



EQUINUNK

# the BUZZER



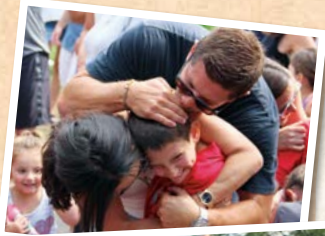
BLUE RIDGE

FALL 2018

## WELCOME!

As the leaves continue to fall, the temperature continues to drop, and the Thanksgiving feast is readied, we all try to take a step back and think about what we are truly thankful for in our lives.

A commonality we notice amongst our **Equinunk** and **Blue Ridge** campers is that they are all thankful for the opportunity to go to camp! This is music to our ears and reassures us that **Equinunk** and **Blue Ridge** continue to provide the wholesome environment of time-honored traditions that date back nearly 100 years! As much as we love and appreciate hearing about how much **Equinunk** and **Blue Ridge** means to people, what sometimes gets lost is all that our parents do in order to send us to camp. This Thanksgiving, we at **Equinunk** and **Blue Ridge** would like to give a special recognition and thank you to our camp parents who do so much and provide their children the chance to have a truly spectacular summer at **Equinunk** and **Blue Ridge**.



## Blue Ridge on Broadway The Greatest Show



This October, we got together with some of our 2018 Sophomore girls and their mothers for our biennial Blue Ridge on Broadway! The fall is always such a nice time to catch up, reminisce on summer 2018 and look ahead to summer 2019! We enjoyed a very special private brunch party at The Sugar Factory in

At some points we wondered if we were at a Cirque Du Soleil show! It also seemed fitting—with 80 Blue Ridge guests in the audience, that The Big Apple Circus this season has their very first female ring master who led the show with confidence, whimsy, and an amazing energy. We thank everyone who was able to join us and made the day so special.

NYC with great food and some amazing ice cream sundaes with “mushy cookies.” It’s so nice to see that not only do our campers form the best bonds with their camp friends—but the mothers have made new friends and connections too!

It felt very appropriate to experience an opening day performance of The Big Apple Circus after the popularity of The Greatest Showman this past summer! Being in The Big Apple Circus tent felt classic and reminiscent of the 1850s when The Greatest Showman took place however, they have certainly taken the circus to new heights—literally! The modern circus is much more than clowns and juggling! The performances dazzled with live music and showcased amazing talents on the trampoline, acrobatics, and of course, the flying trapeze!

To quote P.T. Barnum in The Greatest Showman—“The noblest art, is that of making other people happy”—Not only is this how we feel about spending the day with our Equinunk and Blue Ridge families, but also how we feel about our experiences at camp over the summer, and how fostering these connections and friendships makes all of us so happy throughout the year.

#WELIVEFORTHIS





# RICHIE'S THANKSGIVING STORY

As far back as I can remember to my childhood days in Brooklyn, Thanksgiving has always been my favorite holiday. I was filled with anticipation and especially thankful for a three-day school week. It seems like yesterday that I was looking forward to an entire weekend of amazing food, a touch football game with friends and spending time with a very large extended family as well as a group of dear friends.

As Sheryl goes into countdown mode for our annual Thanksgiving dinner, her recipe for success looks easy although, it's anything but. Shopping, cooking and planning for everyone's special needs and desires is all done with love. Children, grandchildren and friends all arrive in descending waves that weekend. The first ones to arrive come with devotion and love and enjoy helping in the many tasks involved with the holiday preparation. After years of training, it's seamless and runs like clockwork. Children appear with flowers, fruit and pies from the east end farm stands. Special desserts are brought out from favorite NYC bakeries. Dinner is preceded by going around the table and hearing what everyone is thankful for, particularly a special thank you to Sheryl for her amazing efforts. "When you've got a wife, mother, grandmother, friend and boss like that, then you've got something!!!" It's like CBR's Mess Hall is echoing to our very own dining room. Our meal lasts longer than any twenty-minute dinner at Equinunk and about as long as at CBR if you include all the time spent on singing and cheering.

As time passes, I just enjoy being quiet, sitting back, observing everyone's conversation and focusing on our grandchildren. Almost on cue, I see our oldest grandson and Sheryl locked in a smile and quickly go off to their annual table tennis tournament. They are ferocious and there is no grandma/grandson leniency, particularly as he's gotten older! It feels like camp, as our granddaughter springs into a combination of cartwheels, round-offs and somersaults while our two-and-a-half-year-old grandson kicks and chases soccer balls across the kitchen and family room amid the cheers of doting relatives.

