

SURPRISE LAKE CAMP

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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RE-ECHOES

Fall 2011

ISSUE #4

Editor: Celia Baczkowski

Upcoming Camp Events . . . Mark Your Calendar Today!

* * * 110th Anniversary Gala Saturday, March 10, 2012 * * *

Volunteer Day Sunday, April 29, 2012

SLC Shabbat Service Saturday, May 20, 2012

Alumni Day Sunday, July 22, 2012

Labor Day/Family Camping Wknd Friday, August 31 to Monday, Sept 3

SLC Rosh Hashanah Service Monday, September 17

What's in the Future for SLC?

Surprise Lake Camp is always focused on the future. Our Board of Directors has a Strategic Plan, which it updates approximately every four years. It is a very ambitious document, and while we may not achieve every stated objective, our record of progress over the years has been a proud one.

The biggest objective that camp currently has as an institution is to increase the size of our scholarship endowment. We have learned from the recent recession just how critical scholarship resources are. We want to make sure that we are always able to provide a camp experience for a Jewish family regardless of their ability to pay. This has been our credo since we were founded. Through the decades, we have profoundly affected thousands of children and their families through our dedication to scholarshiping. Anyone who is close to Surprise Lake Camp has loved ones in their lives who they never would have met if not for this tradition. So we are currently engaged in raising millions of dollars for our scholarship endowment. Thanks to all those who have supported this effort so far through legacy gifts or current pledges. We are making incredible progress!

But the scholarship endowment does not affect how campers experience camp once they are present, and we also have many plans afoot that will make a difference to them. One is our 110th Anniversary celebration. We are the oldest Jewish camp in the country that still operates on its original site. So when we have a birthday, we should celebrate it with special pride. We intend to do this in the summer of 2012 with some great . . . (continued on page 4)

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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

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New York, NY 10001
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*Deceased

Any newsletter submissions
may be mailed directly to the
editors. Please notify us of
any corrections.

*The Alumni Association,
established in 1961 for the
Betterment of Camp*



Message from the President

Hello SLC Alumni!!!

Although I sit at my computer on this 70-degree November day, I am still reminded by the color of the leaves that the year is moving towards its end. It has been a few months now since I enjoyed the sounds of SLC in full swing; the kids playing and swimming, the counselors calling for a group cheer, and all the other wonderful sounds that tell me that all of our hard work has once again paid off.

The children may have gone home but the Alumni Association is still very much active and extremely busy. Some of you may have participated in our two major fundraisers over the last two months. The 2011 Hike-A-Thon saw approximately 60 participants enjoying a beautiful, autumn day, and I want to personally thank the hike leaders, Jeff Berk and Whammy, and my co-organizer, Barbara Zbar, for helping to make the day smooth and successful. I would also be remiss not to thank all the volunteers who helped with the morning registration process and breakfast. The SLC Super-Bowl II was also a wonderful event! The co-chairs, Faith Altschuler and Liz Izower, along with their committee, worked unbelievably hard throughout the year to make this a successful fundraiser. Everyone who participated had a great time.

So what's next? Our annual NYC party will take place around the holidays later this year, and of course, there's camp's 110th Anniversary Gala in Manhattan on Saturday night, March 10, 2012. See inside for all the details about this "won't want to miss" celebration—the SLC party of the decade!

As I always do in my Re-Echoes' messages, I want to make an appeal to our extended SLC family. Our Alumni Drive goal this year is \$200,000, which is our most ambitious goal to date. If you have not made a gift to the drive, please consider one. You, our Alumni, are the best. Time and time again, when called upon, the Alumni of SLC have shown that they truly care for camp. A wonderful example of this took place this past summer. In honor of the SLCAA's 50th Anniversary, our Alumni raised over \$5,000 and had over 50 people become paid members of the Alumni Association in a single day!

So, my fellow Alumni, enjoy the fall issue of Re-Echoes. Think about SLC and the kids enjoying their summer up at camp just like you did when you were a child and help us out. Make a gift! Get involved in the Alumni Association! Support our events! And visit us on Alumni Day!

See you at SLC,
Joe Goldberg goldnglich@aol.com

Attention Senior Adults!

Would you be willing to hang Surprise Lake Camp fliers or place camp brochures in common rooms, clubhouses, or bulletin boards of places you frequently visit? Your friends and associates may have grandchildren who are ready for camp, and our best form of advertising is you! If you are willing to help us in this very special way, please contact Celia at 212-924-3131 or email celia@surpriselake.org.



