

# Echo Hill 25 Years Ago!

*Summer of '73:  
Can you name these  
Campers?*

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.....

We'd love to place your memories here.  
Send us your pictures, stories, and  
thoughts about Echo Hill and we'll  
share them in the next newsletter.



## **ECHO HILL CAMBERSHIP FUND**

P.O. Box 5923  
Bethesda, Maryland 20824-5923



# NEWS FROM ECHO HILL CAMPSHIP FUND

FALL/WINTER 1998

VOLUME X

## *Letter from the Board*

Dear Friends:

It's been a tremendous year for the Echo Hill Campership Fund!

We witnessed several important landmarks — all made possible by your generosity and commitment to passing on the Echo Hill experience to kids who otherwise wouldn't experience the unique Echo Hill moments that brought us back summer after summer.

First, we were able to send more children to camp than ever before! Seven children went to camp for two- and four-week camperships. One of the children was honored with receiving the inaugural Peter P. Rice, Sr. Campership, which was established in 1996 to honor the memory of Peter Rice, Sr.'s dedication to children. It was made possible by the contributions of his friends and family and the special efforts of Pauline Rice who asked friends to honor her husband's memory by contributing to this special charity. As for the campership kids, they had a great summer, too. These campers continue to contribute to and be rewarded by the Echo Hill experience.

Second, our efforts to reach out to the Echo Hill community resulted in an outpouring of support for EHCF. Our recent letter entitled, *Everything I Ever Needed to Know I Learned at Echo Hill....* brought us responses from many Echo Hillites, reminding us all of the shared experiences from summers on the bay. (We also got some good dirt for the widely read (but little researched) gossip column.)

Third, plans are in motion for our next big Echo Hill Reunion and

*continued on page 2*

## Campership Reflections

*I am writing this because I feel it is way past due and because someone thought enough of me and my opinion to ask if I could write about whatever feelings I have about camp, so here goes:*

*I started camp in the summer of 1994. When I say that it seems so long ago, though it was only 5 summers in the past. I remember how much I talked all the way to camp from DC and though Nicole Halbreiner and I had just met, she listened intently and responded with genuine interest. We stopped in Chestertown for things I had forgotten and kept on to Echo Hill.*

*When I saw the sign I became excited. Butterflies fluttered around in my stomach and I didn't know what to expect. We drove up to the Driftwood and I was signed-in. The summer flew by in 4 weeks, as I cried myself to sleep 2 nights during the first week, had an extremely bad asthma attack the second week, got all familiar with mosquitoes the third and couldn't imagine leaving by the fourth week. I made friends, my first year at Echo Hill, who encouraged me to do what would've come naturally anyway: die to come back next summer!*

*Although I did not know if I was worthy enough to return to Echo Hill, someone thought I was and I returned in 1995.*

*Each summer I went back I took more chances, not limiting myself to certain activities, and had even more fun than the summer before. Each time I came home people wanted to know what it was exactly that made me endure the worst mosquito bites ever known to man, countless emergency room visits for asthma attacks, and many nights pondering over the idea whether I should stay in bed or make the infamous 50 yard dash to the privy. I really could not tell them then and I can't tell you now.*

*I've taken the good with the bad, the harmony with the heartache, and it hasn't hurt me any. What can I say, some people don't like it, so they don't come back the next summer. Not everyone can look behind the heat, sweat, and mosquito bites to find the love, friendship, and endurance camp brings. After the first summer they simply cannot make it (some don't even make it through the whole summer).*

*Then there are the others who love camp oh, so much; they come back even as counselors to ensure the tradition of excellence carries on.*

*continued on page 2*

## Letter from the Board

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Fundraiser. Save June 5, 1999 for a long-awaited return to camp. It's a perfect way to enjoy the "land of pleasant living", while supporting a charity that has been changing the lives of kids for nearly ten years. How many of you have said, "It'd be great to go back, even for just a day." or "I wonder what so-and-so is up to?" Maybe she'll come to the reunion." (We happen to know so-and-so is coming, so now you have no excuse.) As for the family-sized among us, our reunions are always family friendly, a reflection of simple demographics and their impact on the EHCF Board (congratulations to Carla (Markim) and Gregg Siegel and their son Joshua. The Siegels join Neil, Nick, Laura (as well as former Boardmembers Nicole (Alfandre) Halbreiner, Kate (Silberman) Balaban and Alan MacLeod, all of whom became parents during their EHCF tenure. Please mark your calendars now. We'll be in touch with the details.

