

SURPRISE LAKE CAMP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Established in 1961 for the Betterment of Camp

RE-ECHOES

The Official Newsletter of Surprise Lake Camp

Autumn 2015

Issue # 4

Inside This Issue

<i>Mini SLC Reunion</i>	5
<i>SLC's Pool</i>	12
<i>Harry's 80th Birthday</i>	8
<i>Jeff Herman Harbor Launch</i>	9
<i>Eddie Cantor's Grandson</i>	10
<i>Judaism and Gardening</i>	11
<i>Children of Immigrants</i>	6

Photo by: Julie Weintraub

SURPRISE LAKE CAMP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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



MAY

May 1: Volunteer Day

May 21: Spring Shabbat Program

May 27-30: MAYfest

JULY

July 10: Alumni Day

July 31: Summer Tour Day For Prospective Campers and
Annual 1902 Society Event

AUGUST

August 24-28: Get Your Feet Wet

SEPTEMBER

September 2-5:

Labor Day Weekend

OCTOBER

October 3: Rosh

Hashanah Program

October 23: Sukkot

2

JANUARY

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In Memoriam...

**Our deepest condolences to Barry Smuckler,
Jeremy, Jessica, Jason, and their family on the
loss of Barry's mother, Norma.**



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Hello SLC Alumni,

And in the blink of an eye, the greens and blues of summer give way to the yellows and reds of autumn!! Wow! How quickly the summer has come and gone!

As the days grow shorter and colder, I am reminded that even though the year is winding down, we still have so much to accomplish. Our goal for the 2015 Alumni Scholarship Fundraising Drive is to raise \$209,000. I am asking every alumnus who receives Re-Echoes (and even those who don't!) to consider a gift to camp. Help us reach our goal. This money directly funds the scholarships that Surprise Lake Camp distributes to the children who cannot afford to come to camp without this help. It is this same scholarship program that many of us used when we were kids! We all have our own amazing stories and experiences of our times at camp. And now, many of you are in a position to pass along that wonderful gift of SLC to the next generation of children. So please do what you can and make a gift!

A large portion of the SLCAA's donations to camp comes from the fundraising events we run. On October 18th we had our annual Hike Day, which was, as usual, a picture perfect day for hiking. On November 7th, we had our third Camp Casino and annual Alumni Raffle. Both events were a wonderful success. A special thank you goes out to the planners and all the volunteers who help to make these events great!

The Alumni event calendar is going to be very busy. Take note of the following upcoming events and mark the dates! On December 19th, the Alumni Association will be hosting a Holiday Winter Party at a NYC bar. Keep an eye out for further details! February 7th will bring the Super Bowl Box Pool. In March 2016, the 2nd CYC event will take place, and we'll once again hold our ever-popular March Madness pool. And of course, in May, we will be having the annual Spring Party at SLC!!

I am also very happy to announce that the Alumni Store will soon be online and items will be available for purchase year round! Details on how to order your favorite SLC merchandise will be available shortly... no more worrying about Chanukah or birthday gifts! Keep your family and friends happy with awesome SLC swag!

The Alumni Association is always looking for new ideas and help. This is an open invitation to everyone out there to get involved. There is no better way to keep SLC strong and vital than to stay active in the Alumni Association. If you are not already, I ask that you become a member. Dues are \$36 a year or \$250 for a lifetime membership.

See everyone in camp!

Joe Goldberg

alumni news

Congratulations to Stephen Davies on his engagement to Yvonne Breen.



A large SLC contingent at Greg and Jessica's wedding

Mazel Tov to Lauren Haber and Josh Caplan on their August 2nd wedding. This was another wedding with a large representation from SLC!



Congratulations to Krzysztof (Kris) Kulaga on the birth of his son, Krzysztof, who was born in July, 2015. Kris, who is from Poland, worked as a driver for Harry for several summers.



Mazel Tov to Jennifer (Friedman) Toback, Jeffrey, and proud big sisters Allegra and Lily on the birth of Vivienne Leah. Born on Feb 22, 2015 weighing 6lbs, 9oz.



Top, left to right: Randi Cohen, Jackie Gutharz Vetrano.
Middle: Janeen Bellafore Levine. **Bottom, left to right:**
 Rachel Israel Glassman, Allison Klar Heitzner

MINI SLC ALMUNI REUNION

Not many people you meet have had the opportunity to experience “camp life” as we have know it at SLC.

For us, camp wasn’t just about learning to hike, playing ball, swimming, or any of the other many activities we did throughout the summer.

Being at camp was also about the bonds we made, the friendships We gained, and the people who ultimately impacted our lives forever.

The people we met at camp were some of the most important people in our lives.

We could be whomever we wanted around them and they accepted us: quirks, braces, faces distorted by poison ivy, irrational emotional breakdowns, and all!