ALUMNI HAPPENINGS



Mazel Tov to Lee Meyer on his August 14th wedding to Marta Zborowicka.

Mazel Tov to Al Elkins and his wife, Louise, who recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. They were married on October 22, 1961—the same year the Alumni Association was founded!



Mazel Tov to Jennifer Stein and Matt Berk on their September 24th wedding.

Mazel Tov to Mike Friend on his October 22nd wedding to Jaclyn Scher.



Mazel Tov to alumna Michele Jacobson whose book *“Just Because You're An American Doesn't Mean You Have To Eat Like One!”* has been published by ShiresPress. If you are interested in improving your health and learning more about better nutrition, Michele's book can be purchased at <http://www.northshire.com>.

- ✧ Our condolences to the Pollet Family on the loss of Sheila's Dad, Henry Adler.
- ✧ Surprise Lake Camp mourns the loss of Milton Herson. Milton was a camper at Surprise Lake Winter Camp from 1937 to 1940, covering ages 9 to 12. He often stated that his experiences and the people at camp influenced his life and shaped him forever. Milton served as a member of our Board of Directors for nearly 30 years, and his son, Michael, is a current Board Member. Few people have ever had a deeper love of Surprise Lake Camp than he did. Milton will be one of the honorees at our 110th Anniversary gala on March 10 in Manhattan.

Is There An Upcoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah In Your Family?

Dear Surprise Lake Campers:

Congratulations on your upcoming Bar or Bat Mitzvah (or Mazel Tov if you've already had your special day!) I hope you have as much fun and as meaningful an experience as you do every summer at SLC.

When my sister Kristen had her Bat Mitzvah five years ago, she used her Bat Mitzvah money to help refurbish the Shmerler Building. Our beloved grandmother, Paula Shmerler, was a past president of the Board of Directors of Surprise Lake and I know how much the camp meant to her. So when I celebrated my Bar Mitzvah two years ago, I really wanted to give something back, too. I decided to donate a large part of my Bar Mitzvah money help fund SLC scholarships so that those less fortunate than I would have the opportunity to play sports, canoe on the lake, perform in the Eddie Cantor theater, hike Bald Spot mountain, play tricks on counselors in the bunk, sing Israeli songs, and most important, make lifelong friends.

I hope that as you celebrate your Bar or Bat Mitzvah with your family and friends, you will also consider making a contribution, no matter how big or small, to SLC. By doing so, you'll be putting the “mitzvah” in Bar/Bat Mitzvah into action.

Your friend,
Max Levy

PS: Another way to contribute is to ask your Bar or Bat Mitzvah guests to bring something to the event that you can then contribute to camp. My sister collected sporting equipment for SLC and I collected sneakers for campers in need. You can even ask Jordan or Sheryl what camp needs most!



2012 give-aways for the campers, with some exciting program enhancements, and with two big camp-wide birthday parties. The summer of 2012 will have a special feel that current campers won't want to miss. (Of course we are also planning a big anniversary gala for March 10 at the Marriott Marquis in Manhattan, but you can read about that in another article!)

Our site is also always being upgraded. Many of the upgrades are invisible—things like replacing pipes, replacing roofs, improving our dam, running new wires, and updating equipment, all of which are essential to keep a site that is 110 years old high functioning. But some are also very visible, and this year's major project is one of these. Work has begun on the renovation of the Main Building! The entire building is getting a facelift, and when you see it next summer, we are confident that you are going to say: WOW! This is only fitting, since 2012 is not only our camp's 110th year, but it is also the 100th anniversary of the completion of the Main Building. We want it to look ship shape for its centennial year!



Another project that is underway for 2012 is enhanced night lighting. We are working with a consultant to design a plan that eliminates major dark zones, but does so in a way that preserves the rustic camp feeling and is energy efficient. We want to make sure everyone can travel camp at night on the main paths as safely as possible.

There are some other significant renovations that are on tap, not for this year, but down the road. Early planning is underway for a significant improvement to the Main Health Center. Mainside Arts and Crafts is another future major project. In addition to a general facelift, it will be winterized like Journey's Way and the Gardens Lodges, and a large covered porch will be added so campers can be inspired by the great outdoors and the incredible view of the lake as they work.

Another future goal of camp is to expand its off season Jewish holiday programming. Our current Rosh Hashanah program has been enormously successful, and when we added a spring Shabbat celebration last year, it was also a hit. In 2012-13, we hope to add both a Sukkot experience (camp is the PERFECT place for this) and a second night Seder. We are currently working on funding for these two programs.

