



My parents always sent us to camp. They thought it was important for us to learn to be independent of each other and them; to learn to make new friends and to learn life skills that we wouldn't pick up living in Staten Island. I didn't know anything about scholarships, financial aid, or living on a tight budget. My Mom was a schoolteacher, and my Dad was in sales. I didn't know they couldn't afford full tuition for 3 kids for a whole summer. We all went to camp every year for a full

8 weeks. Camp shaped my life and helped me become the adult I am today. I met my husband at camp. My best friend, who I still speak to nearly every single day, I met at camp when I was 11 years old. In fact, nearly my entire bridal party at our wedding was from camp. After working in the camp office, I learned about reduced fees and scholarships. *My parents were very honest about the fact that if it weren't for camp scholarships, we would not have been able to attend camp.* For as long as I have an extra dollar in my budget, I will always donate money and give back to camp. That's why I joined the 1902 Society—so I can help give to other children the benefits that I was given, so that the legacy can live on, so that camp never has to say “no” to a family in need. That's what I hope, and that's why I joined.

- Dena (Belkowitz) Levine

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I view the 1902 Society as something that is extremely reassuring in a time filled with uncertainty. While it may be easy to accept the fact that Surprise Lake might not be around without its incredible alumni, it's a bit harder when you realize that in the recent years, that almost hasn't been enough. We can watch other camps shut down and still think to ourselves “that will never happen to SLC . . . it's been around for so long.” The reality is that programs like the 1902 Society ensure that SLC *will* be around . . . and that's what sets us apart. Similar to all of you who are reading this, SLC is something very special to me. Joining the 1902 Society gave me the piece-of-mind that I'm

doing my part to ensure that those experiences will continue. While estate planning can be a tough task, especially at a young age, I know that my opinion on this will never change, and that's why it was an easy decision. The 1902 Society is a unique opportunity for every alumnus – regardless of current financial situation— to become a person who is essential for camp's continued existence.

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I was one of the first to sign up for the 1902 Society. I immediately saw that leaving money to SLC from my estate was a way to ensure I have enough money to live on and take care of myself with, but also afforded me the opportunity to leave a lasting legacy in the form of funds for Surprise Lake Camp. I don't look on it as taking money from my children, but as a way of providing them with an important legacy in terms of the value of tzedakah in my life.

-Linda Markowitz, Esq.

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Joining the 1902 Society took but a moment in terms of the conceptual decision. However, picking the type of gift which I will use will take a little longer to decide. The conceptual decision was easy because of my feelings towards SLC. I attended camp in the early to mid 1950's. I was there because of some sort of scholarship, my folks could not afford to send me to camp, and in addition to spending time in two different divisions over several summers I also was privileged to be in Work Camp with our head counselors Ray and Anita Berger. Many people have the same feelings and recollections as I do. Learning to swim and the thrill of passing the deep water test, learning about the outdoors on hikes to Beacon, etc., learning to get along with bunk mates and different personalities, taking up the guitar because of the influence of Pete Seeger at campfires, and especially the feeling of accomplishment in Work Camp as we completed needed projects around camp.

The type of gift is another matter. While there are a number of gift types to choose from, including Trusts and gifts from Retirement Plans, I narrowed it down to the following three:

- A Bequest from my estate through my will
- A Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA)
- The use of a Life Insurance Policy

My first choice is the CGA which when funded will provide my wife and myself with income for life and leave a gift for SLC. However, I am looking at the rates and monitoring them at this time. If the CGA does not work, my second choice is gifting some of the proceeds from my life insurance policy and of course this has to be done in conjunction with my estate plans. And the easiest, although last, would be a bequest through my will. Clearly there are many choices which might be made.

I signed the 1902 Letter of Intent and at some point over the next year or two I will implement the choice. Please consider joining me in this effort and of course if you wish to ask me any questions, please feel free to email me or call (631) 390-4300.