Our camp friends had a better handle on who we were than we ourselves did. They probably still do.

After 35 years of knowing each other, with miles between us, we can gather together after being separated



Top, left to right: Melissa Rosa Iannarelli, Wendy Sanders Hawkins, Jennifer Hofstein-Minikes, Randi Cohen, Rachel Israel Glassman, Tara Betska Castro. **Bottom, left to right:**
 Janeen Bellafore Levine, Jackie Gutharz Vetrano, Allison Klar Heitzner

by distance & time, and it’s as if not a moment has gone by. It’s the kind of friendship that needs no explanations and no apologies; the kind of friendship that not many people get to experience... we truly are blessed to have each other.

-Wendy Sanders Hawkins

We are all the children of immigrants.

By Herbert Adler



In early 1899, the Jews of Berdychiv became victims of a pogrom and my mother and her family fled to Odessa and eventually made their way to the United States. My mother, Esther Kaminsky, was a gifted student and went to Hunter High School. She wanted to go to college, but the family selected my sister instead.

My father Samuel Curtis Adler came over from Dusseldorf. He changed his first name to Curtis instead of the more Hebraic sounding Samuel. Just like a famous actor, who years later changed his name from Bernard Schwartz to Tony Curtis. He worked as a court interpreter and probate administrator at the Brooklyn Surrogate Court, and he spoke seven languages. Unfortunately changing his first name did not spare him the discrimination that was part of that time period. In a career that spanned over 36 years he never received an increase in salary. Both my mother and father struggled to make ends meet. My mother was a stenographer at a vaudeville booking agency. This is where she probably met old Banjo Eyes—Eddie Cantor.

When I was 9 years old, I was sent to Eddie Cantor's Surprise Lake Camp on scholarship. It was a 400 acre Shangri-La where I was fortunate enough to spend two weeks. What a joy to go swimming in the pristine lake and hiking up the green mountains. For a poor city boy it was truly heaven on earth. This was not Coney Island; this was really getting in touch with the wonders of nature. Unfortunately, the next year, instead of going back to camp, I contracted typhoid fever and hovered between life and death. A blood transfusion from my Uncle Phil saved my life and through my mother's vaudeville connections, I recuperated at the New Jersey country house of James Cagney, who in addition to his many attributes spoke fluent Yiddish.

After I graduated from Midwood High School in Brooklyn, I went on to study at the University of California Los Angeles. Upon graduation, I became a commissioned officer in the Air Force Reserve. It was an exciting time to be flying jets in the Mojave Desert and working for military intelligence. Now I am also known as the "Flying Philosopher" and post a blog on the web with anecdotes and my views of the present seen through a prism of the past.

My mother, who was always looking for additional sources of income, created a weekly radio show, "What's in a name?" She wrote to famous people all over the world and asked about the derivation of their family names and their history. She received letters back from such dignitaries as Albert Einstein, Bernard Baruch, General Marshall, General Eisenhower, and General Omar Bradley, among others. This radio show helped augment my parents' income and was a source of pride for both of them.

In 1967, I was invited to argue for the passage of the Public Television Act before the US Senate Subcommittee on Communications. The bill had initially been proposed by Former President Lyndon Johnson. It was a proud moment when the legislation was passed and established what we now know as the Public Broadcasting System and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.



While I was in Los Angeles, I went to a lecture at the Leo Baeck Temple. It was there that I met my beautiful wife, Estelle, and took her back to Brooklyn with me. She was an early pioneer in market research and worked with numerous physicians in the borough. We have been happily married for 29 years and are proud to have three great-grand children who live with their parents in San Diego.

About 20 years ago, a friend of mine called regarding an article in the New York Times about Surprise Lake Camp in Cold Spring, New York. The memories came flooding back—the vast lake, the beautiful mountains, the crisp air. It was like I was nine years old again. But this time I had the opportunity to go back to camp along with Estelle. When I was a camper, it was an all-boys camp and now it was co-ed. I was impressed by how the young girls were imbued with a strong sense of independence and Yiddishkeit. Supporting camp today is my chance to give back to those who helped me go to camp. This is for the women of the Kaminsky family and one man, David Daniel Kaminsky, or, as he was better known- Danny Kaye.



SAVE THE DATE
SUNDAY, MARCH 13TH • 4PM

HONORING
JORDAN
DALE
FOR 30 YEARS AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF **SURPRISE LAKE CAMP**
.....
MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE
36 BATTERY PLACE, NY NY 10280

Surprise Lake Camp
SINCE 1902
The Best in Jewish Camping!



The iconic Harry Vogel turned 80 in October, and camp hosted an intimate birthday gathering in his honor.

After over 60 years at SLC, some of you may be wondering how he first came to camp. So we asked him!

