### **SURPRISE LAKE CAMP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Established in 1961 for the Betterment of Camp



The official newsletter of Surprise Lake Camp

Fall 2013 Issue # 4



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Established in 1961 for the betterment of camp

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



## 2014 Calendar of **Events**

### **January**

Jan. 16: Camp Casino Fundraiser (see page 7) **April 2014** 

**April 16: Passover April 27: Volunteer Day May 2014** 

May 17: Spring Shabbat May 17: Spring Alumni Party **July 2014** 

> July 27: Alumni Day August 2014

**August 29: Family Camping Weekend** September 2014

Sept. 25: Rosh Hashanah Program October 2014

Oct. 12: Sukkot Program

"Campers" of all ages showing off their SLC pride on "Wear Your Camp T-Shirt Day" (November 12, 2013)



# Welcome To The SLC Family!









Mazel Tov to Randi & Scott Lieberman, and big sisters Lily & Jamie, on the birth of Lucas Max on Thursday August 8th at 8:24pm. He weighed 7lbs, 4oz and measured 19 1/14 inches long.

☼ Congratulations to Randi Goodman & Jodi Argentino on the birth of their twin boys, Ryan Steven & Joshua Knight on June 4th. Joshua was born at 9:10am and weighed 5 lbs, 5oz and measured 18 inches long while Ryan made his debut at 9:12am and weighed 6lbs, 9oz and measured 19.5 inches. This picture was captured during their first visit to camp, just 6 weeks after their birth!



Congratulations to Tony & Victoria Peel on the birth of Toby John born on August 29th at 6.13pm. He weighed 4lbs, 8oz.

## Other Alumni News...

Mazel Tov to Judy Freiser Sails & Steven Sails who celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on August 12th. They both worked as counselors at SLC in 1969. They met on a hike and have been travelling on the same path ever since!



At the recent JCamp180 Conference (formerly the Grinspoon Institute), Surprise Lake Camp received the Gail Littman Memorial Legacy Stewardship Award for demonstrating exceptional active stewardship of its 1902 Society donors. This award was presented for



the first time this year, honoring the memory of Gail Littman, who was the driving force behind the JCamp 180 Legacy program. Eve Rubinstein-Papernick, Celia Baczkowski, James Meyer, Evie Berger & Jordan Dale accepted the award. (Photo Courtesy of JCamp 180)

Mazel Tov to Rory Lancman and Ben Kallos, both SLC Alumni, who were recently elected to serve as City Councilmen.

### In Memoriam







Everyone should have the opportunity at least once in their lives to be there when a general swim begins for the younger campers at Surprise Lake Camp. It is pure joy! First there is the buddy call to make sure everyone has their buddy and knows their number. The kids sit in twos along the deepest dock, feet swishing in the water, bubbling with anticipation.

Each summer, SLC's Executive Director Jordan Dale writes "A Letter from Camp," a



Finally, the last buddy calls out their number, and the magical moment comes when the Waterfront Director shouts, "Begin swimming!"



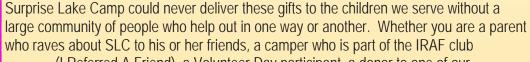
Laughter and screams of joy erupt. Some of the kids slip in instantly, as if they could not possibly wait another second, with an urgency that reminds me of a cat pouncing. They are in the water in a second, and off to the other side, determined to go fast and far. Others stand and jump in, craving the big splash (and prompting me to take a quick step back). Others wait for reconnaissance: "How's the water?" "It's purrrrfect!" And trembling with anticipation, they steel themselves and leap. Seconds later their heads bob up, usually with hoots of excitement. And what was disciplined silence during the buddy call a moment ago is now a symphony of shouts and splashes, giggles and exhilaration.



It is one of the happiest scenes you could imagine. At that moment, there is no way to tell the difference between the child who has been at camp for years and feels totally at home and the newcomer still feeling her way. There is no way to tell who comes from a wealthy family and who is here on a big scholarship. There is no way to tell who had an argument with another camper in his bunk an hour ago or got in trouble for not making his bed. Because they are all in a state of pure fun. This is blissful, youthful innocence at its best.