Finally, through the generosity of the ASUSA Foundation, the EHCF has established an endowment which will serve as a sustainable means of providing camperships for years. We hope to use this endowment to entice other foundations and corporations to contribute in kind and we thank ASUSA for their steadfast support of the campership fund.

As we used to conclude Sunday staff meetings, "I guess that just about wraps it up." We want to thank you all once again for helping us help these kids. But, we hope you will continue your generous support and let others know that there is one charity that provides children with the priceless experience of a summer at camp and the challenges and friendships that make up memories for a lifetime. Thanks for being a part of it.

Sincerely,

Hugh, Christy, Carkey, Dan, Emily, Neil, Nick, Laura  
the EHCF Board

## Campership Successes

continued from page 1

*Last year was my CA summer. And I tried to squeeze all I could into 2 weeks, but of course, it wasn't enough. I took the 5th annual emergency room visit, did the swamp muck I promised myself I would do and even signed up for archery. The summer was chock full of memories I hope to keep for the rest of my life.*

*I don't know how to close all of this. Memories of a past Echo Hill camper go on for pages and pages without any concrete ending, and so my ending seems appropriate because for everything at Echo Hill and all I have taken from it, all I can say is thank you.*

*I thank Nick Kirsch, for thinking I was special enough to share this precious gift called Echo Hill with me. Who knows, perhaps I'll be a counselor when Niko is old enough to come. Thank you Pete and Penny, for seeing my need for Echo Hill and allowing me to come back every year. Thanks Danny for keeping up with me and making a way through*

*any and all circumstances, for me to be back year after year. Thank you counselors and campers from 94-98 for keeping Echo Hill what it should be.*

*Thanks to the Diva's, while not always*

*understanding each other, we did manage to make it out alive! Helene and Christine L. What can I say, if you do it again next year, more power to you, I love you. To all the campers I did not mention, I will see you next summer, counselor or not. And to all the*

*wonderful people, parents and counselor alumni who donate to the campership fund, I thank you. You really have no idea how much it means that I, along with others, have had such a great opportunity to partake of all that is Echo Hill.*

*Thank you again, and I will see you soon!*  
Sincerely,



April Davis

***"Each summer I went back I took more chances, not limiting myself to certain activities, and had even more fun than the summer before"***

*Miss the carefree days of summer?*

*Visit the virtual Echo Hill!*

**online**  
Echo Hill

Echo Hill Campership Fund: [www.ehcf.org](http://www.ehcf.org)  
Echo Hill Camp: [www.echohillcamp.com](http://www.echohillcamp.com)

**E•H•C•F**

**ECHO HILL  
CAMBERSHIP FUND**

P.O. Box 5923  
Bethesda, MD 20824-5923  
(301) 907-8934

### MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Hugh Beshers  
Christy Concannon  
Danny Gardner  
Emily Ignat  
Nick Kirsch  
Neil Levine  
Laura Margolis  
Carkey Markim Siegel

# THE CHALLENGE

← **\$50,000 by 1999**

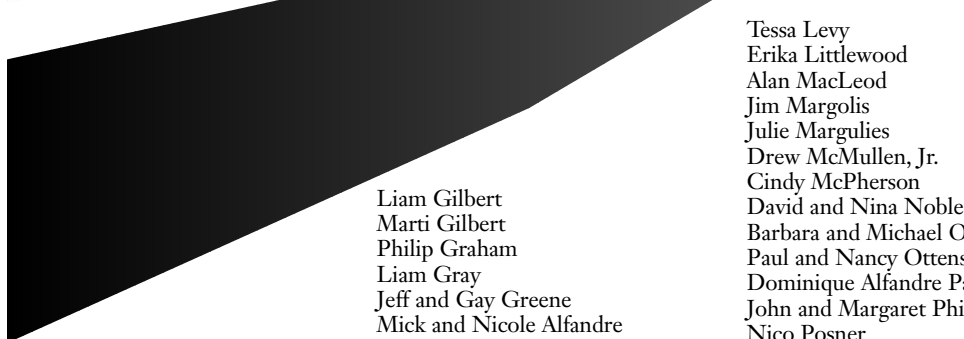
We've done well in '98, but it's time to think about your 1999 donation. Help us meet our goal of \$50,000 by 1999!

