



# JUGHEADS

JOURNAL

Monthly news of JUGHEADS Youth Juggling Company, LLC • Edina, Minnesota • Summer 2015

## JJ17: Balancing Traditions

Old & new; juggling & theatrics permeate show

“Here in JUGHEADS (JH), we have traditions for everything...” Among many unsolicited comments regarding audience members’ and the Jughead members’ experiences at JJ17, there are a wide range of favorite moments and vignettes: a certain group routine; a certain specialty act; smooth and entertaining skits & emcees; running on the stage for **“Rock This Town”**; and the moment in **“Reach”** when the curtain rose, revealing 50 more ring jugglers upstage, to name just a few. Even this newsletter itself is a tradition, yet these few carefully chosen words constrained by a two sides of print or cyberspace can’t fully express the joy that was present on both May 15 & 16, 2015.

In any given year, by far the most collective and creative work is put into our six club routines. Even those unfamiliar with **“Chitty Chitty Bang Bang”** enjoyed Monday’s Rec.’s rousing rendition; Elite’s **“Disney Princesses”** tribute took many familiar stories and blended them together with humor and impressive juggling; Thursday & Friday Rec. teamed up for a first-ever combined club theme, creating an epic **“Annie”** medley; the **“Sweet 16”** of Ultimate Club wowed the crowd with club passing patterns worth of IJA competition; and Advanced Club headlined the running theme of the whole show, with a thorough sampling of **“Fiddler on the Roof”** using juggling, dance, and period costumes.

Several specialty acts reprised their routines from our EYJA Showcase in March. **Sam Karschnia** performed his third straight solo with his signature creativity; **All That and a Bag of Chips** featured a classic vaudeville-like three-club juggling character; **Glow with the Flow** showed amazing moves with light-up poi on a darkened stage; **Jack of Hearts** showed high-level trio technicality; **The Only Siblings** wove live instruments into a musically-themed duet; **Simple Physics** displayed gutsy brotherly passing in their third duet; and **Reid-iculous** capped off the night with some Super juggling.

Always the last completed show preparations, the **Slide Show & Awards** and **Senior Presentation** represent the heart of this youth development company. Special thanks go out to **Stefan Brancel** for five years of coaching, and to our six latest grads **Bennett, Taylor, Reid, Sam, Eric and John** for 40 shared years of investment!



*NOTE: We’re grateful to Reid, Taylor and the other seniors who blessed us with words and gifts on May 16. Three months ago, our future was uncertain. Even with a new home, I echo Teyve: “We will leave it in His hands.” Thank you for affirming this work in so many ways. —Paul & Wendy*

## Officer Voice by Reid Johnson: “To Life!”

Juggle Jam went super well! It is tough to say goodbye. JH is a fantastic community with a hearty dose of joys and highlights, along with a light dash of drama and hiccups along the way. I have steadily invested more and more time and passion into the people in JH over the past nine years, and I am not afraid to say that this is a super important part of my life.

Perhaps most kids in JH find themselves at one of these steps: being a Jughead because it’s fun, because they want to be a good juggler, because they want to be a good performer, or because they want to be involved with a broad social niche. Over the past nine years I’ve progressively devoted myself to trying to pursue each. There’s nothing wrong with these objectives, and often at club we set personal goals to achieve excellence in one of these areas.

But this past year, I’ve been developing this idea that is a steep paradigm shift from anything before. Now I find very minimal value in any of these things. Perhaps you adamantly disagree with me (I’d love to talk with you anytime you’d like), but I am sure that when we look back on our lives and have to give an account, none of these things will give weight to a life well lived.

In the words of 3rd grader **Andrew B.**, “Reid is the best juggler in JH... besides Paul of course.” (*Paul’s note: ;-)* But after leaving JH, I do not want to be remembered as one of the kids who got the Super-Ultimate standards, as captain of Ultimate Club, as a student who directed the Showcase, or even as a good performer or a nice guy. I will remember you all fondly as I head out this year, but let me tell you this: after all these years I have settled on one purpose that trumps any mere quantifiable goal. I live with the chief intention of loving one another. If I can use juggling as a key to connecting with a few dozen 3rd-12th graders, then I’m all in. If I can become a student leader to show that I love and care about each and every kid, then I will gladly use this system structure as a tool. So even after we just finished a stellar JJ17, I have to remind myself to keep my eyes fixed on making my life the paramount performance for the Ultimate Audience. All to ensure that the first words I hear after leaving Earth are: “Well done, my good and faithful servant.” This is the true heart that brings JH to life.

—**Reid Johnson:** 9th Year Jughead, Officer, Monday Rec. Assistant, Thursday Rec. Volunteer, UC Captain, Elite member, Minnetonka HS Senior



The cast of the “Tradition!” opener for Juggle Jam 17 (5/16/15).



