

# Quest West News

The Newsletter for Camp Quest West

## In this Edition:

Staff Members  
Early Bird Special

## EARLY BIRD SPECIAL RUNNING OUT!!!

The early bird special is ending on April 30th. Hurry quick to get this special deal.

THANK YOU to those who already registered their child and thereby took advantage of the Early Bird price.

**THESE ARE SOME OF THE STAFF MEMBERS!!** Stay tuned for more photos online at our website or on our Facebook page.

## Our Staff Members



Diane returns to camp! She believes children are our future and wants to help them to get a broader perspective on the world.

She remembers sleeping under the night sky as a child and being overwhelmed by the vastness of it all. Welcome back Diane!

Katie is joining us as our camp nurse! Hurray! "I'm excited to get started with a career that I've always wanted to do. I remember having a great time at camp. I'm excited to be involved with a group that provides kids with what sounds like a great experience."



Lili is returning as a staffer in 2010! She's 22 years old and attending Cabrillo College. Her major goal is to become a successful painter. Says Lili, "I am very happy to be part of the dedicated, open minded and caring Camp Quest Team once again."



Katherine is returning as a staffer in 2010! She's studying science at UC Berkeley - and a part of Students for a Non-Religious Ethos (SANE). She knows how to make things fun for others - welcome back Katherine!

Asher, a native New Zealander who now lives in Sacramento is on staff this summer! He designs user interfaces for a medical device company. With a freethinking Buddhist father and a progressive Christian mother, he has spent a lot of time exploring religious belief across many religions and around the world to further understand what motivates people to be religious and heart-fully believe that "An unexamined life is not worth living". We're looking forward to examining the world with you this summer, Asher!





**Cathy Newman** hails from Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and is currently an evolution lab tech at UC Davis. She has a passion for public outreach about evolution and science education, particularly

in the Deep South. A recovering Southern Baptist, she has been superstition-free for almost 3 years and wants to help kids learn to think for themselves and question everything. She also enjoys reading, hiking, looking for salamanders, and Alabama football.

**Darrell** is currently going to San Francisco State University for a Master's Program in Physics. After graduation he plans on joining the Peace Corps., traveling to many interesting places, and eventually getting a governmental job in aerospace. He enjoys many outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, swimming, dancing, wrestling and pretty much any other activity in which he can just be himself and have fun.



**David Diski** is a self-employed computer trainer for government agencies and medium-sized local business and the

spokesperson for Lodi United, a group that attempted to keep local council meetings, free of prayer. His hobbies include photography, graphic design, and volunteering. He and his cat Q-tip live in Lodi.



**Ixchell Mayorga** lives in the East Bay of California. She is studying anthropology at the local community college currently, though she plans on getting an English major because literature is my true passion. She also enjoys going on runs, going

to the beach, and going camping. It will be her first time at Camp Quest, and "I am very excited to be a part of the team! I love kids, and the great outdoors, and I believe it will be a wonderful time. I look forward to meeting new people and gaining new experiences."

**Rachel** (program staff) is a researcher/artist and journalist who loves science, drama, and star gazing! She lives in Culver City with her two sons, volunteers as a creative writing teacher in public school classrooms, and dances salsa whenever she gets a free minute. Rachel is really excited about the awesome critical thinking activities she's helping to cook up.





**Setareh** is returning to camp this summer! A UCLA sophomore, she's a blast to be around and knows lots of camp games and songs. She grew up in a secular household and knows firsthand how "tough being a teenage atheist can be and having to

constantly defend my views especially against adults". She loves nature, singing, and just letting go of worries while being away at camp and she knows how significantly a week away at a camp can change a kid's life.



**Gabby**, Stanford student and returning staffer. She's got a keen eye for groups and can always see who needs a little extra encouragement.



**Brian**, from Oxnard, is a returning staffer. He's an audio/visual genius & a board member of Atheists United in Los Angeles.

His campfire antics are the best!



**Fred James**, also a returning staffer, coming from Bellingham, WA to spend the week with us. He's been a

rationalist since he began reading science at age 9. He grew up in Chicago and learned to fly airplanes in college. He did a stint in Vietnam, had a career in radio & TV and now writes commentary. He believes in trusting kids to their own minds.

**Lexi** works at a Science Center running mock NASA missions to the Moon or Mars for school groups. She is a complete science dork with passion for self replicating robots. She is also a fan of comics, costuming, as well as enjoying the nerdier side of life at Comic-con. She grew up going camping as a kid in South Africa, and made a point of working at one as soon as I came to the states. Since Camp Quest West sounds right up my alley. Can't wait!



**Neil**, from Alhambra, returning staffer and philosophy graduate student. He spent many years with the boy scouts and knows all about survival skills! He's our archery instructor for the summer.



**Sean Suess** is from a small town in Southern California called 'Simi Valley.' He is a musician, and a part-time college student majoring in education. He has been an atheist for as long as he can remember, and is really looking forward to

this camp because it affords these children an opportunity that he is sure most of the counselors wish we had when we were their age.

Caleb was by non-theistic parents. He joined the Navy after high school and served for six years. He now has degrees in English and has written two short novels. He's beginning a career in radio broadcasting and loves teaching. Says



Caleb, "Promoting atheism, agnosticism, and humanism has become an important part of my life. I'm very excited about joining the team at Camp Quest and look forward to seeing everyone there."



**Chris Lindstrom** from Los Altos, CA returns as Camp Director! She's a software engineer by day. Camp holds a special place in her heart because of all the good times she had as a middle school camper back in the day.