**Total to date:  
\$34,960**

**1998 \$14,280**

**1997 \$14,380**

**1996 \$6,300**



## 1998 Camperships

**W**ell, we did it again. For the fourth straight year EHCf increased the number of camperships awarded from the previous year. In 1998, your donations helped send seven kids to soak up a summer of zaniness and mystery at Echo Hill. Five of these kids were returning veterans, while two other members of this illustrious group were new recruits to the unique way of life out on Bloomingneck Farm. But we know for a fact that **ALL** of them had the time of their lives. We know because they tell us: in letters they send, in the quality of friendships made, and in their tearful expressions when we pick them up on the last day. We know because Pete and Penny marvel every year at the connections these kids are making to the people and the bayside setting of Echo Hill.

Relationships formed during the summer bridge the seasons to the following summer; years of camp experiences develop great friendships and lifelong bonds to a few hundred acres of Eastern Shore farmland. Read the letter on the front page of this newsletter if you doubt, or forget, the impact that a few summers at camp can make. There are six other kids thanking you for making Echo Hill a part of their lives, too.

## Peter P. Rice Sr. Campership Awarded

**I**n the summer of 1998, the first Peter P. Rice, Sr., Memorial Campership was awarded to a truly deserving kid who was returning to camp for his second time. Established in 1997 by the family and friends of Peter and Pauline Rice, this award pays tribute to Pete Sr.'s compassion for and dedication to children.

*Your donations fill our sails!*

## 1998 Donors

Robert Alfandre  
Linda Alter  
Richard and Nancy Balaban  
Alex Grigg Beitz  
Elena Burch  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas J. Colucci  
Genevieve Coyle  
Marisa LaDuca Crandall  
Jillian Cutler  
Jane Hutt Defnet  
Barbara Dombroski  
Sacha Frey  
Ann Gaillard  
Amelia Gardner  
Bob and Jane Gibb

Liam Gilbert  
Marti Gilbert  
Philip Graham  
Liam Gray  
Jeff and Gay Greene  
Mick and Nicole Alfandre  
Halbreiner  
Aileen Hefferren and Charles Harkless  
Ronnie and Bob Hartman  
Bob Hauptman  
David Hultkrans  
Emily Ignat  
Mark James  
Natalie Joost  
Lauren Hackel Katz  
Amy Kitzen  
Marc Kraft  
Martha Lask  
Neil Levine  
David Levy

Tessa Levy  
Erika Littlewood  
Alan MacLeod  
Jim Margolis  
Julie Margulies  
Drew McMullen, Jr.  
Cindy McPherson  
David and Nina Noble  
Barbara and Michael Orden  
Paul and Nancy Ottenstein  
Dominique Alfandre Palmer  
John and Margaret Phillips  
Nico Posner  
Jeff Rosenberg  
Nancy Sausser  
Jane Bierman Seibel  
Larry and Rose Silberman  
Brad and Lauren Kozloff Sinrod  
Betsy Uhl Stallworth  
Pat Szymanski  
Sarah Ann Tomlin  
Ann Dee Tucker  
Keith Vaughan  
Jaqueline Viess  
Shana Washington & Family  
Jerome Weiland  
Allen and Judith Weltmann  
Marge Augustine Willowmoon

### *In Memory of Peter P. Rice, Sr.*

Mr. and Mrs. Albert S. Commette  
Mr. and Mrs. Otto H. Madorie, Jr.  
Andrew and Betsy McCown  
Marcia Reilly  
Pauline Van Norman Rice  
Terry and Deborah Rice  
Lee, Susan, and Blake Stamford

### *In Memory of...*

*(those remembered in brackets)*

Gloria Balaban (Herman Balaban)  
Leonard and Loretta Buten (Kenny Buten)  
Wyndham and Alisone Clarke (Marie Figarsky)  
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Commette (Ashley McShane)  
Christy and Matt Concannon (Michael J. Concannon)  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Creamer (Paul Sternthal)  
Nick Kirsch (Kenny Buten)  
Mary Krasny (Ted Krasny)  
Alfred and Sondra Markim (Kathy Klar)  
Elizabeth Skaggs (Stephen "Skeeter" Skaggs)  
Sue Weintraub (Bloomah Jacobson Grant & Ira Baker)

# Cherished Echo Hill Moments

**Barbara Orden:** My son, *Michael Orden*, now nearing age 40, always speaks fondly and enthusiastically about his wonderful experiences at Echo Hill. I am grateful as a parent for the excellent influence Echo Hill had on the development of my child.

**Betsy Stallworth:** There are so many ways that my experiences at Echo Hill have affected me over the years it's difficult to include them all here. One experience has stayed with me. It was Echo Ring (1970 or 1972).

