



# Camp Nokomis Chatter

February 2011



**NOTES from the CAMP DIRECTOR...** There is no doubt that it is winter around here! Where I live is supposed to be the banana belt of New England, but for the last seven weeks we've been pretty much buried in snow with a fresh snow cover arriving every few days. The good part is that we see tons of birds at our feeder, and our living room bay window has stopped leaking. The annoying part is that we are forever chasing the squirrels away. No, we're not entirely heartless. We put out corn for them, but I'm not a huge fan of their hogging the suet bird feeder. Bill laughs at the noise I make when I chase them away.

Before that first snow fall, we had a terrific Christmas at our house with all my children, grandchildren, and two great grandchildren around at some point. We definitely experienced merriment. Then it was off to Faryn's house in Andover for a fabulous reunion with perhaps the largest attendance ever, 56 in all. What a joy to celebrate with all these people: Courtney Anglin, Emily and Jessie Baker, Anna Bradley-Webb, Kathryn Brebner, Allie Burdeau, Molly Cannon, Siobhan Coleman, Cassie Condon, Moira Cronin, Becky DeMott, Erin Farrington, Lindsey and Nicole Hamblet, Helena Hay, Sara Holby, Rebecca Hoskins, Julia Howard, Emily Kent, Mags Lederfine Paskal, Talia Livneh, Emma MacAllister, Michela Maczko, Sarah McGuire (Spam), Jaimie Merrell, Lydia Mesler, Lucy O'Keeffe, Sarah Papa, Jessica Parker (Sica), Karen Parker, Kelsey Perkins, Molly and Morgan Prudden, Julia Reedy, Gretchen Seifert, Emily Selwyn, Grace Senko, Faryn Shiro, Claudia SooHoo and daughter Callie, Spalding and Tim and their family, Stoney, Laura and Meghan Styles, Melissa Templeton, Cheryl Titone, Toni Vitagliano, Lizzie Weisman, Bill and me and the Shiros. The food was first rate and the sharing of news was interesting as always. The details I remember are recorded below.

Of course college applications, acceptances, and experiences were a huge topic of conversation. Those who appear to have made their college choices are these: Moira Cronin, who will participate in Division 1 Track at the University of Virginia (a great thing for camp because the practice schedule will allow her to return to camp this year), Mags Lederfine Paskal, who will attend Tulane University, possibly after a year with City Corps, Morgan Prudden, who will go to Wheaton College, and Maggierose Smith who will attend the University of New Hampshire. Those who are already enrolled in colleges seem to be very pleased with college life. The satisfied customers include Robin Armstrong (Tufts) Becky DeMott (Gettysburg), Helena Hay (Washington University of St. Louis), Julia Howard (Scripps College), Kelsey Perkins and Nicole Hamblet (Charleston College), Talia Livneh (Carnegie Mellon), Lucy O'Keeffe (Colby College) and Emily Selwyn (University of Vermont).

Other news follows: Erin Armstrong is majoring in biology and biotechnology and will be doing research with a biology professor next summer. She spent her fall semester in Costa Rica, theoretically doing environmental studies while enjoying exotic activities like walking through the rain forest and to volcanoes, traversing foggy mountain passes with a machete carrying escort, and crossing tree top canopy bridges. Robin and Erin Armstrong celebrated the holidays with a trip to Disney World and thus missed the reunion. Beth Benham has been hired as a full-time school nurse in a school that is ten minutes from her house, and her old job went to our own Ellen Smith. Beth and Martha Smith play basketball on Saturdays, just for fun. Jill Benham attends a small charter high school which has a focus on the arts. Her courses include Advanced Musical Theater and Show Choir. Sarah Boxer has been accepted at Skidmore College. Anna Bradley Webb earns the "longest distance traveled to the reunion" award this year, coming from France. She went to Africa in the fall and rumor has it she was almost attacked by a rhino. Grace and Molly Brigham and their family celebrated Christmas Eve with Stoney and her husband. Stoney reports that their dad is an awesome cook. Abby Champion is writing to Wambui Kimamo in Kenya. Molly Cannon has been accepted into the University of Vermont nursing program but is awaiting word on her other college applications before making a decision. Moira Cronin and Lydia Mesler went to the MIAA Girls Volleyball State Finals with their team that had a 24-1 season. Becky DeMott will student teach in a seventh grade math class this spring. Ben DeMott is enjoying his job teaching French to middle schoolers. Grindle and Dr. Peter finally had their honeymoon in Italy in January. Jane Higley is the only girl to make her high school's swim team. Of course we credit that to her years of Camp Nokomis swim lessons! Kate Holby had a great semester abroad. One of her triumphs was learning to speak Arabic. Sara Holby's tea business is really thriving. To date they have sent six students to school, and three more are waiting in the wings. All the students did well with their studies. Sara was in Kenya in January, meeting the students, visiting the women who work for the tea company, and seeing Charlie Seifert who is currently teaching there. Becca Hoskins is Captain of the Salem High School Swim Team and busy with college applications. And in the "small world" department Julia Howard goes to college in California where she has met these former Nokomis campers, Maddie Ripley, Danya Rubin, and Emily Linehan. Yes, our alumnae are everywhere! Julie is also taking Zumba classes and mentoring a child from Pomona Valley.