Jim Meyer  
 Camper 1950's  
 Member, Board of Directors  
 Co-Chair, Fundraising Committee

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Surprise Lake Camp has played a very important role in the life of my family. My father, my daughters, and my grandson have all been campers—and all but my grandson have been staff members (he's too young). I was a camper and staff member in the 1950's. For me SLC was one of the two most formative institutions in my life, the other being my college. I learned cooperation, team spirit, group loyalty, personal Integrity, and how to be Jewish without being "religious" at SLC. So when I retired and started to set up my estate plans

with my financial advisor, I discovered that for a small yearly investment, I could establish a Life Insurance Trust with a few of the most important institutions in my life as my beneficiaries. This guaranteed that SLC and two other institutions would be supported by me after I died (SLC will get half, and the other two institutions will split the other half). Because of the way the Trust was set up, the premium I had to pay to maintain the Trust became a tax deduction and cost me almost nothing. It

makes me feel good to know that when I die, there will be money in the Surprise Lake endowment that will guarantee camper scholarships to those who are in need that I will have provided, just as my father received a scholarship in the 1920's when he first went to SLC.

-Rabbi Larry Rubinstein

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How could I not respond to your request to tell you and the camp's alums why I joined the 1902 Society? I have, literally, a five generation connection to this wonderful institution and I know my family treasures that connection as well and will be happy to see me leave some money for SLC. My grandfather, Israel Edwin Goldwasser was on the junior board of the 92nd St Y when several young men from that group walked the land that was to become the camp. He became its first board member and served as board chair. My mom subsequently joined the board, was the 13th and first woman

board chair and spent some years on federation's camping commission. I remember early trips to SLC as her daughter, enjoying the outdoors while she and others toured the camp. It seemed natural, many years later, to enroll two of my three children as campers for several summers.

Later, when my mother asked me to join the board I agreed, and it was fun to be at board meetings with her, though it was several years before I had enough time between children and work to invest more energies in the ongoing support of and planning for the camp. Then, still later, Larry Rubinstein convinced me to serve a term as board chair, arguing that I should do it while my mother was still alive. I am so glad I accepted when I did because it was just at the end of her life, and I think it made her proud to see me in that role. I had the privilege of serving as chair during the years that camp acquired full title to its own land and was proud to help in that endeavor.

And now, in recent years, my daughter has joined me on the board and two of my grandchildren [with more probably to follow] became enthusiastic SLC campers. Not a bad run....and certainly the reasons for joining the 1902 society.

Ruth W. Messinger, President  
American Jewish World Service

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As some of you know from mentions in the newsletter, I am Max Oppenheimer's granddaughter. Unfortunately, he died when I was too young to really appreciate having him in my life. But his daughter, my mother, Lenore, made sure that I was aware of the miraculous story of Surprise Lake Camp. We made frequent summertime visits, and I owe my love of lake swimming to these sun-filled excursions to Cold Spring. When Lenore died in 1997, the directors decided to name a new fund for female campers in her honor.

All of these facts have encouraged me to provide for Surprise Lake in my estate planning. Perhaps you hope that, in this tumultuous time, there will be a safe and joyous place for your children and grandchildren to spend their summers. Nothing is certain except that time keeps moving us forward. Some of us are still in good shape, physically and economically. Some not. But leaving a legacy is something which all of us can do at any point in our lives. Generosity comes in many forms and is a "good deed" at all times. Money--that too oft-tainted word. Lately, it's gotten a bad reputation because of a handful of selfish uncaring people. Let's start this season of rebirth with giving words like "wealth" and "assets" a more positive inflection. Leaving a legacy is one of the best ways to celebrate

a life well-lived. We can't take it with us, but we can make sure that when we're gone, the fruits of our success travel beyond our lives to where they bring the potential of new successes to others.