A setting sun and too much food seems to have lulled everyone into a quieter place and I disappear into myself and fall into my favorite spot on the couch. I smile at everyone as I lose the battle of trying to keep my eyes open. This is the time when I reminisce about the most unique Thanksgiving I ever spent. I'm back to 1969 on Delta's NY flight to Columbus, Ohio. I needed to get back on Friday for graduate school classes and the big football game the next day. After the game, I took a taxi back to my apartment and noticed that a small black object was lying right in front of my front door. I bent down, picked it up and realized it was a wallet. I didn't

know that at that moment, the meaning of Thanksgiving was about to change for me forever. There wasn't any money in the wallet, only a driver's license and two black and white photos. Robert Goodwin—that was his name. In one of the pictures, he was standing with his arm around a woman who looked like she might have been his grandmother. In another one, he was about nine or ten and dressed in a baseball uniform with a big smile on his face. I vaguely knew the address on the license and I figured why not do something nice—it's Thanksgiving and I would make him happy by returning this to him. The address was somewhere in the projects and it started to get really cold as I made my way over there, getting lost a few times trying to find the right building as they all looked the same. I finally got to the apartment I was looking for and I rang the bell. Nothing happened and I assumed no one was home. Just when I was about to give up, I heard someone shuffling to the door. An old woman's voice asked, "Who's there?" and I said I was looking for Robert Goodwin. "Is that you, Robert?" the old woman said and she undid about fifteen locks and opened the door. She had to be at least eighty-five or ninety years old, and the first thing I noticed about her was that she was blind. "I knew you'd come home, Robert," she said. "I knew you wouldn't forget your Grandma Ethel on Thanksgiving." She opened her arms and hugged me. I didn't have much time to think, and before I knew what was happening, I realized by pretending to be her grandson, I was giving joy to a lonely person on Thanksgiving. Don't ask me why I did this but I didn't want to disappoint her and I never said I was her grandson. I wasn't trying to trick her. It was like a game we decided to play. Granny Ethel knew I wasn't her grandson but it made her happy to pretend. It was Thanksgiving, and I was happy to go along with her, so we spent the day together. She asked me about school, sports and my friends. I told her a hundred funny stories and she enjoyed every one of them. After a while we were both getting hungry so I went to the market, got some pre-cooked turkey, an assortment of sides and a great chocolate cake for dessert. We had dessert in her living room and as Granny Ethel dozed off, I went to the kitchen to clean up and do the dishes. She was still asleep when I finished so I left Robert's wallet on the table, covered her with her shawl and left her apartment. As I made my way home, I smiled and realized that there is more to Thanksgiving than turkey and football games with friends. I brought joy into her life and I realized that the greatest joy comes from giving of yourself and doing for others.

I'm sure we all realize how lucky we are and how much we have to be thankful for. My hope is that when you reflect on what is most important this holiday season, you will realize that kindness and making others happy is the greatest gift.

Much joy, love, thankfulness and charity, *Richie*

## Seriously Not Serious

Interview with Gil and Lori

**You are the only one in camp...what is the first thing you do?**

Lori - Go down to the lake.

Gil - I go to one of two places—the steps outside the office and look out or the benches down by the lake—just relax and listen to the sounds of nature and the beauty that camp has to offer.

**If you were a camper what would be your favorite activity?**

Lori - Singing

Gil - Soccer!!!! really anything sports related. I would also really like the hikes and campouts.

**If you were a superhero, which other staff member would you pick as your sidekick?**

Lori - Sheryl

Gil - Maciej, so he can get me the proper food to keep up my diet and give me superpowers to be as strong as ever!

**Pick any sport, would you rather be the best player on the worst team, or the worst player on the best team?**

Lori - Best player on the worst team.

Gil - I want to be the worst player on the best team. I want to surround myself with the best and keep getting better.

**Cats or Dogs?**

Lori - Dogs

Gil - Dogs

**Hot Dogs or Hamburgers?**

Lori - Hamburgers

Gil - Hamburgers made by Premy

**Favorite TV Show?**

Lori - I Love Lucy

Gil - Big Bang Theory

**iPhone or Android?**

Lori - iPhone

Gil - iPhone

**If you could be on any color war team at any time what team would it be and why?**

Lori - Blue Circus 1980 – Best team ever!

Gil - Bernie Strauss's team Family – spoken about so much would love to experience it.

**If you could break color war in any way possible what would it be?**

Lori - A visit from the NY Yankees.

