By Alexandra Kuperman, Surprise Lake Camp Jewish Greening Fellow and Assistant Director of the Teva Learning Center

It is with great delight that I share with you that Surprise Lake Camp has installed solar panels on the roof of the Belle Abramson Gymnasium. This is truly something to celebrate! The panels are a visual symbol of camp’s commitment to both the future of our children and the environment. In the long run, they will save camp money and help to address climate change.

These solar panels are estimated to produce 22,500 Kilowatt hours of electricity each year and therefore reduce our dependence on non-renewable sources of energy such as coal. As a result, camp will annually offset 39,979 lbs of carbon dioxide. It would take the equivalent of 2 acres of trees to perform the same ecological service! Put another way, the solar panels prevent the burning of 2,014 gallons of gasoline annually.

The new solar panels are a huge step in camp’s greening efforts. In addition, the gym (the old location of the Teva Shack) will once again become a place of learning about the environment. In 2010, campers will be able to visit an interactive kiosk that will teach campers about renewable energy. In addition, in the coming months, we anticipate placing a box on camp’s website displaying how much energy the panels are producing at any given time.

A special thank you to Jordan Dale and the members of SLC’s Board of Directors, specifically Stan Josephson, Eliot Senor, and Margery Arsham, for championing this project and making it happen. Turning vision into reality is no small task!

There is currently an opportunity to support Surprise Lake Camp’s greening efforts and to put your name on an educational kiosk by the solar panels. If you are interested in this naming opportunity, please be in touch with Celia.

(continued on page 2)
SLC Going Green . . . (Continued from front page)

This past year, camp has taken a number of steps toward going green. During first session we brought back Shomrei Adathah (Keepers of the Earth) Day. The day was a huge success and featured a veggie oil fueled school bus, a concert from Jewish Rock Star Chana Rothman, a camp wide eco-contest, Teenside greening projects, and much more. We’re looking forward to another fun-filled day in 2010.

Camp also started using ecologically sound cleaning products. These products support the environment and contribute to the health of our campers and our cleaning staff. Finally, with the help of NYSERDA, an energy audit was conducted. A newly created greening committee is now reviewing the results of this audit. I anticipate that at the recommendation of the greening committee, more energy efficiency changes will be put in place over the coming years.

If you’d like to be involved and join the greening committee, please let me know. If you have a question about how to go green in your home or at camp, let me know. I’ll be happy to answer your questions and post them in the next “Camp Goes Green” column in Re-Echoes.

Surprise Lake Camp wishes to thank those alumni who have already made gifts and pledges to the 2009 Alumni Drive. Momentum is building, but we still have a long way to go before reaching our goal of $180,000!

If you have never made a gift before, please consider one now. If we want to succeed, camp needs more of our alumni to step up and participate. Gifts of any size are appreciated and will help us come closer to reaching our goals. If every non-donor in our alumni database made a first time gift of $18 (chai), we would raise an additional $90,000! PLEASE. WE NEED YOU!

The Alumni Drive officially ends on January 31, 2010, and, as always, your gifts are tax deductible and go directly to support camper scholarships. You may use the donor form on page 10 or make your gift online at https://www.surpriselake.org/about/donate.php

Farewell to Ron Wills

It is with bittersweet emotion that we announce the retirement of Ron Wills, Sr., SLC’s caretaker from 1978-2009. Ron will be leaving camp after 31 years at the end of November, and moving to Illinois to be closer to his family. We thank him for his tremendous service to camp and wish him all the best.
On a rainy Saturday in August, Corey Zbar and Elise Henrich (pictured right, couple on the left) visited camp to participate in round up. During round up, April, the Mountainview Girls Supervisor asked Corey (who plays the guitar) to come to her unit after lunch to do a sing along with her girls. The couple agreed. Little did Elise know, the “sing along” was by far a much different activity. After lunch, Elise met Corey at the Mountainview Gazebo and found all the girls lined up. The girls began to sing “I Will” by the Beatles, accompanied by Corey on the guitar. It was a very lovely performance. Once they finished the song, the girls were instructed to hold up individual letters which spelled out “Will You Marry Me, Elise?” At the same time, Corey got down on one knee and proposed to Elise.

“It was by far the best engagement either of us could have hoped for,” writes Elise. “Like so many others, we met at SLC and love it. We are both very grateful that we were able to have this very special moment at camp surrounded by our friends and family. Everyone who played a part in this plan did a great job and helped contribute to our engagement. So to SLC, and everyone involved, THANK YOU!”