-Jane Hershey Cuzzo

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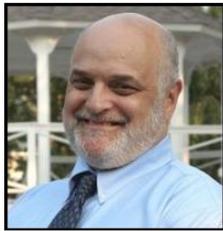
Why I choose to become a member of the 1902 Society is very simple. Surprise Lake was a big part of my life during the summers of 1970-1973. After my first summer at SLC, I ended up spending six weeks at camp. I went for the first session and the last session. At the end of school, I always looked forward to going to SLC and meeting old friends and making new friends.

Surprise Lake Camp was fun during my childhood, and I still have good memories of camp. I decided to leave SLC money from my estate through my will. I do not have any children of my own, and I would like to leave this portion to children who cannot afford to go to camp. I have donated books to the camp's library in the past and now I can leave something for children to

enjoy in the future.

-Gayle Schwartz (nee Allen)

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I am humbled to be included in your search for members of the 1902 Society. It has given me an opportunity to think once again what SLC has meant to me and the hard work you put in everyday for the children who pass through--- whether for a single summer or a lifetime. This commitment is for all the times I should have stood dock duty and didn't, and for all the times I swam in that beautiful lake, and for all the kids I had the honor of being a counselor for. (And thank G-d it is not a reflection of my basketball skill developed at SLC).

This is my privilege.

-Joey Novick

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The question is not why should I leave money to Surprise Lake Camp in my will. The real question is why shouldn't I? To me, it's a no brainer! It doesn't cost me anything out of my pocket, it's easy to do, and it ensures that SLC will be around forever. And I don't have to be rich to do it!

Besides my family, Surprise Lake has been the biggest influence in my life. The lifelong friends (new and old) that I have made over the past 34 years that I have been involved with camp mean so much to me. As a former camper, staff member, Alumni President, and current member of the Board of Directors and summer volunteer, I can't imagine life without SLC. Some of my friends think I'm crazy, but they never got to experience the magic of camp like I have. I want to thank my parents for choosing Surprise Lake as the camp for me. They made the right decision! I'm so happy that my two nephews, Matt and Jeff, also feel like I do about camp. There is no way that we would be as close as we are today if it wasn't for camp. Leaving a portion of my estate in my will to camp means

that they will continue to enjoy SLC, as well as their future families, and any other families who need SLC.

-Howie Berk

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-Joel "Whammy" Kaufman

The Marines don't ask for volunteers, they ask for commitments. I am a busy husband, parent, friend, teacher, volunteer, and always wearing different hats throughout each day. My to-do lists have to-do lists on them. I wish I could actually make time to finish my lists before I go to SLC each summer, but that is not likely. I might not win lotto this week, or be able to afford large donations to SLC each year, so I continue to make gifts that are affordable. I was excited to become a member of the 1902 Society because it enables me and my family to make a more substantial gift that will benefit SLC in 70 or 80 years from now when campers will be singing "I've been that way since 2076." Thank you for helping me put SLC on my TO-DO list. Please join me.

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am happy to know that I can continue to pass this great gift on to future generations even after my work here is done.

~Andy Meyer

Surprise Lake Camp is where I learned friendship, leadership, responsibility, and community. It is where I transitioned from childhood, to adolescence, to adulthood. Where I imbibed many of the bedrock values of my life. Where I had adventures to savor forever. Where I experienced my purest moments of excitement, heartbreak, disappointment, accomplishment, and joy. Where I forged many of my most lasting and cherished relationships. It is the caretaker of my evergreen youth. How does one repay such a place?

Discharging such a debt is more than the work of a lifetime, which is why I

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There was nothing more natural and easy a decision than becoming a member of the 1902 Society. I grew up at Surprise Lake Camp, met my husband there, and now my kids call it home. It's what I conjure up in my mind when I need to go to my happy place.

SLC has been making a difference in the lives of children for 108 years. The

1902 Society will ensure that the impact of SLC will continue for hundreds of years to come.

-Shelli Olinsky

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I will always feel like I missed out.

