



*Karen O'Leary with Ann and Stanley Westfall*

## Herrlich History

From 1943 to 1948, (when she was between 10 and 15 years old,) Antoinette Fernandez came to Camp Herrlich each summer to be a camper. Every summer, just like our campers today, she boarded a bus in New York City and disembarked at Camp Herrlich up in “the country”- Putnam County. And, just like our campers today, she made friends, swam in the lake, hiked the hills, played camp games, sang camp songs, and learned all about herself, her fellow campers and staff, and the beauty of nature.

Now known as Ann Westfall, she came to visit us this summer. She and her husband Stanley live in Florida and were up north taking a tour of the important places in their lives. In fact, after her visit to camp, Ann and Stanley were on their way to visit the church in New York City where they were married. It was staggering to realize that five summers at camp could make such an impact on a camper's life that they would come an hour and a half out of their way to re-visit us and see how we were doing.

It was an honor to meet Ann and hear her story of Camp Herrlich. It is an honor to serve campers just like her every summer at Camp. It is an honor to carry on such a long-standing tradition of bringing children out of their normal environment and into a welcoming, familial, beautiful place so that they can learn about themselves today, like Antoinette did seventy years ago. Thank you, Ann and Stanley, for your visit and for being a part of the Herrlich Family.

*Jessica Vanacoro, Program Director*

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## Herrlich Family Finds Their Way Home

For years and years we have searched the globe for a Herrlich family member. For years we asked ourselves “Who or where are the Herrlichs?” “How could they have disappeared?” How can a family leave such a large gift to the community and then not continue to enjoy it—the gift of a family farm, to be used for children to escape the city and to enjoy one another and nature; the wish of Young Wilbur Herrlich, who unexpectedly died from appendicitis in the 1920s. We searched data bases, put articles in newspapers, and reviewed historical papers, and still no Herrlichs.

Funny how time and progress worked in our favor. The Herrlich camp store was put on our website, and the act of a descendent of Wilbur, looking for a Herrlich t-shirt and making a phone call to the camp office, put a halt on our search. It is hard to believe that a great niece of Wilbur’s, on a casual internet search, might come across a family legacy she knew little about. That was a year and a half ago, and in September on a wonderful fall weekend, the Herrlichs came home.

Nearly thirty descendants of Wilbur and Wilbur’s aunt, the oldest living relative, came to spend the weekend with us. We had the great pleasure of viewing age-old pictures and hearing stories of their family. We talked and shared, made lasting connections, and let them enjoy camp. The adults and their children were completely amazed at what Camp Herrlich has become and they responded with wonderful gifts and an attachment that will surely last for all of our lifetimes. What a wonderful thing, to have reconnected with such a giving and far-reaching family. We hope to always honor their great gift.

*Wendy B. Gentile*



*Herrlich Family*



*1968 Camp Staff Reunion*

## Herrlich History

The photograph depicts, from left to right: Linda Midtlyng; Ramona Lindsey; Rev. Ralph Midtlyng, 1962-72 camper, kitchen, head cook, resides in California; Norma Jean Olson Levett, 1968 counselor, resides in Maryland; Jim Lindsey, 1968-71 counselor, resides in Indiana; Tyrone Wims, 1968-70 counselor, resides in Pennsylvania; Charles Repka; Karen Kangas Repka, 1968-70 arts and crafts director, resides in New Jersey; Steve Perge, 1969-72 counselor, program director, resides in New York; and Karen Duehne Aromando, 1966-75 camper, kitchen, resides in New York.

The third weekend of September saw a number of former Camp Herrlich staffers from the summers of 1968 through 1971 gathering for a reunion at the camp. Amazingly, though some of us had been separated for over forty years, within minutes we were all acting like we’d never parted. Together, we wandered the grounds, hiked around the lake, visited the chapel, climbed the mountain, and checked out the cabin areas. We marveled at the “new” buildings and all of the changes and renovations we discovered. Thanks to Bob Gentile, we all learned more about the camp’s history, particularly about the Herrlich family and the camp’s present activities. But, mostly, we reminisced and caught up because nothing recharges one’s spirit quite like a beautiful setting and good friends to share it with.