These days I spend the vast majority of my time at camp planning, managing, and fundraising. But I treasure the times I get so see the start of a swim or another precious camp scene, because they remind me powerfully why we work so hard and what Surprise Lake Camp is all about. What we bring into the lives of these children cannot be measured. It is a gift that both gives them a precious chance to be a child in this moment regardless of what else may be happening in their world and, at the same time, builds memories, friendships, and character traits that will enrich their lives forever.



(I Referred A Friend), a Volunteer Day participant, a donor to one of our scholarship or capital campaigns, help with fundraising events, a member of the 1902 Society, or do any of a thousand other things to help Surprise Lake Camp,

we are eternally grateful. May you derive great joy from knowing that you have had a profound impact on hundreds of special children, and that every time someone shouts "Begin swimming," you helped make it possible.



Sincerely, Jordan



### Surprise Lake Camp 2013 Alumni Drive & Dues Form First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_ Home Phone: Cell Phone: 2013 Alumni Drive/Send A Child To Camp 1 Day at SLC: \$135 2 Days at SLC: \$270 4 Days at SLC: \$540 5 Days at SLC: \$675 Two Weeks at SLC: \$1,850 or more One Session at SLC: \$3,700 or more One Week at SLC: \$925 or more 3 Days at SLC: \$400 Full Summer at SLC: \$7,200 or more **SLC Alumni Association Membership Dues** Annual Membership: \$36 Lifetime Membership: \$250 My/Our 2013 Contributions: Alumni Drive/Send A Child To Camp: \$\_\_\_\_\_ 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. **Alumni Association Dues: \$** Membership entitles Alumni to be kept informed of alumni events, receive a membership card, calendar of events, quarterly Re-Echoes newsletter, free admission to Alumni Day, a discount at the Alumni store, and a discount to all alumni events at which a fee is charged. 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.) 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. Other Fund: \$\_\_\_\_\_ Name of Other Fund: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Please bill my credit card: (No AMEX, please) Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_ Total Amount to Charge: \$\_\_\_\_ ☐ I'd like to make monthly contributions with my credit card. Preferred day of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Month to begin: \_\_\_\_ Monthly Amount: \$\_\_\_\_\_ Number of Months: Total Donation Amount: \$ I prefer to save paper & postage. Please email me my/our acknowledgment letter. (please confirm/ 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 becoming a member of the 1902 Society. Membership in the 1902 Society is open to all those who include Surprise Lake Camp in their estate plans. We hope you will tell us when you have done so because we would very much like the opportunity to say "thank you" for your generosity. DONATE EASILY & SECURELY ONLINE @

WWW.SURPRISELAKE.ORG/DONATE



The SLC Alumni Association would like to once again congratulate Faith Altschuler Kirkpatrick on receiving the 2013 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 Faith's SLC bio:

Faith's relationship with Surprise Lake Camp actually started before she was born. Her great uncle and her uncle went to camp, her mother was a camper and parent helper, and her father camp came to camp as part of a retreat group.

Faith got her own start at SLC in 1992 as a 12 year old camper in what was then called Unit H and is now called Highlands. One of her fondest

memories from that year was round ups, where she loved singing and joining in with all the great camp spirit.

In her second year, Faith moved on to Teenside where she spent three summers, first in Timberline, then in Lakeview, and finally in Merrylane. As a Teen camper, Faith was always in waterfront specialty. Her passion was sailing, although she admits that she had to be rescued once or twice when there wasn't enough wind for her to get the boat back in. She also loved singing and cheering in the dining room.