Camp is also determined to continue its greening efforts. Everyone notices the solar panels on our gym roof and the various recycling receptacles throughout the grounds, but there are countless other ways we have greened camp that are less visible, and plenty more that we will undertake in the future. We have an active Greening Committee, and we want to be a model for our campers of responsible earth citizenship.

In addition to what's in the plan, there are also dreams. Things that would be incredible for camp if we could ever achieve them, but that can only happen if an angel someday steps forth who can make that one incredibly enormous gift that you sometimes hear in the news that an institution has received. SLC angel, if you are out there reading this, and if you want to hear about some real dreams, then give Jordan a call at the office. Let's talk!

Alumna of the Year— Celia Baczkowski

The SLC Alumni Association would like to once again congratulate Celia Baczkowski on receiving the 2011 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.

Following is Celia's SLC bio:

Celia started her camp career in 1994 as a counselor in Unit J, which is now called Journey's Way. She came to camp because she had participated in a special training program run by the Board of Jewish Education that was designed to bring people with strong Jewish backgrounds into camps like SLC. Celia was a counselor for three years. She then became the Jewish Resource Specialist on Teenside, a job she also held for three summers.



(L-R) Howie Berk, Celia Baczkowski,
Seth Stein, Joe Goldberg

In the summer of 2000, Celia moved to the Main Office to serve as Jordan's Executive Secretary. That fall, she began working part time in the Manhattan office, and

she did such a good job that she was hired full time.

For a period of three years, when Jordan was running a second camp in addition to Surprise Lake, Celia became his year round Executive Assistant, the only person ever to hold this job. Jordan will tell you that he never could have managed two camps without the incredible support Celia provided.

Celia left SLC for a short time to work at the Union for Reform Judaism. But she missed us. And when the Grinspoon Institute offered a grant to support the hiring of a full time Development Director, Celia got the job. Her biggest qualification was how much she loved SLC, and how well she knew our culture and community.

Celia has held the job of Development Director since May of 2004. During this time, camp's fundraising has increased significantly. But fundraising isn't everything Celia does. She is our computer point person, our in house graphic designer, our web-site guru, one of the leaders of our off season Jewish programs, our year round office manager, our European staff hirer, and our general camp go-to person for lots of special responsibilities that she does best because she is so competent and versatile.

And then there's the candy bowl, which is Celia's unique way to spread a little extra sweetness at SLC. Visitors to the office know they can satisfy a sugar craving and get a quick boost by stopping by Celia, and they usually get a big warm smile as well. Two years ago, Celia realized a dream of hers when she became the first non-Caretaker to live year round at SLC. If you pass by C House, you will see yet another way she makes camp better—by bringing special beauty to her corner of camp.

One of Celia's most important responsibilities is working with the Alumni Association. She provides support for all Alumni events, and is the glue that keeps things together when our Alumni volunteers need help. It is this role that has earned her recognition as this year's Alumni honoree. She helps with golf outings, alumni parties, bowling events, Volunteer Days, and alumni Board meetings. She is the editor of Re-Echoes and the leader of the annual Alumni Drive. And she is the person who greets alumni when they come to camp and lets them know that they are still part of our family, and always will be.



Have You Seen Our Videos? Subscribe to all of
camp's videos by visiting

<http://www.youtube.com/SurpriseLakePage>

"You Mean I Can Help Camp Without Having To Write A Check? It's A No-Brainer . . . Count Me In!"

This is the response that Jordan received from one of our dedicated alumni when he was trying to set up a meeting to talk about the 1902 Society.

Most people don't realize how easy it is to join the 1902 Society, or that it is for alumni of all ages, or how profound its impact on the future of camp will be.

You see, we give close to \$900,000 a year in scholarships. But the interest from our scholarship endowment only produces about \$200,000. Even though we receive approximately \$300,000 in annual donations from Board & Alumni, there is still a difference of \$400,000—this is what we call the scholarship gap. We need to close this gap! The way to do this is by increasing our scholarship endowment so that it produces enough interest to cover our scholarship demand. We need to raise \$7 million to accomplish this. We know that we are not able to do this right away—our population can't write checks of that size! But this is where you can help! Becoming a member of the 1902 Society means that you pledge to leave something for camp after your lifetime. For most, this won't be for many decades! For others, it will come sooner. But for everyone who is a member of the 1902 Society, it means that camp will be taken care of forever. You join by signing a letter of intent (see next page). This is your non-binding pledge that you will do *something, someday*. You can even sign the letter before knowing what you are going to do. One of our youngest members signed it and wrote that he would execute the documents "when I get my first job."