Talia Livneh, a college sophomore, is studying Civil and Environmental Engineering. Emma MacAllister plans to study nursing in whatever college she attends. Jordanne Miller danced the role of Clara in her dance school's performance of the Nutcracker. I received a picture of her dancing and it truly was exquisite. Meghan Phelan has made the Honor Roll as a new freshman at Austin Prep and was on the Junior Varsity Soccer Team. She attended a Nokomis gathering during the holidays. Julia Reedy loves sailing for the University of Delaware and is going backpacking in Costa Rica. She will be studying in Argentina next fall. Emily Selwyn is studying dietetics at UVM and often goes white water paddling. Riley Spring sent an adorable family photo Christmas card and Riley included a very special note. She eagerly awaits returning to camp. Riley's Mother was a camper when she was young and for several years her Grandmother was our Waterfront Director and a Class A swimming and lifeguarding instructor. Meghan Styles marching band will be playing for the Manchester Monarch's games. Toni Vitagliano participated in the Head of the Charles Crew Regatta and placed 9<sup>th</sup> with her new boat. Maggie Zarlengo has joined the academic decathlon team, the student council, and Chamber Singers at her school. In the fall the Singers sang with Grammy Award winning Sweet Honey in the Rock and for a change of pace performed Handel's Messiah with the Providence Singers and Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra. *(continued on the back)*

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Check our website for newsletters: [www.mvymcacamps.org](http://www.mvymcacamps.org)



Second session is now waiting list only and there are a limited amount of spaces available in the other sessions.  
Help us fill these spots and  
**COME TO OUR OPEN HOUSE**  
on March 27, 2011 at the  
Andover/North Andover YMCA from 2 to 4 pm  
Bring your friends to meet Debbie and view a slide show starting at 2:30 pm



You may already know that **David Hetherly**, Director of Camp Lawrence, has retired this winter. I will miss him. David has been a good friend to me and to Camp Nokomis, and has provided 18 years of dedicated and committed Leadership for Camp Lawrence, transforming it into a camp that promotes our core values and truly gives to boys a quality experience that will last a lifetime. He also gave to my husband and me the most amazing week ever, inviting us to his home in San Antonio last April and shepherding us around the city and to the games of the Women's Final Four. David and Lois are unbelievable hosts! He and I will continue to share our passion for the UConn Women's Basketball Team, currently 23-1. Camp Nokomis wishes David a happy retirement and great joy with his granddaughter, due in March. I have talked briefly with the new Director, Todd Lennig, and look forward to working with him this summer. It's very clear to me that Camp Lawrence's tradition of offering quality camping for boys is in good hands.

Having International Staff from around the world certainly enhances our concern for people everywhere. Every day lately we see scenes on television of rioting in Egypt. Thus it was with great relief that I heard from "our" Mohamed that he is safe and well. In the years since he left camp he has become a doctor, specializing in radiology, runs a small business, and is engaged. He is in my heart all the time. My fervent hope is that the words we often sing at camp, "Let me walk with my brother, in perfect harmony" will become real for Mohamed and for his country – as well as for us all – and that he will remain safe and well. As Valentine's Day approaches may each of us do what we can to "Fill the World with Love."

Love, *Debbie*

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