

JUGHEADS

J O U R N A L

Monthly news of JUGHEADS Youth Juggling Company, LLC • Edina, Minnesota • February 2018

Winter Showcase: 3/17 in Hopkins

Acts must preview for Joshua Nelson by 2/28

The 13th annual Winter Juggling Showcase is Saturday, March 17 at 7:00 pm at **The Hopkins High School Little Theater**. This *free* 90-minute show is sponsored by **the EYJA**, led by our **SLT**, and produced by **Paul & Wendy**. The deadline to apply has passed; now, each act must be previewed during club by **Student Dir. Joshua N. by 2/28**; required 5:30–7pm emcee meetings 2/8 (brainstorming) and previews on 3/8.

JJ20 Photos, Tickets & Volunteers

Key dates: Mar. 6-9 pix; April 3 online tix

- Our Juggle Jam (JJ) Slide Show is a cherished tradition since JJ1! **Photo Week is March 6-9: Wendy Arneberg and Diane Schroeder** will take portraits, group shots and candids during all clubs except U.C. Each Jughead may choose attire and posing props. If any Jughead must miss club that week, please plan to attend a different club that same week and email Wendy of your chosen make-up photo day.
- All tickets for JJ20 (**May 18 & 19**) will be reserved and sold online in two pricing tiers for Adults & Students. A link to buy tickets will be on jugheads.com from **4/3 through 5/17**. Remaining tickets will be sold at the door each night.
- Look for an email in March detailing JJ20 volunteer opportunities (e.g., pre-production, rehearsals, show nights).

Officer Voice by Joshua N.

Throughout my five years in JUGHEADS (JH) I have had specific moments of success. Finishing my Rec. Standards, qualifying five balls, and helping a rookie qualify three balls are just a few of these. I have also had moments of fun such as tackling **Reid Johnson** in the pool my first Madfest and sliding in the St. Stephan's courtyard on cardboard just two weeks ago. Among all of the good moments there were also hard ones. Two of these were having bleeding fingers after working on five rings for weeks and having to work all summer to achieve my Advanced Standards for my second year.

Looking back, it's hard to believe all that I have fit into five years. It feels as if juggling and the people at JH have always been a part of my life. I am realizing that how I remember these moments in my JH career is affected by how I approached them and how I went forward from them. Making the most of my time did not mean that it has always been easy, but it does mean that I can look back on my time and be satisfied with the effort that I made.



The sense that this experience is coming to an end has only recently been something I have had to think about. The value I place in making the most of my experience causes the moments I remember to be even better. I have learned to live in the moment during my time at JH. The hard moments made me strive forward and the good moments made the experience even sweeter. The Peanuts character Snoopy summarizes this very well: "Learn from yesterday, live for today, look to tomorrow, and rest this afternoon."

So, to all the Jugheads who are looking forward to 10 more possible years and to those with only six months left, live in the moment. Don't take for granted the experience that you get to have at JH. Spend your time here in a way that when you achieve your goals or feel discouraged you can look back and be satisfied with your effort.

—**Joshua N.**: 5th year Jughead; Elite Co-Captain; Officer; Friday Rec. Assistant; Showcase Student Director; Senior

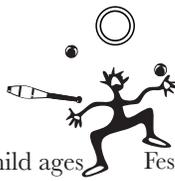
CLUB SPOTLIGHT: Elite Club

"Coachless" Club key to company chemistry

As JH came of age more than a decade ago, grads were hired to help **Coach Paul** bear the burden of leading 120+ Jugheads spread over seven clubs/five weekdays. Our reduced rosters have led to a streamlined staff, including no Elite (grad) coach this year for the first time since '06-'07. However, thanks to senior co-captains **Mirranda Miller & Joshua Nelson** and a remarkable chemistry among our SLT and UC membership (70% of Elite's roster), Elite is an example for how a minimal leadership structure both reflects and yields a tight-knit sub-community of empowered teens. This year's JJ20 Elite routine is vignette-based, paying tribute to our "Entertainment Styles Through the Years." Elite Jugheads are: 7th grader **Isaac Cantor**; 8th grader **Aedan Erickson**; freshmen **Thomas Chirpich, Nathan Drabek, Noel Dunning, Nate Pascale** (1st sem. only), **Lilli Rutzen, Lizzy Van Ert**; sophomores **Alex Armbrustmacher, Jared Ashton, Joe De Boom, Jacob Downs, Grant Dunbar, Hans Janovy Meyer, Eli Kenyon, Kayla Malmgren, Isaac Nelson, Nicholas Rewey, Elizabeth Stockbridge**; juniors **Eva Hadjiyanis, Libby Hall**; seniors **Linus Bendel-Stenzel, Clay Dawson, Peter Holmquist, Skip Nelson, Luca Pascale, Laura Schroeder**; senior co-captains **Mirranda Miller, Joshua Nelson**; Coach **Paul Arneberg**.

JUGHEADS Community News

- **MONDO Juggling & Unicycling Festival** is Feb. 16-18 at Concordia U. in St. Paul. There is room to join our 17 Jugheads (and 3-5 chaperones) on 2/17; download our form at www.jugheads.com/2018-MONDO_Reg.pdf and turn in by Thursday, **2/15**.



