

the AGAZINE



DECEMBER 2025



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

<u>12/1</u> – Josie Milch	<u>12/21</u> – Leah Farver
<u>12/1</u> – Jane Steele	<u>12/24</u> – Ava Fisher
<u>12/1</u> – Sophie Steele	<u>12/28</u> – Sofia Papantoniou
<u>12/3</u> – Ivy Levin	<u>12/29</u> – Morgan Chayer
<u>12/5</u> – Bernie Alexander	<u>12/30</u> – Geneva Moulton
<u>12/5</u> – Harper Lagow	<u>12/30</u> – Dylan Silver
<u>12/6</u> – Olivia Calderon	<u>12/31</u> – Reese Cole
<u>12/9</u> – Noa Holtzman–Gast	<u>12/31</u> – Alice Frick
<u>12/9</u> – Olivia Knight	
<u>12/12</u> – Dylan Pereles	
<u>12/12</u> – Renee Rubenstein	
<u>12/12</u> – Rachel Sher	
<u>12/13</u> – Reese Brady	
<u>12/14</u> – Diya Joshi	
<u>12/15</u> – Willow Goldstein	
<u>12/15</u> – Lily Koeppen	
<u>12/17</u> – Aleena Parmar	
<u>12/18</u> – Kaitlyn Bristol	
<u>12/19</u> – Parker Neil	
<u>12/20</u> – Annie Deutch	
<u>12/20</u> – Brielle Wool	



REMINDERS!

- THE SUMMER 2025 REUNION WILL BE SUNDAY, JANUARY 25TH, 2026 FROM 1:30-3:30PM
- NEW CAMPER ORIENTATION WILL ALSO BE SUNDAY, JANUARY 25TH, 2026 FROM 4:00-5:00PM (CAMPERS ONLY!)
- BOTH WILL BE AT THE NORTH SHORE RENAISSANCE HOTEL:

933 SKOKIE BOULEVARD
NORTHBROOK, IL



WELCOME BACK, STEPHANIE!

I AM ECSTATIC TO RETURN FOR MY 25TH SUMMER ON THE SHORES OF BLUE LAKE! AS A FORMER AGAWAK CAMPER, COUNSELOR, AND ADMIN/ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, IT FEELS INCREDIBLY SPECIAL TO BE BACK—THIS TIME AS THE DIRECTOR OF CABIN LIFE. WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AND A MASTER'S IN TEACHING FROM NATIONAL LOUIS UNIVERSITY, I BRING YEARS OF EXPERIENCE SUPPORTING AND NURTURING CHILDREN OF ALL AGES.

I'M ALSO THE PROUD MOM OF BRADEN AND TALIA (BOTH DEVOTED CAMP ENTHUSIASTS!), WIFE TO SHAWN, AND THE OWNER/DIRECTOR OF LITTLE ONES PRESCHOOL IN MY HOMETOWN OF NORTHBROOK.

I CANNOT WAIT TO HELP EVERY CAMPER AND STAFF MEMBER CREATE THE MOST MEMORABLE SUMMER AT AGAWAK—ONE FILLED WITH FRIENDSHIPS, GROWTH, AND LIFELONG CONNECTIONS. AGAWAK TRULY IS A MAGICAL PLACE, AND I'M SO EXCITED TO BE BACK EXPERIENCING THAT MAGIC ALONGSIDE ALL OF YOU!



THANK YOU FOR AN AMAZING AGAWAK SPIRIT DAY!



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

WE ALWAYS SAY AGAWAK WOULDN'T BE AGAWAK
WITHOUT OUR AMAZING STAFF — AND NOW YOU
GET TO MEET THEM IN A WHOLE NEW WAY!



AINSLEY SHAW

**AINSLEY IS 19 YEARS OLD AND FROM CHICAGO.
SHE IS CURRENTLY A FRESHMAN AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. THIS WILL
BE HER 3RD SUMMER ON STAFF.**

TELL US YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT AGAWAK.

MY FAVORITE PART OF CAMP IS GETTING TO MAKE FRIENDSHIPS WITH GIRLS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY AND THE WORLD! GROWING UP MY CABIN WAS FULL OF GIRLS FROM DIFFERENT STATES. BECAUSE OF THIS, I KNEW WHEREVER I WENT I ALWAYS HAD A CAMP FRIEND TO VISIT! IT DIDN'T MATTER HOW FAR WE WERE FROM ONE ANOTHER, WE WOULD EITHER PLAN TRIPS TO SEE ONE ANOTHER, SCHEDULE FACETIME CALLS, OR JUST SPEND HOURS REMINISCING ABOUT CAMP OVER TEXT. AS A STAFF MEMBER, I HAVE HAD THE CHANCE TO GET CLOSE WITH OUR INTERNATIONAL STAFF. IT IS SO INTERESTING TO BE ABLE TO COMPARE STORIES OF GROWING UP IN TOTALLY DIFFERENT COUNTRIES. CAMP BONDS TRULY DO WITHSTAND ANY DISTANCE!

WHAT'S ONE THING CAMPERS MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT YOU?

SOMETHING CAMPERS MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT ME IS THAT I USED TO BE SUPER SCARED OF WATERSKIING. I REFUSED TO EVEN TRY IT UNTIL SUMMER 2021 WHEN I WAS 14 YEARS OLD. I QUICKLY REALIZED I HAD BEEN MISSING OUT ON SUCH A FUN ACTIVITY BECAUSE OF MY OWN FEAR. I SPENT MY LAST THREE CAMPER YEARS TRYING TO MAKE UP FOR ALL THE YEARS I REFUSED TO SKI, NEVER SKIPPING A PERIOD OF SKIING AND EVEN WAKING UP EARLY TO SKI ON SUNDAYS. NOW I HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HELP OTHER CAMPERS GET OVER THEIR FEAR AND LEARN TO SKI!

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE EVENING PROGRAM?

MY FAVORITE EVENING PROGRAM HAS TO BE LIP SYNC. EVEN THOUGH IT IS A BLUE AND WHITE GAME, IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE A COMPETITION. INSTEAD, IT FEELS LIKE THE WHOLE CAMP IS JUST COMING TOGETHER TO CHEER EACH OTHER ON, NO MATTER WHAT TEAM YOU'RE ON. THE DANCES ARE ALWAYS INCREDIBLE AND I'M AMAZED AT WHAT THE CITS AND PAS ARE ABLE TO COME UP WITH. EVEN WHEN I'M NOT AT CAMP, I'LL HANG OUT WITH MY CAMP FRIENDS AND WE WILL SPEND HOURS WATCHING OLD LIP SYNC JUST BECAUSE OF HOW HAPPY IT MAKES US.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO INCLUDE?

I CAN'T WAIT TO BE BACK ON THE SHORES OF BLUE LAKE THIS SUMMER! THIS WILL BE MY 11TH SUMMER SPENT AT AGAWAK AND I COULDN'T IMAGINE CHOOSING TO BE ANYWHERE ELSE.