



## A SPECIAL MEMO TO ALL FROM “UNCLE” RICK:

### The SSDC Commitment to the “Hampy Way” for All Campers and Staff

Jacque and I were blessed with our first grandchild back in January, 2012. Izabela Victoria Blum was one sweet little 2015 Owlette! When you visit us you may notice the “Izzie Bell” on a post outside the camp office. This was a gift to camp from our daughter-in-law’s parents, Myrna and Rudi Gintel all the way from Los Angeles, CA. We now ring that bell each summer to start our Steeplechase event for Color Games. The difference this summer will be that not only will Izabela, now in Bunk 20, participate in SSDC Color Games, but she is joined by her younger brother Jackson who is in Bunk 7, and they are both joined for the first time by their cousin Ziggy Jet Schlesinger, our youngest grandchild. Ziggy is in Little Hoots, and Jacque and I are thrilled to share this very special 2021 Southampton Summer with our three grandchildren!

Jacque and I want to give a special shout-out to all of our 2021 Senior Bunk Counselors. We are honored to have so many awesome younger staff members who have grown up here at SSDC. Not surprisingly, quite a few seasoned counselors did not return due to the ongoing uncertainty in early 2021. However, we had a very deep bench with extensive SSDC experience. Sadie Andra, Nicole Millman, Dari Goldstein, Lara Davies, Remi Scolnick, Francesca Friedman, Aryn Chartock, Ava Baccari, Mikayla Davy, Morgan Charn, Hannah Roth, Jarred Grabois, Dylan Mandel, Jordan Lewin-Skversky, and Jaden Sky Greenbaum jumped right in and are all doing amazing things as first year Senior Counselors here at SSDC. They have some wonderful mentors in seasoned teacher veterans like Aldo Braccia, Beth Grutzmacher, Lauren Chakler, Robin Duretz, Ryan Meltzer, Shelby Block, Charles Socki, Eric Goldsman, Matt Wilderman, Harrison Cantor, and the remarkable Pam Paul! Young newcomers Ari Weiss and Devyn Cobb are receiving rave reviews also from our tireless, dedicated Field Supervisors: Lauren Mandel, Michele Dancer, Marc Rosenberg, and MVP Steve Stein. Without all of you working toward the same goals, we could never achieve the wonderful results that we are seeing reflected in the faces of smiling campers each day here at camp! Jacque and I salute all of our 2021 staff in all areas of camp for your constant efforts and dedication to help our campers have the best time of their lives this summer.

Our passion is to share that SSDC experience with you, our camp families. Some traditional things, in my opinion, should not be “fundamentally changed.” The value of an eight week **real camp** experience is one that provides many young people with an extra constant in their lives with which to build relationships and experiences. SSDC is alone as perhaps the last day camp to place great value on the impact of the full **real camp** summer. We are a true mixture of rustic old and cutting edge new. To a child we are a faraway, yet accessible, place for each young person to experience a level of organized freedom in a safe and diverse setting unlike any other. A **real camp** should not just be a place to be, but rather a mixture of all things to do, centered on the one for all and all for one concept of growing together for eight whirlwind weeks. The final days of a **real camp** should be packed with culminating activities like championship and All-Star games, dance and theater shows, art projects, counselor talent shows and awards presentations. A **real camp** should end bittersweet, with sadness *and* anticipation of new adventures to be shared next summer with old and new friends alike. At least that is what Hampy would say if you asked him. Next summer, 2022, will mark 49 years since the beginning for SSDC. We are planning for another very special year. A return to even more of our favorite activities seems in the cards. Fingers crossed! We sincerely hope that you will choose to join us as we celebrate our 49<sup>th</sup> year in 2022. We wish all of you great health and happiness for the remainder of 2021 and beyond!