## Taking Center Stage: 2015-2016!

- **Fall 2015 Registration:** The enclosed form details signing up for next school year. All clubs (except UC & Elite) will fill first-come, first-served starting **May 22**; *new* rookies (and Jugheads returning after a hiatus) may register right away this year, but the “returning Jughead discount” only applies to the cast members of JJ17. *NOTE: As Reid said in his column, I know it can be tough to say “good-bye.” However, please reinforce with your kids to part gracefully with us if not returning next year. The leaders and I appreciate the courtesy and closure of a formal parting, rather than kids just not continuing without a word. Thanks! —Paul*
- **JJ18 Dates penciled in!** JJ18 is tentatively scheduled for Friday & Saturday, **May 20 & 21, 2016** at Hopkins HS; the two all-cast Dress Rehearsals will take place: 1) **between May 10-12**, and 2) **either May 17 or 18, 2016**.

## Bulletins & Birthdays

- **SUMMER CAMP FORMS** are available in our St. Stephen's office and online for six (6) weeks of juggling camps June 1-July 17. Weeks of note: No camps July 6-10; no AM camps June 29-July 3; two PM weeks at St. Peter's Lutheran Church: June 29-July 3 and July 13-17. Sorry for the confusion!
- **PARKTACULAR PARADE:** Sat., 6/20. Sign up via email.
- **JH FAMILY PICNIC:** Wed., 6/17 @ Edina's Utley Park.
- **THE EDINA PARADE** is 7/4, 9 am. Sign up via email.
- **IJA-QUEBEC CITY TEAM:** Send-off meeting: July 15 or 16; final payment due June 26.
- **EYJA JOGGLING MEET:** 7/18 led by **Chris Lovdal**. Look for info. on our Friday email updates and at camps.

## Paul's Platform:

### “Sunrise, Sunset: Half a Lifetime of Youth Work”

As this column often focuses on my personal experiences, I risk being perceived as narcissistic, self-important, or preachy. However, I love (measured) transparency, so please indulge this career milestone reflection, including my commission of sorts.

On 5/19/92 at 4:03 p.m. in the parking lot of the Edina Community Center, I prayed in my car before my first interview with KIDS Club Founder **Linda Sisson**. I wrote in my prayer journal, “Whether or not I get this

job, and whichever career direction You choose to give me right now, I WANT TO RISE AND SAY THAT IT WAS GOD WHO DID IT, BECAUSE I COULDN'T DO IT MYSELF” (emphases in the original). I didn't want my personal charisma or interviewing skills to land me the job; I wanted it to be God's will, partly because I felt scared to death to take on the full-time responsibility of managing a huge older childcare program at age 23 with virtually no supervisory experience and only one summer of working with kids. As we ended the interview, Linda asked, “Is there anything else?” I replied, “I want you to know that my motivation to love the kids is my Christianity.” She smiled and nodded; granted me a 2nd interview; and I started on 6/1/92.

23 of my 46 years have been devoted to full-time vocational youth work in Edina, MN. I've written and said much regarding my journey, and perhaps the reason I'm so introspective is this remains a one-of-a-kind job. Believe me, I've bandied about ideas such as teaching, youth pastoring, speaking, writing, and entertaining. This was especially true after college graduation (Dec. '91); during my first bout of career restlessness (Winter '94); in career burnout ('97-'98); and Winter '15, when our relocation was unknown. Through it all, God has provided, I've not quit, and I exercise a variety of (learned) director skills.

I never left Edina for Disney World or dinner theatre, but I taste stage performing during Juggle Jams, occasional gigs, and church performances. I was recently rejected by *WORLD* magazine to take a mid-career writing course for potential part-time reporters, but I get to write this monthly newsletter in addition to many other things for this company. I've never taught in a classroom (except Sunday School), but I have the privilege of teaching life lessons and occasionally meeting with students and families outside our normal operating hours for deeper forms of spiritual and relational mentorship (with careful propriety).

I continue in youth work through God's grace, affirmation, humble gratitude, and opened & closed doors. However long I work with kids—whatever the final fraction of my life—is truly up to God rather than me; He who created the sun has determined how many times it sets before the work of Wendy & me is complete (i.e., God's work in us--Phil. 2:13). Our mission among swiftly flying years is to be found faithful until we're called away or called Home.

Developing Youth Since 1992,

**Paul Arneberg**, JUGHEADS Founder, Director & Head Coach  
cell: 612.978.9707 • coachpaul@jugheads.com

**Wendy Arneberg**, JUGHEADS Office/Operations Manager  
cell: 612.229.3348 • wendy@jugheads.com

**U.S. Mail:** 5905 Concord Ave., Edina, MN 55424 • **Web:** jugheads.com

**JUGHEADS Location:** St. Stephen's Church, 4439 W. 50th St., Edina, 55424

**Stefan Brancel**, Advanced Club & Summer Coach  
cell: 651.890.2938 • coachstefan@jugheads.com

**Chris Lovdal**, Elite Club, Ultimate Club, Summer Coach  
cell: 612.723.2874 • coachchris@jugheads.com

**Jon O'Connor**, U.C. Coach: 612.839.2572 • coachjon@jugheads.com

**Besty Gaasedelen**, Adv./Fri. Rec. Specialist: bgaasedelen@gmail.com