I first came to Surprise Lake Camp as a counselor in 1994 and, as I said at the end of that magical summer, I'd never worked harder, never had more fun. Of course I came back the next year, and the next, and the next . . .

In 2002, while working as the Unit H Supervisor (that was the summer my boys voted to rename the unit Highlands), a full time position became available and I jumped at the chance to become even more involved. Camp had become probably the most important part of my life.

This summer will be my 16th - a huge span of time in many organizations. At SLC, it is merely a good start. But I was never a camper at SLC, and so despite 16 summers and counting, I will always feel like I missed out.

I don't want anyone to miss out on that experience that I see every day in my work, even in the depths of winter, because their parents can't afford our full fees. Making the decision to provide for camp was easy, and with Celia's help, the process was equally painless.

Don't feel like you're missing out!  
- Avri Klemer

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Surprise Lake Camp is a magical place that has touched the life of each Suchow family member. It really is a second home for us and fills a special place in our hearts. The natural beauty of the surroundings coupled with a truly talented, dedicated senior administration serves as the foundation for creating a meaningful Jewish experience for families and their children. We have learned, grown and broadened ourselves in so many positive ways because of our long-time and close affiliation with SLC. As a statement to our children, we have made Jewish Philanthropy part of our legacy. It is our obligation to pass on Jewish learning and living to others. What better way than

to make a commitment to SLC, a place that we love. Being part of the 1902 society makes us feel wonderful knowing that the camp will be around long after we are gone. Thank you for offering us this treasured opportunity and thank you for the blessing of Surprise Lake Camp.

With love,  
-Elaine and Paul Suchow

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Jon and I met at camp back in 1988. We have been together for over 20 years and have a lovely family. Six years ago, I started working at camp again and have never before felt more connected to SLC. My kids love camp, Jon and I love camp, and while we have made some substantial donations to camp over the years (the Berger Bounce!), we want to make sure that we continue to support camp even after we have gone. The 1902 Society is an easy way to help camp – with a gift after you are gone – to help carry on and feel connected to SLC – forever.

-Eve (Cruso) & Jon Berger

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Surprise Lake Camp has been such an important part of my life for the last 15 summers. I have made friends here that I treasure more than anything. In my eyes, the 1902 Society is the best thing I can do to ensure that future campers will have the opportunity to have the same experiences I have been blessed with. I truly believe that camp changed my life for the better and without it, who knows where I would be?! At present, I don't have the means to support camp with

donations the way I wish I could, but joining the 1902 Society is my promise that I will one day give back to the place that gave so much to me.

**-Allie Ball**



Since having our first child seven years ago, we realized the need for a will. We wanted to be able to make decisions on how our family would be cared for when we could no longer care for them. Even with knowing the importance of a will, having to consider our own mortality was uncomfortable. Now, living in Charlotte, NC with two precious girls, ages 7 & 4, we finally met with an estate attorney and established a will. During the meeting our attorney, Jeffrey Garris, asked us if we would like to leave anything to a charity. We looked at each other and said, “Surprise Lake Camp.” It seemed to amaze Mr. Garris, and then he told us that he was a camper there for two summers in the 70’s . . . Surprise Lake is everywhere! He got teary-

eyed as he recalled many fond memories.

Surprise Lake is the source of so much joy in our lives. Although we grew up in the same neighborhood and knew each other all our lives, Surprise Lake is the place where we became a couple. Now, almost fourteen years and two kids later, we are happier than ever before. Our closest friends are from SLC and we know that these are our friends for life. We even have 3 members of the SLC family as godparents for our daughters.

Joining the 1902 Society was an easy decision for us. We enjoy contributing to SLC on a monthly basis to ensure that other children get to have the amazing experiences and memories that we both had. Surprise Lake Camp is family to us, and now that our will is finalized, we sleep better knowing that we have done our part to take care of our family. In the meantime, we look forward to many more Alumni Days and other SLC events. Our daughters already know and love SLC, and they will only enjoy it more when they get to be campers one day.

