanctuary in the Catskills, met the cast to a wonderful production of Kinky Boots, and cheered at a minor league baseball game.



The August session has included more education and training through working with children as well as through the Kinderland cultural program. Specifically, the first year CITs helped run a particularly well organized Hiroshima & Nagasaki Commemoration and attended a Peace Vigil. But besides their political work, the CITs have found time in their busy schedules to enjoy some good old group time. We will be sad to see them go, but look forward to having them back for another round next year!

From Raquel (Drama/Games specialist and Carnival Coordinator):



We had a great carnival this year in keeping with the summer's theme: A River of the People: A Mighty Force for Social Justice. Each group made 2 or 3 booths inspired by the theme. They were creative & thoughtful. The carnival began with an acrobatic routine inspired by our trip to Circus Smirkus. It ended with campers enjoying cheese, pickles, and watermelon while listening to a CIT's ukulele tune.

From Judee (Cultural Coordinator):



On August 6, the CITs organized and led our annual commemoration of the bombing of Hiroshima. The waterfront vigil reminds the camp of the terrible destruction caused by nuclear weapons and points the way towards working for peace. During the day, quotations posted around camp, mini-choices and workshops keep the memory alive and tie that past to current situations, exploring possibilities for action.

On August 9, CITs and some staff joined Winsted Peace Action committee in the town square in a candlelight vigil commemorating the bombing of Nagasaki, and pledging to work for an end to nuclear weapons.

Campers were re-introduced to the theme of the summer, and learned about the people for whom their bunks are named. They are now working with Austin Yelenik to create a quilt that represents those people and the issues for which they fought.

Our resident Yiddishists (graduates and students of the Kinderland Shule in Brooklyn) continue to teach a new Yiddish word or phrase every night at Share.



Kinderland joined with Habonim Dror's Camp Gilboa to start a #CampsAgainstCamps campaign that will reach out to other Jewish camps and institutions. WE say we stand in solidarity with Never Again Action and the 11 million undocumented immigrants in the United States today.

Five members of Combatants for Peace, American, Israeli and Palestinian, came and spoke very movingly about the life experiences that had led them to forge unity with each other and become combatants for peace.