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## A LETTER FROM THE ROCK HOUSE

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It has been our pleasure to nurture the 37 new CRL sisters who joined our Riva-Lake family this summer. The echoes of singing are still ringing in our ears. It amazed us how quickly and easily the girls learned the words and movements to “Camp Spirit Never Dead” and how eager and brave the new songleaders were to pitch vespers songs, learning to sing our old favorites to the back-drop of the crickets.

The lake looks the same as the sun sets over the water, and when a storm brews you can still see the wind coming across the lake to the Playhouse. The new pool graces our cove closer to “the Point” where we and the counselors still enjoyed swimming after class, as we had many years ago. The crafts counselor led a project to paint a mural on the concrete remains of the old Double-Up showers, dubbed “the Lily Pad” which is now the official waiting spot for girls before swim class.

The Playhouse resounds with the shouts and cheers of girls pulling for their teams during each basketball game—shooting at the same backboards that you’ll remember from your camp days. Although it will take time to learn all the team songs, the Marathons and Olympians did an admiral job of singing “Here at Riva-Lake” and “Some Gotta Win,” and at half-time they thrilled us with renditions of our favorite old cheers like “the M Bunny Hop” and “Olympians are the Ones that Stick Together.”

And, yes, as many of you know, it was a rainy summer and we sent the girls home with stories of a torrential downpour that ended a camp-out in the woods and with memories of a canoe trip down the Elk River that finished at the familiar bridge let-out just as a thunderstorm began. However, we did get in most of our activities each day, despite the red mud we remember all too well. Speaking of red mud, the girls relished in the watermelon fights, which we had at the end of each session, culminating in the traditional lake swim.

Although we were a small camp this year, we had some big highlights. Our second all-camp canoe trip was blessed with clear weather and the cold, green water we all remember. The girls shrieked with delight as we took a break to swim and float down the rapids – taught to the 1<sup>st</sup> session girls by Anne Hughes Sayle, as she learned to do in the 60’s. Another bonus was the evening swim, which was quite welcome on warm nights, especially after the heat of the basketball games.

Sunday morning was special time as we had Sunday School, followed by the traditional singing at the Rock House patio and an afternoon of tennis matches in Sunday whites.

The counselors brought in a few new games, and we were delighted to see the girls running over camp for the new nighttime activities in addition to the scavenger hunts and productions we remembered. Each evening it seemed that only the wink of an eye had passed before it was time to set out milk and graham crackers after the night's activities and start off blinks.

Even in three short weeks, we were lucky to have a full-moon, and for the first time in 20 years, Hortense came to call from her hiding place in the ravine or under the flagpole (depending on your version of this favorite campfire ghost story.) As always, the anticipation was half the fun and the kids most certainly enjoyed the candy that Hortense threw into the cabins as we spied from behind the trees on Junior Hill.

Of course, none of this could have been possible without you and the Board—your dedication and support over the past two years has sustained us in this mission. We were truly

blessed to have been a part of this adventure and the summer was one which we will cherish forever. Each night we sat on the back porch of the Rock House, exhausted from our work, yet sharing the special moments each day that told us our efforts were paying off in a dream come true.

Alas, now all is quiet. The horses at Ms. Jane's barn are wondering where all the action went; the green water in our cove is as still as glass and the fish are missing their newly-made friends; the Dining Hall and Playhouse are saddened that the joyful singing has come to an end, but are hoping to hear the echoes of voices singing songs of Riva-Lake throughout the country; the sunsets which continue on our lake must capture the beauty of our first summer back at the special summer haven called Camp Riva-Lake.

Lawrie, Caroline & DeSaix



### **Hold the Date!**

#### ***CRL 2006 Summer Sessions:***

**10-day session: Wed. July 12, 2005 – Fri., July 21, 2005**

**2-week session: Fri., July 21, 2005 – Fri., August 4, 2005**

**Both sessions: Wed. July 12, 2005 – Fri., August 4, 2005**

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## WITH OUR HEARTFELT THANKS

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This summer wouldn't have been possible without the help and support of a very dedicated group of supporters. Please join us in thanking the following individuals for their contributions and for their help in keeping the Riva-Lake spirit alive.