Please consider joining the 155 SLCers below who have chosen to express their love of camp in this profound, simple, painless way!

If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please Celia or Jordan at 212-924-3131.

Current Members of *The 1902 Society*—155 & Counting!

We are extremely grateful to the following individuals who have made provisions for SLC in their estate planning.

Anonymous (2)	Lori (Heitzner) & Seth Fishman	Marc Krigsman	Johanna Pinzler & Avri Klemer
Marcia & Bob Altabet	David Fleischner	Karen & Stewart Lantner	Julia Pisetsky
Faith Altschuler	Ralph Forgacs	Maureen & Howard Lantner	Sheila & Ken Pollet
Walter Arnstein	Ken Freedman	Moran & Murray Lantner	Marc Rentzer
Margery Arsham	Scott Gilden	Beth & Dave Levene	Michael Rieger
Celia Baczkowski	Jordan Golan	Dena & Elly Levine	F. Peter Rose
Sylvaine Baczkowski	Dr. Joseph Goldberg	Mark Levine	Robert Rosenbaum
Marilyn Bailis & Jerry Mark	Michelle Goldstein	Fred Levy	Mara Rubinstein
Janeen Bellafiore	Stephen Gordon	Randi & Scott Lieberman	Robin & Larry Rubinstein
Jennifer Herman Benalt &	Pam & Jay Greenbaum	Laura & Carter Mansbach	Judy Freiser Sails & Steven Sails
Adam Benalt	Suzy Greenberg	Judy & Michael Margulies	Alan Saltz
Molly Benton	Rhonda & Bob Greenblatt	Ed Markowitz & Children	Carolyn & Dave Samuels
Evie & Jon Berger	Matthew & Brenda Grosshandler	Linda Markowitz	Joshua Sarkozi
Blanche & Edward Berk	Andrea & Arthur Gruber	Caryl & Mike Melasky	Nigel Savage
Howie Berk	Gwen & Larry Hamberg	Paul Mermelstein	Robert Schechter
Jeff Berk	Irving Harris	Miriam Messinger & Felicia Hayes	Dan Schulman
Michael Berk	Joy Henshel	Ruth Messinger	Gayle Schwartz
Andie Biederman	Patti Henshel	Emilie & Andrew Meyer	Maria & Ken Seligson
Jake Biederman	Rose & Harris Ghersin	Estelle Meyer	Laurie Feldman-Shepherd
Martin Blum	Andrew Hess	Jerry Meyer	Jenna Sidor
Nelson Braff	Barbara & Stanley Hirsch	Jim Meyer	Harvey Sills
Amy Bram	Roberta & Peter Hirsch	Jodie Meyer & Steven Tuber	Rebecca Solomon
Elyse Braun	Thelma & Sanford Hochberg	Lee Meyer	Steve Sommer
Mitchell Brenner	Gayle Hoffman	Jonathan Miller	Susan Namm Spencer
Ezra Cahn	Jason A. Hoffman	Susan Feldman-Miller	Randi Sperber
Justin K. Cantor	Nancy & Alan Hoffman	Barb & Steve Mink	Jeff Spiegel
Meridee Simon Cole	Rachel Israel	Jill (Simon) & John Miskanic	Seth Stein
Larry Cooperstein	Seymour Israel	Karen & Jim Morrison	Charles Stendig
Anita Cruso	Amy & Bruce Jaffe	Suzanne Moskowitz	Adele & Henry Stern
Jane Hershey Cuozzo	Chuck Jainchill	Alyse Kunkin Murabito	Denis Sternberg
Elena & David Dale	Susie Jainchill & Tsahi Gelardin	Roni & Jason Nadell	Elaine & Paul Suchow
Jordan Dale	Stan Josephson	Stephen Nitkin	Audrey & Mark Tenenhaus
Wendy & James Dinn	Linda Kane	Joey Novick	Bret Tenenhaus
Michele Mars DiRuggiero	Karri & Joel "Whammy" Kaufman	Shelli & Larry Olinsky	Mike Tenenhaus
Laurie Dobkin-Helm	Sherly Kirschenbaum	Stacey & Rob Panepinto	Alice & Steve Turner
Noam Dolgin	Alan Kleiman	Eve Rubinstein Papernick & Jon Papernick	Lisa & Steve Weinberg
Matt Dorter	Ele Klein	Jerry Person	Diane & Allen Weiner
Michael Fandal	Andrew Kominik	Nicole Pilevsky & Joseph Osheroff	Anne & Joel Zbar
			Barbara & Michael Zbar



1902 Society



*"Just as my parents planted for me,
so I plant for my children."*

Letter of Intent

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 already joined the 1902 Society by: (Please check the method(s) you have chosen)

- ☐ 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)

☐ 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 be (a) member(s) 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: _____

2011 Alumni Drive and Dues Form



The Holiday Season Is Coming.

