

MAIL CALL

Introducing Skyland Retreat



Admit it. Even twenty, thirty, or fifty years after you “aged out” of camp, you experience more than just contented nostalgia for your camper days. “I wish I could go!” is one of the most common phrases we hear from adult women when we talk with them about Skyland. Usually they are supposed to be looking for a camp for an awesome young girl in their life, but can you blame them? Grown up girls need camp, too!

Those conversations are what led to the creation of Skyland Retreat. For years, with plenty of encouragement from Skylanders past and present, we searched for a way to put our unique facility to good use when not in camp season. We wouldn't settle for renting out to corporations and strangers. It needed to be special. It needed to hold true to Skyland values, and it needed to play a role in helping Skyland Camp for Girls flourish for its *next* 98 years. That's how we decided on Skyland Retreat.

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Save the date!

Join us for
Skyland's 100th Reunion
 August 4-6, 2017

Sign up for the Alumnae Volunteer Work Weekend

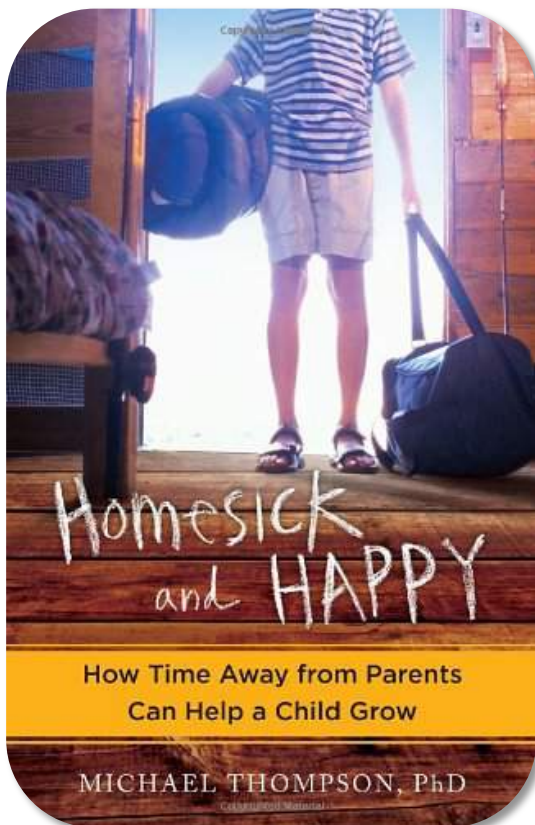
Grab your gardening gloves, work boots, and some old green and whites, because we're getting down and dirty this Memorial Day Weekend up on Skyland Hill.

Join us as we get camp unpacked and ready to go for the summer. It's nothing that some elbow grease and camp songs can't take care of! We'll work hard during the day to clean, garden, build, paint, and organize. At night, we will reconnect with friends over food and drink and toast to each other for the amazing work we have done. Then, we will go at it again after a cozy night on the Big House sleeping porch!

We can't wait to see you there! Sign up is now open online at www.SkylandCamp.com/alumnae



What We're Reading: *Homesick and Happy*



It is a book that we frequently recommend to parents – and not only those who are new to camp. *Homesick and Happy: How Time Away From Parents Can Help a Child Grow* by Michael Thompson, PhD, highlights the developmental importance of the summer camp experience. It speaks to the learning that comes from connecting with others in a multigenerational community and the confidence that is built in trying a new activity without the nearby support of a parent. In a world where parents and their children have the potential to be constantly connected, Dr. Thompson explains why it is so important for children to have experiences that are uniquely their own.

While this is primarily a book recommended to parents of campers, it's a great walk down memory lane for alumnae with or without children. Stories of best friends, pranks, and rites of passage ignite memories of camper days and instill pride for the so-called “small things” that weave together the camp experience.

Homesick and Happy is available at most local bookstores and libraries in the Parenting section.

Director's Corner

While we are looking forward to another stellar summer at Skyland, we can't think of a better way to kick off the 2014 season than by celebrating and honoring our mom, Bunny Brown, and her 80th birthday. As Mike and I reflect on our 54 years with her, we can't think of anyone who has been more giving of her time, generous with her gifts or loyal in her dedication to our Skyland home.

Bunny has long done everything in her means to give more girls the opportunity to join in the Skyland family. It is part of what makes her special to so many people. Because of her, a spirit of kindness, generosity, friendship and community has been instilled in generations of Skyland campers. As Skylanders embark on their individual journeys, they share that spirit with the rest of the world.

In fact, it is her generosity that influenced our recently launched Campership Fund, which carries on Bunny's legacy of extending the Skyland family. In true Bunny form, when we asked our mom what she would like most to celebrate her upcoming birthday, she said that anything that would help a young girl get to Skyland is the greatest gift she could receive.

Thank you, Bunny, for your years of inspiration, of love and of maintaining our summer home.



Finally, we hope to see you back on Skyland Hill for the alumnae work weekend, a Skyland Retreat, Mother-Daughter Weekend, or a visit. Here's to another fabulous year!