After her camper days were over, Faith worked in the office for two summers as an office aide. She was good at it, and in her second year, she functioned as assistant to the office manager. Then Faith stopped coming to camp and pursued a course of study that led to her becoming an accountant. She attended alumni days whenever she could, but had to miss them when she was assigned by her firm to work in Sydney, Australia for 18 months, after which she did some traveling. Upon her return, Faith was eager to resume her involvement with SLC, so she started attending alumni parties and other events. Then, in 2009, she read that the camp Board of Directors was looking for a couple of accountants to join the Board. Faith expressed interest and the Board gladly welcomed her. She is now the Assistant Treasurer.

Now there have been many alumni over the years who have started out on the Alumni Association Board of Directors and then moved on to the overall camp Board when they distinguished themselves. Faith is very rare in that she did it in reverse. After she was elected to the overall camp Board, the Alumni Association encouraged her to join the Alumni Board as well. And it wasn't long before she volunteered for one of the biggest responsibilities of any alum: chairing the big annual fundraising event. Although she has a humble streak and likes to remind everybody that she had lots of support, Faith's leadership and commitment made camp's first ever bowling fundraiser, called the SLC Super-Bowl, a huge success. That was in 2009. She chaired the event again in 2010. In 2011, someone else was supposed to chair it because Faith was getting married, but when that person had to drop out and the Alumni Association needed someone to step up and make it happen, Faith once again came through.

Faith will tell you that she had the best time at camp, with lots of amazing friends, some of whom are her best friends today. Indeed, the reason we did not honor Faith at the first All Camp Show this summer was that she was busy serving as one of the maids of honor at a camp friend's wedding.

Faith's service to camp has been outstanding, and the Board of Directors is proud to present her with the 2013 Outstanding Alumni Award.



A Night of Fun, Fellowship, AND Fundraising to benefit Surprise Lake Camp

Thursday, January 16, 2014 \* 6:30-10:30pm
Triumph Room \* Providence, NYC
Register Today @ www.surpriselake.org/campcasino

# Mainside Arts & Crafts Undergoes Major Renovation!

We are delighted that Jerry and Roz Meyer have offered to fund the renovation of our



Mainside Arts and Crafts building. This significant project will involve fixing up the interior of the building in the same style as our Journey's Way/Muriel's Lodge and the Gardens/Henshel Lodge so that it can be used to house off season rentals in the non summer months. Since the building will continue to be used for arts and crafts in the summer, the design calls for removable coverings during camp to protect the nice walls and floor. In addition, the project will include the construction of a screened porch so that campers can work on art projects while looking out on the inspiration of the lake. We are so grateful to the Meyer family and can't wait to step foot into the new building!





## Welcome to the SLC Team!



### Coordinator of Year Round Jewish Programs

We are pleased to inform you that Wendy Dinn, our summer Teva Supervisor, has agreed to serve as the Coordinator of our Year Round Jewish Community program through the end of our UJA-Federation grant in the spring. She has wonderful personal skills, and we confident she will be an asset to SLC in this role. We'd like to thank Aly Kapchan for her work over the past two years developing our off-season Jewish programs. We wish her luck in her new endeavors.



Aly Kapchan

### Wendy Dinn

### **Development Director**

Jack Ryger has over 20 years of outstanding experience in philanthropy and creative fundraising at major health, education, and social service organizations. He has worked on a global scale for local, national and international institutions.

Jack is a native New Yorker, and graduate of Columbia University, where he earned a B.S. in Political Science, and obtained a minor in International Affairs. He was the youngest Vice-President of the local Democratic Club, and actively involved in local, state, and national political campaigns. Both of Jack Ryger's parents were Holocaust Survivors, which has imbued within him a strong sense of social

responsibility, and led to his career in philanthropy, fundraising, and volunteer work.



At UJA-Federation, the largest nonprofit philanthropic organization in Manhattan, Jack Ryger was a Development Executive working on Long Island's North Shore community campaigns. Jack was also in charge of Trades and Professionals groups which included: Real Estate and Allied Trades, Physicians and Allied Health Care, Wine and Spirits, and Young Business Professionals. Jack notably spearheaded major fundraising, resulting in over \$7M raised.