Make A Gift To Camp In Honor Of That Special Someone.

Every dollar helps us provide scholarships to families who could otherwise not afford camp. Make a secure gift online at www.surpriselake.org/donate.

PLEASE RETURN
TO:
Surprise Lake Camp

Winter Address
Sept 1— June 15
307 Seventh Avenue
Suite 900
New York, NY 10001
212.924.3131

Summer Address
June 16— Aug 31
Lake Surprise Rd
Cold Spring, NY 10516
845.265.3616

alumni@surpriselake.org

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 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.

1 Day at camp: \$130	4 Days at camp: \$520	The Hinterlands Circle (2 Weeks): \$1,800 or more
2 Days at camp: \$260	5 Days at camp: \$650	The Hudson Overlook Circle (1 Session): \$3,600 or more
3 Days at camp: \$390	The Bald Spot Circle (1 Week): \$900 or more	The Breakneck Circle (Full Summer): \$7,000 or more

Please Complete:

Annual Alumni Fundraising Drive—"Send a Child to Camp"\$ _____

Alumni Association Dues \$250 Lifetime, \$36 Annual\$ _____

Scholarship Fund\$ _____

Jeff B. Herman Memorial Fund...\$ _____

Other 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: _____

☐ I'd like to make monthly contributions with my credit card. Preferred day of charge: _____ 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.

☒ Yes! Please make my gift in honor of: _____
on the occasion of: _____

Please send an acknowledgement to the following address: _____

A Once-In-Ten-Years Chance to Wish SLC

A Happy Birthday!



110th Anniversary Journal Advertising Contract

Surprise Lake Camp is hereby authorized to insert a congratulatory message/advertisement as submitted for the SLC 110th Anniversary Journal to be published in conjunction with the 110th Anniversary Gala on March 10, 2012.

You may submit your ad/message in the copy space below, or email us your copy in pdf or jpg format. Ads will be printed in black & white. Ads can be faxed to 212-924-5112 or emailed to evie@surpriselake.org.

Your Name: _____

Name of Company (if applicable): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Credit Card # (No AMEX, please): _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature: _____

If paying by check, please make it payable to Surprise Lake Camp and mail contract and payment to:
Surprise Lake Camp, 307 Seventh Avenue—Suite 900, New York, NY 10001

Please check one:

_____ Benefactor Level: \$5,000
*Silver page & gala table for 10

_____ Patron Level: \$3,600
* Full page & 6 gala tickets

_____ Sponsor Level: \$2,000
*Half page & 4 gala tickets

_____ Partner Level **Option 1**: \$1,000
*Quarter page & 2 gala tickets

_____ Partner Level **Option 2**: \$1,000
*Full page

_____ Contributor Level: \$750
* Half Page

_____ Donor Level: \$500
*Business card size

_____ Friend Level: \$250
*Two line listing

_____ Shout Out Level: \$100
*One line listing

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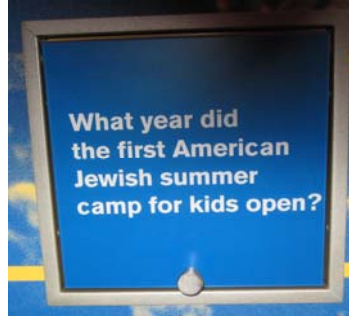
DEADLINE FOR ADS IS JANUARY 30, 2012 CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE
Surprise Lake Camp, 307 Seventh Avenue—Suite 900, New York, NY 10001 (212)924-3131

From Our Alumni...



Several alumni have contacted us and told us about the "rush of pride" they felt when visiting the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia. Surprise Lake Camp is prominently featured in the Jewish Camping exhibit! Next time you are in the Philly area, you should check us out!