*“Big Jim” Lindsey*

## Bob's Corner

## A Message from Our Executive Director

Hi Folks,

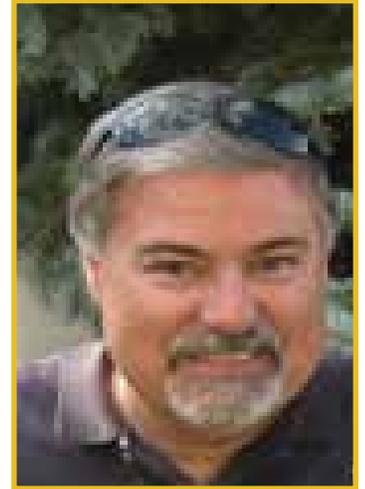
The momentum we generated in 2012 and 2013 continues to strengthen as we move into 2014 with expanding and improving our programs and continuing to network and partner with many organizations, schools, and agencies, who share a similar vision.

We project to hit a record number of children served in 2013. Many children were enrolled in our summer programs from a diverse socioeconomic population. Camp Herrlich is and always has been a place where children can be themselves, where they are accepted regardless of race, color, religion, or wealth. Last year we were once again able to keep our program tuition at the absolute minimum that our budget can allow in order to give more families the opportunity to send their children to Camp Herrlich. With your support, our scholarship fund and ongoing program grants will continue to meet the needs of our community.

All our programs are positive, effective and financially stable. Our program staff continues to nurture the children of our community. We continue to cater to the needs of hard working families who entrust us with their children. Most importantly, our programs are designed and run to encourage trust, compassion, and respect, making character development a priority. If you are a Facebook person, please do yourself a favor and check out our Facebook Page, <https://www.facebook.com/CampHerrlich>. The photos posted are amazing. Our staff is amazing.

Please stop by camp and see our new Nature Center. This 600 square foot building will house our new Journalism and Design Center as well as our Nature Center. This new workspace will be equipped with new computer technology featuring editing and processing software, digital cameras, high-speed internet, and an environmental education research area.

We are an organization firmly focused on managing our growth and providing innovative and effective programs in the most affordable way for the families we serve. Our Summer Day Camp Program will continue to give parents flexible options when choosing their weeks of enrollment. We will stay dedicated to providing affordable and positive year round programs to inner-city youth agencies.



We are using the facility more now than ever before. The use of the buildings is stretched to the limit and we have run out of indoor space. However, we look forward, with confidence to improving and expanding our facilities and growing our programs.

So my friends, you can see we are very busy here at Camp and your support is always needed and most appreciated. Please take a moment to visit our website [www.campherrlich.org](http://www.campherrlich.org) and see all we do at Camp Herrlich. On our website, as well as in this newsletter, you will find many ways to support Camp Herrlich. And believe it or not, some of the ways won't cost you a penny. At Camp Herrlich your support of Time, Treasure and or Talent goes a long way and is paramount to our success.

Please feel free to call me at any time if you have questions on how to support the camp or if you just want to chat.

We love that you care enough to support us, as we support others.

Peace,

*Bob*

Bob Gentile, Executive Director

## Camp Herrlich

When I first went to Camp Herrlich I was 9 years old. This year was my first year as a CIT (counselor in training). As CIT's, we assisted counselors to take care of groups of kids. There were also opportunities during which we could work with a specialist (Archery, Arts & Crafts, High Ropes, etc...). I think I did pretty well as a counselor and as a friend to the campers. I decided to write this poem because the CIT's this year wrote a song for skit night to perform in front of the camp. That experience made me decide to write the following poem/rap.



I spent six weeks this summer at Camp Herrlich  
To work there, yes I think I deserve it  
I spent five years there as a camper  
The counselor that connected with us, that's who I remember  
So I took that with me this year as I was working  
To get a job there, yes I was determined

I had a plan when I started this mission  
But I learned new things on this six-week exhibition  
I learned that to deal with kids you need a lot of patience  
Need to be aware of your surroundings, can't be vacant  
Taking care of kids is hard to do  
You will repeat yourself like déjà vu



But if you know what you're doing, it's an enjoyable job  
Especially when kids have to go home and you see them sob  
'Cause you know that they'll miss you and you impacted their life  
Trust me your kids are gonna love you if you treat them right  
You have to love your job, can't be in it for the pay  
This is like your family, you're with them every day

For 24 hours day and night,  
I hate it when they get in trouble after a fight  
But they have to get punished after an act like that  
But if you do well, you'll get a pat on the back  
You have to work well with others  
You have to grow up a little can't be babied by your mother



It's not only yourself, you got a new responsibility  
If you don't do well even counselors get a penalty  
But you have to go through until the end  
Because it all comes together when you make new friends  
I love to see kids smile and play and be so enthusiastic  
If I had to sum it up in one word: FANTASTIC!