**-Seth Fishman and Lori Heitzner Fishman**

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In late August of 1989, after dating for a brief time, Dave and I went camping. As soon as we lost radio reception, both of us started singing the same camp song. Dave began with “whenever you see a hearse go by” and I was able to sing the next line! It was at that moment that we realized we were connected in some weird, profound way. We had an unspoken understanding of experiences that helped to shaped us—CAMP. Camp had given us similar histories, values, and memories, and we knew that if we ended up together, our children would be

camp kids as well. My daughter has now been at SLC for 9 years. She is currently on staff and hopes to be for a long time! My son was a camper for 7 years and became an avid lover of the waterfront. He was recently certified as a lifeguard and hopes to return to camp in the future as waterfront staff. Dave comes to visit on weekends and even has an unofficial title of “Dave Support.” (I have been the Mainside Support Supervisor since 2006) We feel great knowing that by joining the 1902 Society, we are securing camp’s future and its ability to fulfill its mission. We know firsthand the incredible

impact camp has on the lives of both children and adults, and want to make sure that these experiences are made affordable to anyone who needs it, regardless of their financial status.

**-Carolyn & Dave Samuels**

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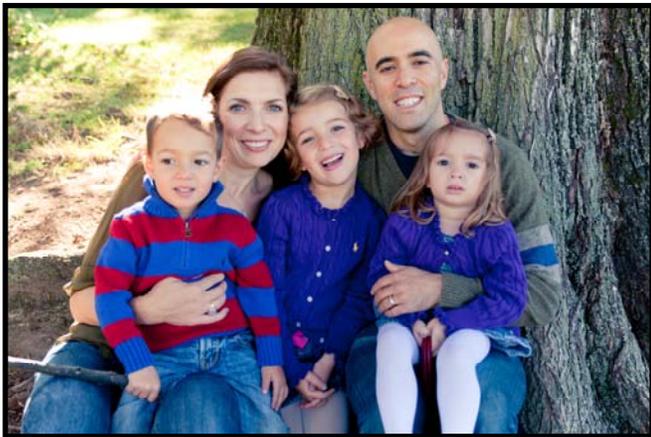


When I was 12 years old, my parents indulged my pleas to send me to sleep away camp. My Dad wondered if the camp he had attended 30 years prior was still around. Fortunately it was, and off I went to Cold Spring, NY! That summer, in 1996, I left the flatlands of Miami for the picturesque Hudson Valley and thus began my lifelong love for Surprise Lake Camp. At camp I made incredible friends, learned invaluable lessons, and had memorable experiences that shaped the person I have become. Joining the 1902 Society was one way to give back to help secure SLC's future. Years from now, I want people to be just as thrilled as I was to learn that SLC is still around, nestled 'neath the shady trees.

**-Jennifer L. Hochstadt**

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The reason we joined the 1902 Society is because Surprise Lake Camp is very special



to us. It is the place where we first met, made amazing lifelong friends, and countless happy memories. Our oldest daughter will be a Mountainview camper this summer and we can only hope that her experiences in camp will be as wonderful as ours were. We also hope that SLC continues to be the amazing place it is now, not only for our family, but for other families and kids. If we could give back a little to help that effort, then we are all for

it!

**Mike & Julia Seltzer**

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How does one describe their feelings about a place that lies deep in their heart and soul? How could one not give back to a place that shaped their life? This is why I had to join the 1902 society. I came to camp in 1969 and never left. It has given me a lifetime of friendships, financial help when I needed to send my son to camp, and the most important, a place I can still visit and look back on all the memories that has made my son and I the people we are today. It will always

be home and it needs to continue for generations to come.

-Michele Albo

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I want to leave a better future for the generations of children that will follow me. Giving to Surprise Lake Camp guarantees my wish will be fulfilled.

-Mitchell H. Brenner