Want to add your own pictures to the museum's online exhibit? Visit <http://camp.nmajh.org/>
(Photos and quote by Jeffrey Lambert)



For one of my classes, I had to write a poem. It's called a "Where I'm From" poem. It's about your identity and factors that shape our identities. Each line has to start with "I am from". We were assigned to write about a place that we live, traditions at this place, childhood memories, the weather, etc. The place didn't have to be your actual home. So I wrote about camp. I wanted to share what I wrote to you! I figured you'd enjoy it! So here it is...

Where I'm From

By Jake Biederman

I am from the Hudson Valley.
I am from the willow tree on Lake Side.
From the fog that slowly rolls up
The mountains after a rain storm.
I am from the 50 degree summer nights
That leave you with the chills in the morning.
From the forty year old cabins, to the hikes that lead
To the most scenic spots I have ever seen.
I am from the family of deer always making
Their way down the road.
From the two golf carts that you can hear
Coming from fifty yards away.
I am from the bear scare that made me cry
Louder than I've ever cried before.

I am from the multiple days of rain
That led to hours of mud sliding,
To the perfect, sunny, cloudless Saturdays
That never let us down.
I am from the games of Kan Jam played
On the basketball courts,
And the Olympic games every summer.
I am from the multiple celebrities
That attended this place as children,
From Jerry Stiller, Gene Simmons,
And Larry King, to Neil Diamond, Walter Matthau,
And Nancy Lieberman.
Most importantly, I am from the amazing friends
I have made over the years at this place.
From the life long memories.

Memories of Surprise Lake Camp – 1948

I was born in the Bronx and am a product of the New York City school system, which during the 1940's and 50's was probably the best "large" school system in the country. There are more than a million children in the NYC system and over 1,000 schools so it is an enormous educational system, comparable to many National systems around the world. I ended up graduating from the Bronx H.S. of Science and CCNY Engineering, both recognized at the time as top academic institutions.

The neighborhood that I grew up in was called the East Bronx at that time, close to Westchester Avenue, Southern Blvd and Bruckner Blvd. It's near an area now known as Hunt's Point, a name that conjures up visions of poverty, crime and a lost world of kids going bad. But that's not what I remember of my childhood, a carefree, loving home where I was an only child with parents who emigrated from Europe and both spoke with accents. My mother was from Hungary and father emigrated from Holland. We also had a large extended family with lots of aunts, uncles, and cousins. And I had my neighborhood friends who I hung out with. We learned to avoid trouble.

Summers were long and hot then, just as they are today, and in the summer of '48 my mother asked me if I would like to go away to camp for a few weeks. I was eleven years old. I would be going with my first cousin, George Hoffman, who was about 6 months

younger than I and with whom I palled around at family gatherings and weekends, although he lived in the “West Bronx.” “Sure,” I replied. It sounded like an exciting adventure, especially if George was with me. The next thing I remember we were on a subway going downtown to the 92nd Street Y and congregating with a large group of boys on Lexington Avenue, then boarding several buses for the ride up to Surprise Lake Camp in upstate New York. I had no idea where it was located and only realized in later years that it was in Cold Spring, NY a town just a bit north of Peekskill, NY.

My memories of camp were all good although it was a bit of a shock and harsh for an only child from the Bronx. The bunk cabins we slept in were primitive and totally open to the atmosphere. Each cabin housed 4 beds, one in each corner, with wainscot high wooden walls all around. I don’t even recall any door to the cabin, just a framed opening. It got pretty cold up there at night and we had to bundle ourselves up in blankets to stay warm. No running water in the cabins and no toilets. No protection from mosquitoes or other flying insects at night. Just a light bulb hanging in the middle of the cabin from the roof rafters. Lights out was at 9 or 10, I don’t recall which, and counselors would come around to make sure all lights including flashlights, were out. Some of the kids would huddle under their blankets with flashlights and try to read or do whatever else, without being seen. I remember George was one of them. There was a lot of giggling going on. I was a “goody two shoes” and never tried anything like that. I remember one kid in my cabin who cried every night for his mother. We could hear his sobbing and sniffing until we fell asleep. He lasted 2 weeks and left to go home. George and I bunked in the same cabin together so we always had each other to fall back on for support. We both loved camp.

Waking up was by Bugle Call as I recall, and we all had to get dressed and then run down the hill towards the lake, to an open water trough with cold water faucets to wash up and brush our teeth. And the water was COLD. Then back up the hill to our cabins to make our beds and get ready for inspections. Tight hospital corners were required and we had instructions on how to make them. Anyone who has been in the Army knows what this all means. Then off to breakfast and while we were gone, the bunks were inspected. Some beds were torn open and had to be redone. Not tight enough. It was as close to Army living as I could imagine and I loved it. Some kids hated it.