All the best,
Sherry and Mike

LOOK WHO CAME TO VISIT



What a treat! Chen Elliot ('96-'03) stopped by to see us in Washington, D.C. in late January. Thanks for visiting and sharing your love and excitement, Chen!



In Nashville we had the pleasure of visiting with Martha (Greene) Goodyear ('92-'00). Above she poses proudly (note the green sweater) with the newest addition to her growing family! Below, campers Madeline and Lydia visit with Kay at a Skyland pizza party and enjoy Lydia's camp scrapbook!



Happy 80th Birthday, Bunny Brown!

It's hard to imagine what Skyland would be today if Bunny hadn't received the gift of camp back on the Christmas of 1942. Dedicated to Skyland ever since, Bunny carries with her so much of camp's history and tradition. She is at the heart of camp memories for many, from those who remember waiting to fall asleep on the Big House porch until Bunny was in bed, to the friendships made with the loyal moms and alumnae who worked alongside her for so many years. Thank you, Bunny, for your years of service, love, dedication, and friendship!



Above: Bunny at camp with her family in the 1960s.

Left: Bunny alongside her daughter-in-law Tyra, granddaughter Sari, and daughter Sherry inside the Big House in 2002.

Right: Bunny with alumna Betty (Stanly) Cates at Skyland's 95th reunion in 2012.



To this day, Bunny's number one wish is for Skyland to prosper and be a place for campers to thrive for generations to come. In honor of Bunny's 80th birthday on March 30th, we're celebrating Bunny and her endless love for Skyland. You can contribute to the celebration by sending your own memories, photos, and birthday wishes to Bunny Brown - Clyde, NC - 28721 or to Bunny@SkylandCamp.com. Contributions can be made in Bunny's honor to the Skyland Camp for Girls Campership Fund by visiting www.SkylandCamp.com/donate.

Skyland Spotlight: An Interview with Dorothy (Gilmer) Pearson ('79-'85)

How did you first learn about Skyland?

Growing up, my sister Julie (Gilmer) Menotti and I were best friends with fellow Skylanders Beth Eley and Ruth, Katherine, and Barbara (Babes) Weiss in Nassau Bay, TX. One day Mrs. Weiss invited a large group of friends to a camp party. There, we all sat in awe at the thought of going to a camp such a long way from Texas and for an entire month! Mrs. Weiss offered to drive us to camp that next summer, and that's how the love story began. Over the course of the next few years, a whole gang of us from the Houston area attended camp, including Carla Todd, Besty and Kathy Flagg, and Michelle McMullen.

What is your favorite memory as a camper?

I lived, breathed, and even slept at the barn, whether I was riding, helping to clean stalls or just being in the presence of Sherry, who was the head riding counselor. I also loved the campouts, the overnight on horseback, Sliding Rock, and Deep Creek. I did not come from a family of campers so that was something I only got to experience at camp.

What are you doing today?

I'm fortunate to have an amazing job that I really enjoy. It keeps me busier than I'd like, but when I do have time to play, I love to exercise and spend time with my kids. My husband and I enjoy cheering on our son Darrel, 16, at his varsity baseball games. Our daughter Britney somehow fell in love with horses and this Christmas her dream came true when we found her a beautiful Bay Thoroughbred named Prince. I love watching them jump and we also help care for the eleven other horses at the barn. Every "barn duty weekend" brings back happy memories of camp where I first fell in love with horses!

Tell us about the current campers in your life and why sharing Skyland is so important to you.

This year I'm sending my daughter Britney, her best friend Rylee, and my niece Brianna to Skyland. Just like Mrs. Weiss did for me, I also enjoy playing chaperone to current campers and any other little girls who want to come from



Dorothy with her daughter, Britney, at Skyland's 2013 Horse Show.

Houston! Britney talks about camp year round. She and Rylee, a fellow returning camper, will rattle off a camp song or recall a funny moment from Clubhouse and it just makes my heart sing. Those are my most treasured mother-daughter moments. Skyland is a part of my life that is so important I can't imagine *not* sharing it with my daughter! This will be Brianna's first year on the Hill and we are all excited as can be after she and Julie attended Mother-Daughter Weekend two years ago!

Britney has so many things that she could be doing during the summer. Why does your family make Skyland a priority?

It's not a priority to us; it's life. It's a home away from home and an extended family. Skyland is a love that after 35+ years (gulp!) is still treasured and longed for, hopefully to be shared with a third generation in some very far off future! We are so thankful to Bunny for loving us all and to Sherry and Mike for keeping the tradition and love going!

(Continued)

Skyland Retreat

In September we partnered with interior design team Lisa Sherry Interieurs (LSI) for Skyland Retreat's inaugural weekend, Luxe Life Camp. Skyland showed off its Victorian charm, with LSI adding polish and funky twists.

Grown-up campers channeled their inner child with traditional activities as they saddled up, hit the target, and splashed in the pool. In the afternoon, Luxe Life campers consulted with the LSI team on their own design dilemmas, and left full of inspiration and ideas. We did all of this while noshing on wholesome fare served up by Suzanne Tinsley, chef and owner of The Gateway Club in Waynesville, NC (and the aunt of Skyland alumnae Kate and Leigh LaVange ('90s)). It was a true education in living the life and taking it home with you!