**Peter Rice Jr.** talked about things that were "intangible." I was 8 or 10 and both that moment and the meaning he gave to that word have been incredibly important to me through the years.

**Nicole Alfandre Halbreiner:** (1) Knots (thank you *Marc Kraft* and all the *Gardner* men) that bowline sure comes in handy sometimes, as do many others. (2) Songs-what do people sing to their children if they didn't go to camp? "Rise & Shine" is one of the best travel songs around!

**Dominique Alfandre:** I actually hated camp the one summer I went there. I make this contribution in honor of my sister *Nicole* and in gratitude to the EHCF board after years of yeomen service.

**Mark James:** Echo Hill has taught me to be myself even with all my silliness and zany antics without the fear of being a fool. And, through the years, there remains the comfort of being totally free, free of judgement, free of what people might think, free of society's restrictions, free to be multiple-personality-disorder-Man.

**David "Yoni" Hultkrans:** Camp is where superficial boundaries are broken, and where a personality can blossom.

## Messages to the Echo Hill Tribe:

**Pauline Van Norman Rice:** I wish you happiness and joy in your reunion and

that you are able to continue these wonderful gatherings with family and friends. *Pete* (Sr.) would be so proud.

**Annie Gaillard:** What I would love to recreate is two months of playing at Echo Hill. I mean really. I wish I could do it for two months- "hmmm-today I'll canoe, water-ski, ride, and have a bonfire with a bunch of friends and sleep under the stars." Every day I try to bring a little bit of Echo Hill into my life. Sure would be a better world if more people did.

**Marisa Laduca:** Echo Hill formed my cynical view of the world. Yet, I plan to send my new daughter, *Ellery Scout Crandall*, to camp as soon as she's old enough.

**Mary Krasny:** As *Ted Krasny's* mom and *Laura Krasny's* grandmother, I want to let Echo Hill know how much the years at camp meant to them. Ted had a tumultuous teen-age period. Echo Hill had a great deal to do with helping him out. Ted teaches school in

Barcelona. Echo Hill was a wonderful influence and gave *Laura* many happy summers. *Laura* is working hard and enjoying living in a group house. Many thanks to *Pete* and *Penny*, and all the staff.

**Gloria Balaban:** Three sons, *Mike*, *Rick*, and *Steve* all went to Echo Hill and this past summer, three Balaban grandsons went to camp: *Japhet*, *Caleb*, and *Jack*.

**Tessa Levy:** Some of my fondest memories date back to the summers of 1972-1976. I've been living in Colorado since 1981 and for the past five years have been working as a psychotherapist at the Denver V.A. I still maintain close contact with Echo Hill alumnus *Ann Dee Tucker* and *Joanne Miller*. It's great to get these brief updates and glimpses. Send my regards to *Katie Silverman Balaban*, *Pete* and *Libby Rice*, *Laura* and *Jim Margolis*, *Tony*, *Luis* and *Carman Casas*, *Kraft* and *Gardner* clans, *Frank Lucas*, *Micheal* (trash) *Hertz*, *Paul* (monkey) *Graboff*,

*Bob* and *Susie Creamer*, *Nick Kirsch* (my first date for the last dance, 1973), *Mark Friedman*, *Jimmy Stone*, and *Alan Mcleod*.

**Mrs. Stanford**, mother of *Blake Stanford*, says hello to one of her former kindergarten students, *Bobby Randall*.

## Echo Hill Briefings:

**Ron Spitz** is living in D.C. and working for Representative *Jim Maloney*. Ron handles energy, environment, arts/humanities, and telecommunication issues, and he recently completed the Marine Core Marathon!

**Sam Cogen** and **Rachel Skolnik** are the real life *Law and Order* Couple of Baltimore, MD. (with all apologies to Charm City's own *Homicide*; some might even remember Sam's cameo as a cop who got sick from eating too many donuts). Sam is a special investigator for the sheriff's office, while Rachel works as an Assistant State's Attorney. When asked if they see elements of their real life in the TV show, Sam threatens you with bodily harm. Oh, and by the way, they got engaged on November 6.

**Nicole Kramer** was thrown a surprise birthday party by *Kiefer Mitchell*. **Lynda Kramer**, **Sam Cogen**, **Rachel Skolnik**, and **Hugh Besbers** were in attendance. In typical Echo Hill fashion, "Happy Birthday to You" was off-key, garbled, and totally unintelligible.