- **Help us reach new Jugheads!** If you know a child ages 7-17 who'd like to experience us *before* summer camps, two opportunities are **Chaotic Playground at Perpich Center** on 2/24 and **Bring a Friend to JH, Part 2**, 5/29-6/1.
- **FAREWELL** to discontinuing Jugheads: **Jaclyn B.** (6th, Thur. Rec.), **Joey P.** (9th, Adv.), **Lily S.** (6th, Thur. Rec.), all pursuing other sports. Thank you for your 13+ years of combined commitment as Jugheads!
- **SUMMER CAMPS PREVIEW:** Our camps (**6/11-7/13**) are an ideal place for youth to immerse in juggling and in our JH culture! A week of 3-5 consecutive mornings is optimal for beginners; most Jugheads choose punchcards. Look for summer reg. forms mailed with your March newsletter; discounts through **4/30**. (SLT application deadline: **3/30**.)
- **THE IJA FESTIVAL** is **July 15/16-22/23*** in Springfield, MA. We had info. meetings on 2/1 & 2/6; if your Jughead intends to attend IJA with us, please let Paul or Wendy know ASAP and turn in your paperwork/down payment by 3/1. *Expanded dates if we take Amtrak cross-country this year!
- **JJ20 Shows:** May 18 & 19; **Dress Reh.:** May 9 & 15, 6-9 pm.
- **JJ20 Specialty Act auditions** (solos/ensembles, *not* club routines): Tues., April 17 (evening) @ the **Emmaus Church gym**. Potential acts: fill out audition app. by Mar. 30.
- **MORE CALENDAR CUES:** Spring Break for all clubs is **March 26-30**. On other *Edina-specific* release days, these clubs **WILL** meet: **Elite** on **2/20**; **Fri. Rec.** on **3/2, 3/23**. Jugheads may attend make-up days in lieu of *any* absences.
- **Next Officer Meetings:** Arnebergs' home, 2/10; Malmgrens' home, 3/10; TBD, 4/7; Holmquist's home, 6/2.

Paul's Platform: Reflecting on 20 Juggle Jams: A Six-Part Series

This column series celebrates our double-deca *Juggle Jam* milestone. This month offers selective details on our first five independent years.

Part 2: "The Early Years: Juggle Jams 1-5"

Venturing off on my own after 6.25 of childcare management was bittersweet. On the one hand, I had more workday flexibility and tuition percentage as a contractor of Edina Schools; on the other hand, I had no adult support staff (other than **Wendy**, working full-time as a graphic designer) and I was only beginning what proved to be a 4.5 year circumstantial depression arising from our infertility news in May 1998. So yes, I "loved my work" and was "living the dream," but the struggles as a new small business owner seemed legion.

But I knew the show must go on! Despite my personal and professional challenges (including a 50% payout when I left Wise Guys), I showed up Monday through Saturday at my seven weekly clubs. In Winter 1999, with sights set on our revamped show and our 4th IJA

Festival trip, I led a campaign among my 50 jugglers to re-name our company. Our top three choices were "Edina Youth Juggling Company," "Juggle Jam," and something Wendy proposed: "Jugheads." Whereas the older kids preferred the suburb-specific moniker, the younger Rec.-level kids overwhelmingly voted for "Jugheads," and that name stuck. The 3rd option was adopted to re-name our show.

That April, I took Wendy to an all-star figure skating show for her 30th birthday. Right out of the gate, the pros appeared on the ice in solos and groups, performing samples of their most difficult and entertaining moves. Earlier that year, I had purchased a CD by The Brian Setzer Orchestra, and his big band revamping of "Rock This Town" especially grabbed my attention. With less than two months to go, I used that song to create our first *Juggle Jam* grand opener. All 50 Jugheads juggled together along club-based lines with intermittent solos of our top performers. That year also began my director's cold opener, preceding "Rock This Town" by introducing JJ's 1-5 as Jesse Ventura, Rod Serling, Jed Clampett, Gandalf, and Elwood Blues.

In addition to our cold and grand openers, JJ1 saw Wendy greatly upgrade my vision of an awards ceremony set to *Rudy* music as seen in '96 & '97. With the help of parent volunteer **Scott Harr**, she took portraits of each Jughead, typed in my awards, and created a presentation (including group shots and candid) underscored by "Rudy: Main Title" by Jerry Goldsmith and "Stay Gold" by Stevie Wonder. This solved my emotional inability to read the awards live, and even adults with no Jugheads in JJ1 cited the Slide Show as a highlight.

I have tried to instill patriotism in my Jugheads from the start, before it was either cool or controversial. I choreographed "The Stars and Stripes Forever!" for The Performance Team in JJ1 which we took to the MN State Fair Amateur Talent Contest Semi-Finals. I repeated that routine in the wake of 9/11 with JJ4's re-named Ultimate Club. (FYI: P.T. in JJ's 1-3 was audition-based; U.C. is standards-based.)

In 2000, I formed my first SLT to help plan the show. The SLT felt strongly to trace our new-and-improved show's numerical name to our JH independence, not to our trilogy of W.G. shows. Hence, *Juggle Jam 2000* (aka JJ2) graced two evenings that May, wherein we had 3rd graders for the first time. It wasn't until JJ3 that I finally moved our shows to a Fri.-Sat. night tandem, less concerned with families who had cabin conflicts or other seasonal duties. As far as rosters, we jumped to 70 kids in JJ3, 100 in JJ4, and 120 Jugheads in JJ5!

An especially heart-warming aspect of those early *Juggle Jam* years was the number of kids who started with me as Wise Guys and continued several years as Jugheads, steadily expanding our age range: 9th, 10th, 11th. Next month, I'll feature the joy of running the gamut of high school, fueled by hearty rosters, international awards, persistently involved parents, and the depth of our members' commitment, fulfilling my calling and dream of self-employed, mentor-based youth work.

Developing Youth Through Juggle Jams Since 1999,

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