The Counselors

Our days revolved around our counselor and his directions to us. We had a posted schedule of events listing the day’s activities on the wall of the cabin and they were all typical camp activities. Swimming in the lake at the small sand beach was the highlight of each day and that’s where I learned “the buddy system.” Whenever the whistle blew we all had to stand up holding our buddy’s arms up. The girl’s camp was across the lake as I recall and there wasn’t much interaction, except during Color War days. We learned to sing songs and chanties like “Blow the Man Down Bullies,” “What Do You Do With A Drunken Sailor” and other sailor songs and ditties.

Rumors

Rumors and gossip abounded in the camp every day. The biggest rumor was that this was the original camp that Eddie Cantor went to from the Lower East Side when he was a kid, and he was going to come up that summer for a visit. Of course he never showed. I’m sure that this rumor went through every camper’s ears ever since then and probably still does today, even though Eddie Cantor has been gone for many, many years.

The other big question we spent hours talking about amongst ourselves was “What was the surprise in Surprise Lake?” Was it a treasure buried on the shore across from where we were? Some kids swore that there was a treasure buried somewhere and we should all go out looking for it. The actual surprise turned out to be the great time we all had there that summer.

Acting in a Play

One day when I went into the central meeting hall which was like an auditorium with a stage, I remember sitting there looking to find a friend when someone came over to me and asked me if I would like to be in a play being staged. I should have said NO, but I was a mamby pamby and agreed to do it. The play was something about the Pilgrims and Indians and my role was to be an Indian who first crawls up and then comes running out waving a tomahawk with a few words to say. I was bare-chested and wore short pants or something similar. The problem was that I had to be there every night for rehearsals while all my friends and George were free. I was sorry that I had agreed to do it.

I never went back to Surprise Lake Camp after 1948. I have visited Cold Spring, New York, a pretty little Hudson River town, in recent years. My father bought a small summer home in Lake Peekskill, NY in 1950 and we spent our summers there throughout the 50’s. The house was sold in 1963 and by that time I was married, working as an engineer for the FAA and had a daughter. Those are my memories of Surprise Lake Camp, 1948.

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Sheryl Speak

A few words from our Camp Director, Sheryl Kirschenbaum

The Value of Camp (It Ain't Just Fun!)

I want to start by saying I love my job. People often ask how I got involved; it is a long story, so I will spare you the details. I will, however, share a question that I often hear people ask "why should I send my child to camp? It is a luxury that I am not sure is worth it" My answer? Camp... it does a body good! Seriously... it changes lives every day. Camp enriches the life of a child, and at Surprise Lake Camp we have been doing it for 110 years. Not only do we change the lives of campers, but we change the lives of the staff as well.

So, what does camp do? How does camp do it? Surprise Lake Camp provides the foundation necessary to prepare campers to assume roles as successful adults. I'm not talking about being a good soccer player. That is an achievement but it may not translate well when job hunting! Our campers grow in areas such as self-confidence, independence, making friends, exploring & learning new activities, and spirituality. Camp provides growth experiences for kids that can benefit them through adulthood. Camp affords kids the opportunity to meet kids that are different than they are and live and interact with them. It helps them to make new friends. Camp teaches them skills so that they feel good about themselves. Camp allows them to try things in a safe place that they may not have tried before. It teaches responsibility and conflict resolution because it promotes community.

A quality camp experience provides campers with the opportunity to learn powerful lessons in community, character-building & skill development, in a meaningful and safe environment. In an era of social networking and texting, camp provides an opportunity for a kid to be a kid, unplugged. Camp allows them to enjoy the outdoors and truly experience it. Camp fosters conversations, which is a dying art with today's generation. It allows kids the freedom to try and succeed or perhaps even fail. It teaches kids to ask questions, and ask for help. It helps them to understand that being uncomfortable is ok, because that is what happens when you try something new. It lets them know that they can. As in can do anything.

Many people think that camp is a place where you play and have fun. They are right, but it is much more. Camp is the classroom of life where lessons are learned EVERY day. We build future leaders at camp. Camp makes a difference in the lives we touch. I know because I am living proof. I am who I am today because of the lessons I learned at camp.