Jack Ryger was recruited as New York Development Director for American ORT. ORT is one of the largest educational and training NGO in the world, with programs in over 100 countries. It was the original model for the Peace Corps in training people in various professions. ORT holds a special place in Jack's heart, as it helped train his mother as a seamstress in a Displaced Persons Camp in Bergen Belsen, Germany. Jack Ryger was recruited to ORT to revitalize 5 chapters, and develop new executive leadership. Mr. Ryger started advisory groups for the various chapters, which fed into executive committees and members of the board of directors. He also rebuilt and updated the contributor base, as well as major gift prospects. Jack is most proud of raising funds for Operation Sunflower, which benefits children with cancer at Hadassah Hospital

At UJC (now known as JFNA) Jack Ryger served as the Northeast Regional Director, working with communities and small federations in over 65 communities from Maryland to Maine, including the state of Vermont. He raised over \$2.1M and \$3.45M in total cash annually, which resulted in a 20% increase in funds.

During his tenure at UJA-Federation, the professional staff went on a site visit to the camp. It made a lasting impression on him and the rest of the staff. We are delighted to welcome Jack Ryger as the Development Director for Surprise Lake Camp.

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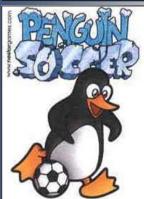
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## Hike Day 2013

By Barbara Zbar

The 2013 Family & Friends Hike Day was breathtakingly scenic and marvelous – colors galore! Fifty four people participated in four hikes. Thanks so much to Joe Goldberg for providing us with breakfast and snacks for our hikes. As always, it begins our day with a warm welcome and a place to gather before we begin our day. A huge thanks to the hike leaders for helping us find our way: Jeff Berk led Breakneck, Whammy led Firetower (and took our pictures), Jordan led Sunset Point and Bald Spot, and Thom Johnson guided our Cornish hikers through a historical journey. Thom has written a book about Cornish and is very knowledgeable about the Northgate ruins (aka Cornish). SLC also appreciates the alumni who helped with registration and started our day off smoothly – Mike Zbar, Ralph Forgacs and Talia Schneider. The following are some comments from hikers as they returned to camp:

\*Had a great time and survived (Kenny and Sheila Pollet)

\*Dave and Mike Leibowitz had a blast!

\*Best hike I did all day. Thanks to Whammy for getting us back alive (Denis Sternberg)

\*I saw a pretty rock (Max)

\*So happy I got to share this beautiful day with my family going to Firetower!!! (Robbie (Maggiore) Andersen)

\*A walk in the woods; what a great way to spend a day (Barbara Zbar)

\*Never did the hike as a camper; much more satisfying as a grown-up, with just a few aches and pains. Spectacular views and well worth the effort (Michael Schuman)

\*Sheila's cousins Sandy and Mark loved every minute.

\*Spike showed Mary Cornish for the first time!

\*Ronnie Adragna was here 10/20/13. Firetower Hike. It was awesome.

\*I found a leaf that looked like a cat's face (Tina Maggiore-Cuccia) P.S Thank you Jordan for taking me to Bald Spot and down the mountain.

\*Jose told Missy that on this hike he felt accepted for just being himself by a group of people who had never met him before. He loved the hike to the Firetower.

Can't wait for next year!

## From Our Alumni...

Dear SLC.

I went to "meet the teacher night" for the girls last night and found this written in Sabrina's writing notebook!!

This says it all!! Thanks for a great summer!!
Submitter by Lori

(Heitzner) Fishman

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It takes money and resources for the Alumni Association to mail you this newsletter.

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# Love Is In The Air



Mazel Tov to Michele DiRuggiero and Evangelina Lopez on their November 17th wedding at the Bailey Arboretum in Lattingtown, NY. Michele was a camper at SLC and has worked as a nurse for the past three summers.



Mazel Tov to Tatyana (Tanya) Kristalova & Phillip Cruz on their March 23rd wedding in Deerfield Beach Florida at the Wyndham Hotel. Tanya was a camper and counselor at SLC from 1993-2002.