- The whole CRL board for their unwavering dedication and support to make the dream come true. This includes countless calls, projects and time at CRL to open and close camp.
- Marietta Canale Haaga for teaching basketball clinics, refereeing the first basketball game of the season, and for contributing equipment and expertise to make our sports activities more fun!
- Anne Hughes Sayle for her time, creativity and supplies teaching arts & crafts and for spearheading a new map of camp. In addition, Anne began the project of re-mortaring the Olympian meeting place where the stones had fallen into disrepair.
- Jane Allen Brown for sending us her daughter as a counselor, and also for contributing life jackets, canoe paddles, crafts and beads supplies, costumes galore, games and a much-loved coffee pot!
- Janie Entrekin Hughart for serving as our swim meet judge for both sessions and for her help in meeting and staying with campers at the Nashville airport until their safe departure.
- Jane Scharber for generously contributing her time, her horses, and her resources through her riding program. And for her all-around support of camp, which included loan of a golf cart, recruiting campers and counselors, and her husband Donnie's landscaping services!
- Lynne Farrar Robertson for all her help with the opening day of each session. She never hesitated to help with the most mundane tasks, including paperwork, selling CRL clothing, making Wal-Mart runs, and purchasing last minute supplies. And thanks to Lynne's family for donating a canoe.
- Laurie Herron Schad, Dodson Randolph, Emelie Burns Rountree and Laura Leigh Finley for their time and energy to be at camp opening or closing, and for help with team meetings.
- Lana Garner for her contribution of a beautiful swing to replace the old one, lost to time.
- Our visitors Aimee Favrot Bell, Milbrey Black, Yvonne Collier, Carol Garner-Houston, Lu Johnston and Margaret and Bill Jones whose visits sustained us with enthusiasm and support.
- For nurse Carlita's husband, Tony, and the time he donated trying hard to keep our kitchen freezers happy!
- For cook Angie's son, Dennis' help in the kitchen and for her father's work on the fan in the kitchen.
- For WalMart and their generous donation to Camp Riva-Lake this summer.
- For Teddi Chrisco's ability to pull wonderful workers "out of the hat" when we needed HELP the most and for hosting a phenomenal cookout. She is magical!
- To Andreas Preuss and the many hours and days he has spent since this reopening began shooting and splicing together the wonderful footage that has been and will be used in the promotional videos for Camp Riva-Lake. We so much appreciate his flying to Winchester from New York this summer just to get camp 2005 in action and for everything he has done!
- For all those wonderful alums who sent in trophies, awards, and memorabilia from the past, including Jackie Friend, Dodson Randolph, Margaret McAllister, The Garners, The Hilmas, Colleen Evans Lusignan and Merimac Stevens Dillon.

- Kim Brown Mullins and Celia Denney for driving campers to the airport and making sure they got on the plane home safely.
- Camp Point Clear for generously letting us borrow some of their equipment.
- For Lara Garner's gracious donation of KK supplies to keep the girls healthy and well.
- Special thanks to our "on call" medical team: Dr. Nevindra N. Mangru, MD, Dr. Richard Bagby, Jr., MD, Dr. Glenn Hyde and Rural/Metro Ambulance.
- Last but not least, thank you to all the alum parents who sent us their dear daughters or granddaughters to carry on the CRL traditions as legacies: Kim Brown Mullins, Tina Hamm Hilmas, Merrimac Stevens Dillon, Marjorie Judd, Lynne Farrar Robertson, Nonnie Thompson Preuss, Suzanne Burns Childs, Lu Jones Johnston, Sarah Flowers and Coco Evans Judd. Thank You!!!

## **LOOKING AHEAD TO 2006**

While 2005 is still a recent memory, we're already hard at work on plans for Camp Riva-Lake 2006. Our recruiting events will start in the next few weeks, so now is the time to get involved if you're interested in helping our recruiting efforts. If you're able to pitch in by serving as a town lead, hosting a party, or helping to identify possible campers, please contact Nonnie Thompson Preuss at [aapmat@mindspring.com](mailto:aapmat@mindspring.com).

In our next newsletter, we'll provide an update on our ongoing fundraising efforts. We're continuing to receive generous financial contributions from our alums, family and community. If you're interested in helping with our fundraising efforts (or if you'd like to make a contribution), please contact DeSaix at [desaixb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:desaixb@sbcglobal.net).