This will be a 2nd generation camp couple, as Corey’s parents, Mike and Barbara, also met at camp! Mazel Tov to the entire Zbar Family!

Mazel Tov to Britt Karp and Devon Isaacson (pictured left, couple on the right) who became engaged on February 10th. They met at camp in the summer of 2000 and began dating in the Summer of 2005.

Mazel Tov to Chuck Jainchill on his October 31st engagement to Jill Rosenberg.

Mazel Tov to Jon Schneider on his June engagement to Victoria Baranik in England.

Mazel Tov to Britt Karp and Devon Isaacson (pictured left, couple on the right) who became engaged on February 10th. They met at camp in the summer of 2000 and began dating in the Summer of 2005.

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Dear Jordan:

Following up on our recent telephone conversation, where you asked me to recount some of my memorable experience at Surprise Lake Camp – here are examples:

• I was at Surprise Lake Winter camp from 1937 to 1940, covering ages 9 to 12. People have asked me, "didn’t I resent and feel hurt being separated from my family during those formative years?" My answer has always been – Surprise Lake Camp saved and influenced my life in manner words cannot describe. I was surrounded by people who cared for me, loved me, nurtured me, and educated me.

• I often think and dream about my three teachers, Miss Canary, Miss Conboy, and Miss Gaffney. They instilled in me the importance of a good education. They drilled into my head and soul that the path out of poverty is education. "You can lose a business, you can lose money, but no one can take away what you have learned."

• I also remember vividly one morning after an ice storm – all the trees were covered in ice – and the sun shining through was like a rainbow forest. Miss Canary said, "This is not a day to spend in a classroom, put on your coats and let's walk through the miracle of nature."

These experiences and these people and the other staff influenced my life and shaped me forever. I will always be indebted to Surprise Lake Camp and the people who shaped my life 70 years ago.

Best regards,
Milton Herson

In Memory of Morton Gimbel

Dear Camp Administrator:

Enclosed is a gift in memory of Mort Gimbel. My Aunt Adrienne is his daughter and she told me a wonderful story how Mort sent his sister to Surprise Lake Camp. When Mort was a child his family could not afford camp so Mort entered a writing contest from Surprise Lake Camp and won. The prize was a scholarship to the camp, so Mort sent his sister.

Sincerely,
Alissa Sundel

Hi Celia,

Thank you for the letter acknowledging my niece Alissa’s donation to Surprise Lake Camp in memory of my dad Morton Gimbel. My father’s family, as he grew up, was poor and resided in NYC. His dad had died when he was a child, and Morton took on the role to support his family as best he could. My dad enjoyed writing, and entered contests that requested essays, jingles, and poems to be written. It was his joy to have won the “Surprise Lake Essay Contest” and thus be able to give the gift of summer camp to his sister.

Alissa stated you may mention my dad in one of your upcoming camp newsletters. We would feel privileged to receive a copy of the newsletter. We are happy to know scholarships continue to be given to children who desire to attend summer camp at Surprise Lake.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
Adrienne Westheim

Dear Jordan Dale,

I am writing because as a camper at SLC, I would like another camper to experience what I have for the past 6 summers. I am donating $500, which is a portion of the money that I received from my Bat Mitzvah.

I am donating money so that another kid can have a Surprise Lake Camp summer experience.

Thank you so much for the wonderful summers that I have spent at Surprise Lake. I can’t wait to return to camp this summer for yet another wonderful two months.

Again, thank you for everything that you do to make camp what it is today!

Sincerely, Amy Waldman

Amy (center) with her group during the Summer of 2009.
Alumni of the Year—Seth Stein

The SLC Alumni Association would like to once again congratulate Seth Stein on receiving the 2009 Alumni of the Year Award. This award is given by the SLC Board of Directors to an alum who demonstrates an outstanding commitment to SLC. Seth was presented with his award on Alumni Day and at the 2nd Session All Camp Show, and it was a lovely evening for all those in attendance. Following is Seth’s SLC bio:

Seth is a third generation SLCer. Both his father and great uncle were campers. Seth started his own camp career in 1982 at age nine. He was in Unit D for six weeks, and then came for the full summer for each of the next six seasons. He was in Unit H, then Preteen for two summers, and then on Teenside for three years. Most of his time on Teenside, Seth was in Sports Specialty, although he did try Waterfront for one session as a change of pace.