As Skyland Retreat weekends continue to develop, we are guided by the desire for Retreat campers to gain that essential sense of growth, connection, and rejuvenation so familiar to campers at Skyland Camp for Girls. Aided by some adult luxuries, like plush beds, silky linens, and a free-range kind of day, Skyland Retreat gives women permission to unplug from the hectic daily grind and tune in to themselves and all of the beauty that surrounds them.

This summer, Skyland will host another Luxe Life Weekend from May 30th - June 1st. Additional weekends will be announced soon, so be sure to "like" Skyland Retreat on Facebook to keep up on the latest from Skyland Retreat!

We hope you will plan on Skyland Retreat for your next girls' getaway. Check out the offerings and register online at www.SkylandRetreat.com.

LOOK WHO CAME TO VISIT



Starter camper Katharine and her mom came running to see us in Charlottesville, VA. Katharine was excited to share that she's coming for a full session this summer, and in a few years, she plans to join us for TWELVE weeks! It looks like we need to get moving on year-round summer camp!



Drew was a new camper last summer and we were so excited to see her in Asheville! Now almost a foot taller and sporting (green and white) braces, we wouldn't have recognized Drew if she weren't so decked out in Skyland gear. She is already working on her parents to send her for a full summer on Skyland Hill!

State of the Campership Fund

The launch of Skyland's campership fund has been met with much support and enthusiasm! We are excited and eternally grateful for your support in extending the Skyland family to those in need. Donations so far have ranged from \$25 to \$1000, and they have come not only from alumnae but from our campers, parents, and friends. Thank you to the following donors whose contributions will send campers in need to Skyland this summer.

William R. Boling
Kirby & Debby Brumby
Lindsay & Mary Canaday
Elizabeth Fish Hatfield
Caroline Gibson
Ann Gretton Lynch
Thomas and Mary Hines
Annette King
Suzanne Klimek

Carol Link
Monica Mackey
Sally Petersen
Metta Rone
Margaret Stanley
Anne W. Stratton
Susan Threlkel
Kimberly Whicker



It's not too late to contribute to the Campership Fund! Learn more about the fund and how you can donate at www.SkylandCamp.com/donate.

We'd love to hear from you! Update your contact information and complete the survey at www.SkylandCamp.com/alumnae.

Alumnae Updates

Helen Coles Price passed away peacefully during this past Thanksgiving holiday. Though she only had boys, Helen was an avid supporter of Skyland Camp. She is survived by a large family of Skylanders, including the Soash, Richardson, Murphey, Brown, Snyder, and Rudisill families.

Dean Griffen ('50s-'60s) passed away in 2001. She was a Registered Nurse and worked at Mayo Clinic for twenty years. She raised three children and devoted her work life to helping the sick as a post-op orthopedic charge nurse. **Jean Griffen ('60-'61)** graduated as a

during her lifetime. Jean passed away in 2005. Both Dean and Jean are survived by their sister, **Jerree Griffen Rippel ('57-'61)**.

Jane (Noonan) Akin ('66-'68) was happily married to a pastor for 15 years who was killed in a mountain climbing accident. Later, she met a widower with seven children, and they were married and blessed with another child. Jane shares that it is a "yours, mine, and ours" story going on twenty years! They feel very blessed with twelve children and sixteen

Megan (Riegle) Jenks ('93-'96) graduated from Florida State University in 2005 with a B.S. in Child Development and Psychology. She was married in May of 2007. She celebrated the birth of her first daughter in 2010 followed by the birth of her second daughter more recently in September of 2013.

Elizabeth Riegle ('90s) graduated with a BFA in Musical Theatre from the University of Western Florida in 2003 and achieved her Nursing degree in 2005. Elizabeth's first son was

Please share your updates with us at Alumnae@SkylandCamp.com

Through traditional camp programs, Skyland Camp for Girls strives to instill passion for curiosity, creativity, learning and personal responsibility, and to foster lifelong friendships.

SINCE 1917
SKYLAND CAMP FOR GIRLS

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www.skylandcamp.com – mailbox@skylandcamp.com

You Are Cordially Invited...

Join us for a day of camp and camaraderie as Skyland takes it back to our roots in Jacksonville. We can't wait to open the doors of the Big House again to green and white clad campers, so we're bringing a taste of summer to you, Skyland style! We'll enjoy ring tennis, crafting, and our famous chocolate sauce as we celebrate with Skylanders of the past, present and future! Join us to catch up with old friends and introduce the future Skylanders in your life to the Skyland family!

SKYLAND CAMP FOR GIRLS **in**

April 5, 2014 – 11am-1pm
At the Chadbourne Home
4004 San Jose Boulevard
Jacksonville, FL 32207



Jacksonville

RSVP to mailbox@skylandcamp.com
or call 828-627-2470

Psst! Can't make it to Jacksonville? Stop by and see us in Tampa on Sunday, April 6th at the Straz Center Summer Splash. More information online at www.SkylandCamp.com/news