Gil - Goodyear Blimp coming over campus as everyone came out of breakfast or lunch.

**Red or Grey/ Blue or Grey?**

Lori - BLUE and GREY

Gil - Red

**What is your favorite part of tribes?**

Lori - The 4 lamps.

Gil - I absolutely love the stories—and that the traditions are timeless.

**Would you be an E/B Award winner?**

Lori - Of course.

Gil - That question was answered 2018 on the last night of camp when I was awarded the E Award.

**If you were competing in the staff talent show what act would you perform?**

Lori - Comedy

Gil - Marc Ginsburg and I would sing "Anything You Can Do, I Can Do Better." I'm a terrible singer and would never be able to pull this off. Terrible is a kind description.

**Fun Fact about yourself?**

Lori - I love Broadway Musicals.

Gil - Was 2007 Chief Brett Zuckerman's counselor/GH in 1993, 1994, his teacher in 1998 and his soccer coach in 1999.

**Fun Fact about camp that most people wouldn't know?**

Lori - We used to have typing as an activity.

Gil - That when I first started working at camp the staff laundry area used to be a full working bakery. The smell in the mornings was spectacular.

**Favorite Camp saying?**

Lori - Everybody up, up, up!

Gil - What's next and how can I help?

**Chocolate or Vanilla?**

Lori - Swirl

Gil - Vanilla

**If you were the captain of a pirate ship what would you name your ship?**

Lori - CBR

Gil - MBS Avenger





## Facility Spotlight

Fall in Wayne County Pennsylvania is a spectacular season for the area—gorgeous colors, cool dry air, crisp apples, brilliant pumpkin patches and at Equinunk & Blue Ridge...the digging of excavators, the swinging of cranes, the roaring of tractors, and the unmistakable sound of hammering nails. That's right, it is building season at EBR. We are in the precious window of time from when camp ends to when the heavy snow of winter arrives where most of our crucial building is done. Excavation, site prep, pouring foundations, setting trusses and framing of buildings all must get done before the weather brings a halt to our exterior building work. Even many of the massive drainage projects and new field expansion taking place this year must be done during this time to allow the ground to 'settle' during the winter months for final landscaping in the spring. So let's get into it, here are just some of the major projects underway this fall at Camps Equinunk and Blue Ridge.

While the current EBR Amphitheater located on our CBR campus is less than 20 years old, our music and theater programs have grown in leaps and bounds during that time, as have the size and complexity of the artists and performances of our outside entertainers. It is with this in mind, we decided to create a brand new amphitheater for our campers. In addition to state-of-the-art sound and lighting for camp theater productions, the stage house will be home to GleeBR and a new music program and recording studio for Blue Ridge. Constructed right into the hillside of the former theater site, this magnificent amphitheater will provide a perfect setting for our camp shows, CBR Friday night services and the dozens of special events and outside entertainers we bring to EBR each summer.

They say you cannot always control the weather and while this may be true, we can certainly prepare for it. We have built up our campus infrastructure over the past few years to bury power lines, install backup generators to all the water wells, pumping stations, septic plant, commissary and both kitchens as well as incorporating four designated storm shelters into recent construction. Last summer the first three weeks of blue skies and intense heat were followed by four weeks of unprecedented rain which ultimately led to new and innovative programming as well as around the clock facility and field care. As we do each August, Sheryl, Richie and I review the projects we have committed to and reflect on the summer's operations in order to identify further campus development needs. Added to an already ambitious 2019 development plan, we decided to enhance our ability to adapt to the ever changing weather conditions; with a new fully insulated roof and ventilation system for the CBR Mess Hall, a series of drainage systems and catch basins throughout both CE and CBR front campus, a redesign and upgrade to boys' front campus and walkways, new footpaths to CE Lehrer field, raising and expansion of the Equinunk handball fields, and the installation of several shade pavilions on both CE and CBR Lehrer fields in addition to both swimming pools. We also began initial site prep and drainage for the 2020 expansion of the CE Social Hall and enhancement of the flagpole area, a renovation of CBR HQ and the start of a three-year major renovation project of EBR staff housing.

Even though Equinunk, PA has already seen its first trace of snow, we are hopeful the weather will remain calm for just a few more weeks allowing us to complete the work at hand before the cold and snows of winter arrive. With many trips up to camp this fall and winter to check in on the many projects, make sure to keep checking our social media accounts for the latest photos and reports from 18417.

LET'S GET TOGETHER





# WELCOME HOME

TO OUR 2019 NEW CAMPERS!