One of the highlights that Seth recalls fondly from his camper days was his first Breakneck hike with Whammy. Oranges never tasted as sweet as they did that day when the group got to Hudson Overlook.

In 1989, Seth joined the staff as a Counselor Aide in Mountainview Boys. In 1990 and 1991, he was a counselor in Mountainview. One of those years, his supervisor was Chuck Jainchill, who, like Whammy, has also been an Alumni Award winner. In 1992, Seth moved to Unit I, the predecessor of today’s Idyllwood. That summer, he did something no other SLC counselor has ever done. He traded places for one week with a counselor from Camp Tawonga, another Jewish camp situated in Yosemite National Park. When Seth returned, he shared the things he liked about Tawonga, and to this day, the system we use for giving staff periods off is the one he learned there.

Although Seth did not work at camp in the summer of 1993, he did come during postcamp to help with a one week encampment for children with gastrointestinal diseases. This gave Seth new insights into how powerful a camp experience can be.

In 1994, Seth became the Unit Supervisor for Unit I. His supervisor was SLC legend Liz Sussman, in her first year as a Division Head. That year, Seth had another of his most treasured moments. His unit had a magical end of summer program which ended with everyone singing “Can You Feel the Love Tonight?” with the incredible joy and emotion that can only happen in camp.

Seth spent his next two summers working as a paralegal and for a travel camp. He entered law school and became a lawyer, starting his own firm in 2004. Around this time, he began to get involved in alumni activities. He became a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, and for the last three years, he has been on the Executive Committee, serving as both Secretary and Vice President. He has helped with hike days, alumni parties, and the annual golf outing. He was the MC of this event last year, and will serve again in that capacity at the upcoming outing in September.

At the end of last summer, Seth rallied a group of alumni who volunteered to run camp’s Get Your Feet Wet program together with fellow alum Jenny Goldstein. They brought an energy that was truly remarkable. Their commitment and creativity were impressive, and we hope that the new model they created for Get Your Feet Wet will continue for many years to come.

Seth got engaged in February. Although his bride to be, Aimee Lipman, is not an SLC alum, the rabbi for the wedding will be Lance Sussman, Liz’s husband, and our former camp rabbi.

The most recent achievement in Seth’s SLC career was his election to the Surprise Lake Camp Board of Directors at its July meeting, ironically just a couple of months after the Board selected Seth as this year’s Alumni honoree in recognition of his many years of distinguished service to camp.

From Our Alumni continued...
Photos from Recent SLC Events

6th Annual Golf Outing — September 14, 2009  Photos by Caryn Posnansky

Rosh Hashanah at SLC — September 19, 2009  Photos by “Whammy”
Many Thanks To Our Hike-A-Thon Hikers!

Celia Baczkowski  Larry Cooperstein  Evie Ksenopoulos  Henry Stern
Eugene Berger    Glen Frick      David Leibowitz    Adele Stern
Eric Berger      Matthew Frick   Michael Leibowitz  Jennifer Toback
David Berk       Marissa Garfinkel Michele Mark Levine  Jeffrey Toback
Howie Berk       Matt Grubler    Sherri Malone      
Jeff Berk        Gayle Hoffman   Becky Melzer      And special thanks to
Phyllis Berk     Ariel Hohenstein Mandi Messina     Ralph Forgacs, Joe
Steven Britt     Devin Hohenstein Michelle Olinsky  Goldberg, Julia Pisetsky,
Michelle Britt   Stacy Hohenstein Samantha Olinsky and Jordana Zbar for
Jamie Chesloff   Marc Hohenstein Daryl Robertucci helping with setup,
Samantha Cooperstein  Joel “Whammy” Kaufman Allison Spinelli registration, and cleanup!

4th Annual Hike-A-Thon — October 25, 2009

SOOO Many Ways to Keep in Touch with SLC!

Email: alumni@surpriselake.org
Web: http://surpriselake.org
Blog: http://143slc.wordpress.com
Facebook: http://tinyurl.com/slcrules
Twitter: http://twitter.com/SurpriseLake
Who Says You Can’t Live Forever?
Immortality is possible when you Create a Jewish Legacy by joining the 1902 Society!
Your legacy gift ensures that Surprise Lake Camp is provided for—according to your wishes—for generations to come.
There are many ways to ensure a strong future for SLC, and you don’t need to be rich or have a lot of cash! To learn more, please call us at 212-924-3131.

Current Members of The 1902 Society
We are extremely grateful to the following individuals who have made provisions for Surprise Lake Camp in their estate planning.