Many Thanks To Our Hike-A-Thon Hikers! (Bold names indicate hike leaders)

Allen Ackerman	Matt Frick	Craig Miller	Scott Schnee	Whammy
Elyse Altabet	Glenn Frick	Craig Miller	Talia Schneider	Barbara Zbar
Bob Altabet	Marissa Garfinkel	Suzanne Moskowitz	Seth Stein	Thank you to Howie Berk,
Sylvaine Baczkowski	Spencer Gilbert	Aki Oba	Seth Stein	Ralph Forgacs, Joe
Celia Baczkowski	Ronnie Gilbert	Ayumi Oda	Jessica Stein	Goldberg, Robin &
Sue Ellen Benzvi	Jenn Gordon	Lori Paige	Henry Stern	Gordon Krompier,
Jeff Berk	Adam Grosshandler	Sheila Pollet	Denis Sternberg	Barbara & Mike Zbar for
Steven Britt	Matt Grubler	Ken Pollet	Taka Sugiyama	helping with setup,
Michelle Britt	Jessica Haffner	Erica Pollet	Aviva Tombrink	registration, and cleanup!
Amy Britt	Greg Jaffe	Marc Rentler	Alex Ullman	
Matt Caesar	Jared Levinson	Sheryl Ruck	Samantha Unterlack	Hike Day breakfast
Jordan Dale	Michael Liebowitz	Jordan Ruck	Evan Unterlack	sponsored by
Lauren Fensham	David Liebowitz	Ariel Ruck	Jacklyn Ward	Joe Goldberg.

Give Surprise Lake Camp the best birthday present ever . . .



Be a part of the



\$110,000 Birthday Challenge!

To help honor camp during the 110th Anniversary celebration year in 2012, we are asking all campers and staff members to help us to raise money from friends and family as a huge birthday present for camp!!

We have set up a new on-line fundraising campaign that allows YOU—campers, staff, and anyone who loves SLC—to reach out to your contacts through **your own personal fundraising pages!!!** This gives each and every SLC fan the chance to share their feelings, stories, and pictures about what camp means to them and why it is important to help keep it going for another 110 years!















Prizes will be awarded to our top on-line fundraisers!

We challenge our entire camp community to be part of the \$110,000 Birthday Team in honor of our 110th Anniversary. Let's give camp the best birthday gift ever!

Visit www.crowdrise.com/slc110/fundraiser/surpriselake
today to join the 110th Birthday Team!

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11/17/11

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Evie Berger
Jake Biederman
Elyse Braun
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Lenny Grinberg & Amy Bechar
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Erica Karron
Sheryl Kirschenbaum
Stacie Lillien
Dan Schulman
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Jenni Sussel
Hannah Wolland
Jamie Zuckerberg

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 \$0 DOLLARS RAISED	 \$0 DOLLARS RAISED	 \$0 DOLLARS RAISED	 \$0 DOLLARS RAISED	 \$0 DOLLARS RAISED

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Surprise Lake Camp has partnered with Premier Merchant Processing – a credit card processing company highly rated by the BBB – to make the following offer to any parent or alum that owns or successfully solicits a business that accepts credit cards. For each business that switches their processing to Premier, Premier will agree to send 20% of the revenue generated to Surprise Lake Camp in the form of a recurring monthly donation for however long that business continues to process their transactions through Premier.

Parents that refer a business to Premier have the opportunity to have an additional 20% of that business' revenue go towards their designated Surprise Lake Camp camper's account for the following summer.

And, thanks to Premier's highly competitive processing rates, the business that is referred to Premier will pay the same or even *less for processing* than they are currently paying! Premier further saves its customers money by staying on top of current legislation such as the new Durbin Amendment (10/2011) that reduces the amount businesses are being charged for debit and check cards.

Thanks to its superior customer service, Premier Merchant Processing has an excellent client retention rate. Avri, Surprise Lake Camp's bookkeeper writes:

"I wanted to touch base with you to let you know that our experience to date with LUCY and Premier has been excellent, and we are interested in offering this service to our parents, vendors and alumni."

To find out more about how you can save money, lower your camp tuition, and help Surprise Lake Camp, please **call Ruth at 516-319-5531**. Feel free to check us out at processpremier.com!



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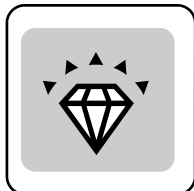
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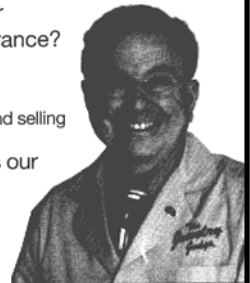
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