## BOYS

Alex Aronstein  
Blake Bender  
Colby Berkowicz  
Myles Birnbaum  
Mason Blum  
Noah Chodos  
Jack Dutton

Evan Dyme  
Dylan Fischer  
Carter Fishbach  
James Gordon  
Ashton Gross  
Ruben Harooni  
Spencer Herbsman  
Ari Hirsch  
Samuel Holzer  
Jordan Javeline  
Noah Kabakoff  
Alexander  
Kirschner  
Miller Kleiman

Teddy Kromberg  
Ethan Kwiat  
Owen Ladetsky  
Matthew Legouri  
Jayden Livingston  
Dylan Lota  
Ari Lupin  
Jared Mallen  
Jackson Margulies  
Sam Matlin  
Austin Minsky  
Brody Nadler  
Asher Natko  
Jack Rivkind

Oliver Rivkind  
Jake Rogowsky  
Nate Rosenblatt  
Evan Ross  
Jackson Saidel  
Aleks Salzman  
David Salzman  
Ben Sanders  
Justin Schnur  
Tyler Shamash  
Seth Shinder  
Jake Stutz



## GIRLS

Sari Battaglia  
Jayde Bernstein  
Samantha Brenner  
Zoey Dorn  
Madison Dworkin  
Dylan Elgort

Sophie Fenton  
Halle Forusz  
Jordan Friedman  
Sadie Glassgold  
Gemma Gold  
Brooke Goodman  
Juliette Harasymiak  
Charlotte Hoke  
Lola Irwin  
Tali Kabakoff  
Amanda Kahn  
Caroline Kahn

Blake Kamen  
Samantha Kern  
Samantha Kerven  
Dani Kline  
Alexis Leibowitz  
Sasha Levy  
Eliza Manton  
Emma Nadler  
Eva Porrazzo  
Emerson Redlich  
Marley Resnick  
Makayla Robinson

Stella Ross  
Skylar Rostolsky  
Dylan Rovelli  
Riley Sanderson  
Lilah Schwartz  
Dylan Silver  
Max Stein  
Madison Stutz  
Farrah Tepper  
Avery Wachtel  
Spencer Youngman



## Nicki's Fall Playlist



**Africa - Weezer**

**Summer on You - PRETTYMUCH**

**Waste it on me - Steve Aoki ft. BTS**

**A Million Dreams - P!nk**

**Thursday - Jess Glynne**

**Walk Alone - Rudimental ft. Tom Walker**

**Party for One - Carly Rae Jepsen**

**Polaroid - Jonas Blue, Liam Payne & Lennon Stella**

**Simple - Florida Georgia Line**

**Trust My Lonely - Alessia Cara**

## EXPERIENCE CAMPS

After camp came to a close last summer, Equinunk and Blue Ridge had the privilege of welcoming Experience Camps to our home away from home. Experience Camps is a one week bereavement camp in which every single camper has experienced the loss of a loved one. It's a place where kids can laugh, cry, play, create, remember the person who died, or forget the grief that weighs them down. Campers can feel "normal," because everyone there has been through something similar and understands what it's like to lose someone important to them.

This past summer was our first-time hosting Experience Camps! It was a magical week—everyone there felt the energy and the spirit. Every day had a clinical activity to help the campers with their bereavement process, but the rest of the time it's total fun and games. Think color war cheering mixed with the Upper Senior Basketball Game! The whole week was ELECTRIC!!! At night, we shifted gears to a much more serious tone. We had our special campfires in which someone would present a topic to the entire camp, maybe it was their story, or how someone in camp has helped them heal this week, or the differing emotions they were feeling that day. Whatever it was, there was always respect, love, and support for one another during all the activities.

We are proud and excited that Experience Camps will back for 2019 to play basketball in the hall, go down the water slide, compete in flag football up on Lehrer, and play Wiffle ball under the lights at the little "e."

So, you see—Experience Camps is VERY similar to daily life at CECBR. It is a place where kids go to be kids. Experience Camps have helped so many pick up the pieces of their life by providing a safe environment which demonstrates empathy, love, and support!

**You too can be a part of the Experience Camps family—in many different ways!**

We already have had several camp families donate their birthday money or do a bar/bat mitzvah project helping Experience Camps. Some of their campers don't have sufficient clothing, so if your son/daughter has grown out of their clothes and you would like to help please make a bag and send it to **PO Box 5099, Westport, CT 06881.**



**Volunteers are always needed (must be 19 or older) so please help in spreading the word!**

**Apply Here**