Anonymous  Nancy & Alan Hoffman  Eve Rubinstein Papernick & Jon Papernick
Faith Altschuler  Chuck Jainchill  Johanna Pinzler & Avri Klemer
Walter Arnstein  Stan Josephson  Michael Rieger
Celia Baczkowski  Karri & Joel “Whammy” Kaufman  Robin & Larry Rubinstein
Molly & Pat Benton  Sheryl Kirschenbaum  Steven Sails & Judy Freiser Sails
Evie & Jon Berger  Alan Kleiman  Gayle Schwartz
Howie Berk  Andrew Kominik  Harvey Sills
Martin Blum  Jerry Meyer  Steve Sommer
Amy Bram  Jim Meyer  Jeff Spiegel
Jane Hershey Cuozzo  Lee Meyer  Seth Stein
David Fleischner  Judy & Michael Margulies  Adele & Henry Stern
Ken Freedman  Linda Markowitz  Mara Rubinstein Tanzman & Jeffrey Tanzman
Dr. Joseph Goldberg  Ruth Messinger  Audrey & Mark Tenenhaus
Gwen & Larry Hamberg  Suzanne Moskowitz & Jordan Dale  Alice & Steve Terner
Irving Harris  Stephen Nitkin  Anne & Joel Zbar
Patti Henshel  Joey Novick  Barbara & Michael Zbar

Why Become a Member of the 1902 Society?
We’ll let our current members tell you!

Jordan,
I have signed the attached document and sent it on.
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.
Best,
Joey Novick
We hope you will tell us when you have included Surprise Lake Camp in your estate plans. We would very much like the opportunity to say “thank you” for your generosity. Letting us know of your intentions also helps us to be better aware of your particular interests and will allow us to keep you informed of developments at SLC which may be relevant to your planned gift. Recognition of your gift may also inspire generosity in others.

In support of the work of Surprise Lake Camp, I/we want to provide for future generations and to ensure the continuity of the services it provides.

This Letter of Intent represents my/our commitment to Surprise Lake Camp. It does not represent a legal obligation on my/our part and may be changed at any time.

I/We have joined the 1902 Society by:  (Please check the options you are considering)

☐ Making a bequest in my/our Will or Trust
☐ Investing in a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) with Surprise Lake Camp
☐ Naming Surprise Lake Camp as Beneficiary of a Charitable Remainder or Lead Trust
☐ Naming Surprise Lake Camp as a Beneficiary of a Life Insurance Policy
☐ Naming Surprise Lake Camp as Beneficiary under a Retirement Plan
☐ Directing my/our Foundation to make annual gifts beyond my/our lifetime(s)

☐ Optional: The amount of my/our planned gift is: $_____________ or _____% of my/our estate.

☐ I/We intend to include Surprise Lake Camp in my/our estate plans by the following date: ______________

☐ I/We wish to become a member of the 1902 Society but wish to remain anonymous

Name (s) as you would like it (them) to appear (for Anonymous, please check the box above):
____________________________________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________________

City: ____________________________________________ State: ________ Zip: ____________

Phone: (            )_________________________   Email address: _________________________

Signature: ________________________________    Date: _______________________

Surprise Lake Camp, 307 Seventh Avenue— Suite 900, New York, NY 10001  *  (212) 924-3131  *  alumni@surpriselake.org
2009 Alumni Drive and Dues Form

Did you know that . . .

☑ All gifts are fully tax deductible?
☑ All money raised directly benefits camper scholarships?
☑ You may be eligible to have your gift matched by your company?
☑ Surprise Lake Camp accepts contributions in memory or in honor of someone?
☑ You can make a gift of securities, donate a vehicle, or make a bequest in your will?
☑ You can support camp by having your credit card billed monthly?

Make Your Gift Online!
https://www.supriselake.org/about/donate.php

Please help us to confirm our records by completing the following:

Name: ___________________________ Maiden Name: ___________________________
Address: ________________________ City: ______________________ State: ______ Zip: ______
Birthdate: _______________ Occupation: ____________________ Dates/Years at Camp:__________________
Email Address:____________________ Phone: __________________

Alumni Drive: Gifts to the Alumni Drive are used to support this year’s scholarships. This is camp’s greatest current need. If you are supporting this annual drive, please consider making an additional gift to our scholarship fund to secure our ability to provide for future scholarships.

Scholarship Fund: This money goes toward an achievement endowment to provide for future scholarships. (Gifts will be credited to the Henny Cohen Scholarship Fund unless you direct that they be put into another scholarship fund.)