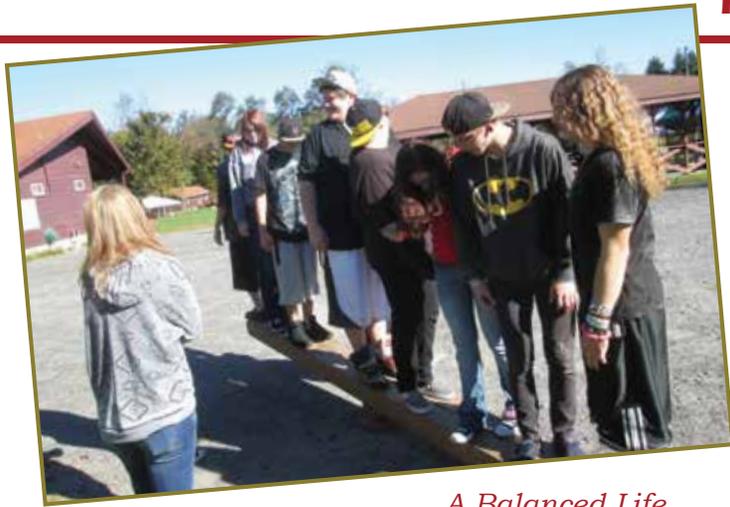
*by Shamar Coleman*

# Scenes from Summer Camp



## Environmental Education

Bring the classroom outdoors with our Environmental Education and Reach the Peak programs! Students are able to get their hands dirty, venture out of their comfort zones, learn how to be the next generation of conservationists, and experience learning like they never have before. Students who participate in our experiential learning environment come away with knowledge and skills not only in science and history, but also in communication, trust, and teamwork.



*A Balanced Life*



*Low Wall*



*Insect Study*



*Candle Making*



*Pond Ecology*



*Trust Walk*

## Before and After School Programs

Along with the excellent standard of School Age Child Care that we are known for, this year we are focusing on FUN in our Before and After School programs. Many of our program participants have been with us for years, and this year we are trying to mix it up. Water balloon tosses, aluminum foil fashion shows, rainbow looms, photography, community service projects, and theme weeks are some of the things that are being incorporated into our programs over the course of this school year. We want the students to feel excited to come to the before and after school programs, even though at the elementary level they are in the same building that they are in all day long! George Fischer Middle School students come to camp for their After School Program, so the theme for this year is ADVENTURE! Check them out all geared up for the climbing wall! They have also done canoeing, archery, mini zip line, hiking, and lots of Gaga so far this year. We look forward to a year filled with FUN and ADVENTURE in our programs!

At the Kent Elementary site, we will be offering clubs again. Our first round of enrichment programs includes fitness, weird science, and acting. We have skilled professionals from the school district and the community coming to share their wealth of knowledge with our program participants. As the year progresses, we will be offering some of our more popular clubs, like cooking, art, and sports.



*Before School Program at Matthew Paterson Elementary*

We are proud to say that we received another award from the Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam for Putnam County School Age Program of the Year. Many thanks to our staff, students, and parents for helping to make that possible!

*Jessica Vanacoro, Program Director*



*After School Program at Kent Elementary*



*After School Program at Camp Herrlich*



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Check us out on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter—  
[www.facebook.com/campherrlich](http://www.facebook.com/campherrlich), [campherrlich on Instagram](#),  
and [twitter.com/campherrlich](http://twitter.com/campherrlich)**



## **Calendar 2013-2014**

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>December–June</b>        | Ongoing Weekend Retreats, Environmental Education Programs, and Before and After School Programs |
| <b>December 1, 2013</b>     | Summer Day Camp Registration Begins  |
| <b>February 1, 2014</b>     | Summer Sleepaway Camp Registration Begins  |
| <b>February 17-21, 2014</b> | Winter Vacation Camp   |
| <b>March 1, 2014</b>        | Early Bird Day Camp Registration Deadline  |
| <b>April 14-18, 2014</b>    | Spring Vacation Camp   |
| <b>May 17, 2014</b>         | Work Weekend   |
| <b>June 1, 2014</b>         | Last Day to Register for Day Camp with No Late Fee   |

**Want to book a retreat or environmental education program?  
Call 845-878-6662 for available dates—space is very limited.**