Baltimore Councilman *Kiefer Mitchel* and World Champion Yankee's batboy **Liam Gilbert** are coaching the Boys Latin JV basketball team. Practice is pretty interesting: for every missed free throw the player must clean the privies; for every made free throw the player is rewarded with a bowl of Honey's Old Fashioned Shepherd's Pie.

**Raleigh Myers** earned a Masters in Management of Natural Resources at N.C. State in Raleigh, North Carolina. Raleigh lives in Raleigh. Proving once again the best poetry is geographical.

**Ronna Gradus**, **Katherine Hope**, **Carey Robertson**, **Campbell Mclean**, and **Glenna Macgregor** were spotted in New Orleans during Halloween weekend. They dressed up as their favorite campers (aka "Penny's") choice activities. **Katherine Hope** won second prize as our favorite and yours, *S'mores on the Beach*.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

*The Campership Fund Reunion will be held AT CAMP on Saturday, June 5, 1999.*

Join us for an End-of-Millennium Bash at Echo Hill, relive some great memories, create new ones, and support the Echo Hill Campership Fund all at the same time! Details to follow—Spread the word! Echo Hill Alumni, Friends, and Family Welcome. Looking forward to seeing you!

**Lisa Sunden** is a nurse in Austin, Texas. She is applying for graduate school to get an advanced degree in Housewifery.

**Josh Abrams** is a professional musician in Chicago. Josh mostly plays Jazz, but he is involved in other genres. He has contributed to a few CDs and several projects he is working on now should be released this spring.

**Carlos Blackburn** is applying to graduate schools in Australia to get an advanced degree in Anthropology.

**Matt Heller** is living in New York City with his wife **Susan Holmes** and four-year-old son **Nathaniel**.

**Mike Chung**...still missing.

**Bobby Randall** and fiance

**Suzanna Mapes** have moved to Salt Lake City and have plans for a *Space 1999* Wedding.

**Erin Fallon** and **Jay Sinrod** hosted an NYC/EHCF party in early November. The New York Times raved, "Four Stars... a triumph of the human spirit." In the spirit of counselor week, green paint was liberally applied to the bodies of all revellers.

**Penny Weintraub**, **Captain Nick Biles** and Team Outdoor School recently smeared the competition in the C-Town Mayonnaise 100.

New parents **Ben** and **Mary (Helms)** and son **Sean Andrew Noble** are doing well in Charlotte, NC.

**Emily Ignat** and **Matt Concannon** are back from a whirlwind tour of France. Hostess **Christy Concannon** plied them with Pinot Noir and brie but Emily and Matt clamored for Crumpton Funnel Cakes.

Former Kent County drag racer **Rob "Jeff Gordon" Ferber** happily owns and operates the all-organic Philly Chili Company in south Jersey.

**Andrea Kondracke** is nearing completion of medical

school at Johns Hopkins University in Bal'mer.

Real estate moguls **Tommy "Volare" Mallon** and wife **Trish** proudly announce the arrival of effervescent son **Santiago**.

**Reggie (Adam) Skolnik** and wife **Kate** are pleased with the progress that young **Jack** continues to demonstrate handicapping the ponies at Laurel Racetrack.



## In Memory of Claudia Kraft

It is with great sadness that we share the news that Claudia Kraft, a beloved member of our community, passed away earlier this year. Claudia was only 41 years old and it is tragic how short her time with us was. A camper and counselor from the late 60's through the mid 70's, she was one of seven Krafts who had a huge impact on the camp spirit of that era. She was a beautiful young woman and a gifted athlete who loved nature. She excelled in gymnastics, dance, canoeing, water skiing and land-sports. She had the capacity to energize people with her enthusiasm, wit, and creative spirit. Rest in peace Claudia. You have a place in our hearts.

## THANKS!

*A special thanks to Mary Pettigrew of amp&rsand graphic design who kindly donated her time to design this newsletter.*

*The Board also extends a special thanks to Joan Schwartz, owner of Communications In Print, 10462 Auto Park Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817 (301) 469-6886, who graciously donated a large portion of the printing of this newsletter. ■*

## PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO EHCF

And return it with this coupon to: EHCF, P.O. Box 5923, Bethesda, MD 20824-5923

I/We have enclosed a tax-deductible contribution of:  \$35  \$50  \$100  \$250  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name .....

Address.....

Phone ..... In memory of (optional) .....

### THANKS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION!!!

*Please keep us up to date about you, your family or friends, or use this space to send a message to a camp friend – we'll print in the next newsletter!*

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