Alumni Dues: Used to pay for Alumni reunions, scholarships sponsored by the Alumni Association, and other functions that support camp. Membership entitles Alumni to be kept informed of alumni events, receive quarterly Re-Echoes and receive a discount at Alumni activities for which a fee is charged. All members will receive a membership card and calendar of events.

Jeff B. Herman Memorial Fund: Pays for camp’s annual award given to the most outstanding male and female athletes on Teenside and helps to fund camper scholarships. Jeff Herman was a beloved Surprise Lake Camper who became a New York City policeman and was tragically killed in the line of duty.

Please Complete:

1 Day at camp: $115 4 Days at camp: $460  The Hinterlands Circle (2 Weeks): $1,600 or more
2 Days at camp: $230 5 Days at camp: $575  The Hudson Overlook Circle (1 Session): $3,200 or more
3 Days at camp: $345 The Bald Spot Circle (1 Week): $800 or more  The Breakneck Circle (Full Summer): $6,200 or more

Annual Alumni Fundraising Drive—Send a Child to Camp .............................................. $______________

Alumni Association Dues $180 Lifetime, $25 Annual........... .......................... $______________
Scholarship Fund ................................................................. $______________
Jeff B. Herman Memorial Fund............................ $______________

Total Amount Enclosed .......................................................... $______________

☐ Please bill my credit card: (No AMEX, please)

Card Number: ________________________ Exp. Date: ____________ Total Amount to Charge: $__________
Name on Card: ________________________ Billing Zip Code: __________ Signature: ______________________

☐ I’d like to make monthly contributions with my credit card. Please bill me on the 1st of each month.

Month to begin: ________ Monthly Amount: $ ________ Total Number of Months: ___ Total Donation Amount: $ _______

☐ I prefer to save paper & postage. Please email me my/our acknowledgment letter. (please include email address above)

☐ I request that my gift be listed as “anonymous.”

☐ I would like to speak with an Alumni Fundraiser and/or member of Surprise Lake Camp’s professional staff about a special gift. Surprise Lake Camp accepts contributions in memory or in honor of someone, gifts of stock, matching gifts, and planned gifts (deferred giving). Additionally, camp’s long-term Capital Improvement Plan includes many opportunities for endowing scholarships, staff positions, or programs, as well as naming gifts for buildings or recreational facilities. We also welcome major gifts to fund donor-initiated projects.

SURPRISE LAKE CAMP ALUMNI FUNDRAISING POLICY: The Alumni Association is aware that some organizations raise money by bombarding donors with phone calls and mailings. We find this offensive. We ask our alumni for two things each year: annual dues and a gift to the Alumni Drive. From time to time, we also do special solicitations for capital projects. While we may send reminders to those who do not respond, we do not resolicit people during the same calendar year if dues have been paid and a gift has been made. In addition, we never give our address list to anyone, and we honor any request by an alumnus to block his/her name from our fundraising mailings.

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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(212) 532-5533 * FAX (212) 532-5501
EMAIL: sstein@gnslawfirm.com

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Ext. 149

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Fax: 212-719-1167
Toll Free: 800-551-8386

Matthew Tratner  Cell: 917-940-5513

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JERSEY LYNN FARMs, Inc.

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New York, NY 10036
Tel: 212-719-1487
Fax: 212-719-1167
Toll Free: 800-551-8386

Matthew Tratner  Cell: 917-940-5513

SLC’s Community Corner: YOU CAN ADVERTISE IN RE-ECHOES TOO!!!
Submit your business card or advertisement to alumni@surpriselake.org.
The rates for advertising in each issue are as follows:
FEELING STUFFED?

GOT THE Thanksgiving BLUES?

Then Why Not Join Us for

The SLC Winter Alumni Party & Fundraiser
You won’t want to miss out on the fun!

Saturday, November 28, 2009 at 9pm
$15.00 if you are a current, paid member of the Alumni Association or $20 for non-members.

Come reminisce and reconnect with your camp friends at Lucky Jack’s in our private room downstairs! Music, drink specials, and a chance to help raise money to send kids to camp!

21 & over with ID only, please. Alumni of all ages (over 21) are welcome! You’re Never Too Old to Reunite with Camp Friends!

Lucky Jack’s, 129 Orchard Street, between Delancy and Rivington on Manhattan’s Lower East Side. Visit www.luckyjacksnyc.com for directions.