"It all started in 1952, when they closed the Jerome Pool and Beach Club on Jerome Avenue in the Bronx. I need a place to go in the summer. So I went to my H.S. Coach, Wm.F. Strobel, who sent me to the head of the Phys. Ed. Department, who in turn sent me to Mr. Brody, who was the Principal of Taft HS and also a member of the SLC Board of Directors.

The next thing I remember, I was riding a bus that left from the 92nd Street Y and going to SLC to work as a busboy.

In my spare time I helped out on the waterfront, and the following season I became a lifeguard.

The saga continues to this day!"



To My Friends and Surprise Lake Family,

I want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for all you have done to help me celebrate a Landmark Birthday.

The parties, the gifts, the donations to camp in my honor, the cards and letters and e-mails, the respect and admiration I've been shown have been overwhelming. I honestly don't know what to say except Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!!

It became impossible to respond to everyone personally, so please accept my humble and heartfelt gratitude to each and everyone of you as I continue to serve the Surprise Lake Camp community.

See you at the Lake (and the new pool too),

Harry and Family





POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF NEW YORK



HARBOR UNIT
CHRISTENING CEREMONY
AND DEDICATION
NYPD HARBOR LAUNCH #702
TO
POLICE OFFICER JEFF HERMAN
SEPTEMBER 16, 2015



IN MEMORY OF

POLICE OFFICER JEFF HERMAN

LAUNCH # 702



On May 30, 1989, shortly after midnight, Police Officers Jeff Herman and William Lynch, working Anti-Crime Patrol in the 71st Precinct responded to an assignment "Dispute With A Gun" at 250 Hawthorne Street.

As the officers started to interview a female caller at the entrance of her apartment, her boyfriend appeared from the rear of the apartment, and fired seven shots from a .380 automatic. Although seriously wounded by the initial shots, Officer Herman managed to return fire. As he was attempting to aid both his gravely wounded partner and the wounded female complainant, Officer Lynch fired twice at the gunman. Three days later Officer Herman died of his injuries. The gunman was later identified and located. He died from a self inflicted gunshot wound moments before he would have been arrested by detectives.

Harbor Launch # 702 is dedicated in his name and will proudly patrol the waterways of New York City in honor of his bravery and service.



JEFF HERMAN HARBOR LAUNCH

As many camp alumni know, one of the most powerful moments of the entire camp season is during intermission of the All Camp Show when we present the Jeff Herman Awards for the Most Outstanding Male and Female Athlete. We always begin by telling the campers what a special young man Jeff was and how we lost him tragically while he was serving his community.

On September 16, 2015, Jeff's memory was once again honored by the city of New York, when they named a boat after him. Below is the program from that dedication, and we thank alumnus Michael Fandal for sending it to us to inform the SLC community of this special honor.



Todd Maisel/New York Daily News



Jeff Herman's son, Joseph, cracks a champagne bottle over the boat during a ceremony to honor his dad.

EDDIE CANTOR'S SURPRISE LAKE

by Mike Metzger, grandson of Eddie Cantor

In the early pages of my grandfather's 1928 autobiography, "*My Life Is In Your Hands*," he describes his first, "eye-popping" arrival at Surprise Lake Camp from the slums of Lower East Side, New York: Fruit hanging from trees instead of pushcarts... and trees he'd *never* seen except those imprinted on the *wallpaper* in someone's front room!—No clattering horsecars, no crumbling brick walls, no soot-blackened tenement houses or dangerous back alleys, only "sky, sky, sky; lush carpets of green grass; crystal-clean air; and a blue, blue lake that must be the first cousin of an ocean!"

On our visit to the camp last week, my wife Ellen and I both experienced the same "flabbergasting astonishment" Eddie Cantor said he felt on his first visit back in 1902, and continued feeling throughout his life as a camper and, later, as a continuing benefactor of Surprise Lake Camp. Along with the beauty of Nature and his first acceptance as a comedic entertainer at the evening campfires, what he described as "the greatest turning-point in his life" was the patient understanding he received from the camp's entire staff, including its Director, Morris Berk, and the extraordinary kindness of Mrs. Bloomer, the kitchen manager.

And, here we were – Ellen and I – experiencing that same extraordinary sense of CARING from Celia, Howie, Paul, and other staff members who warmly greeted us and treated us to an extended tour of the museum, the Eddie Cantor Theatre, and the breathtaking camp grounds. I'm sure that my grandfather would be glad to know



that his earliest, life-changing encounters with welcoming friendliness has been carried on as a camp tradition for all these many 113 years.

I've also included two photos of my grandfather with his dearest friend, Georgie Jessel. The top photo was taken in a railroad yard in Oakland, California, where the two of them were appearing in Gus Edward's *Kid Kabaret*. The bottom photo was taken by me a month before my grandfather died. In those days, Georgie customarily visited "Gramps" every Tuesday night. That night, I recall my grandfather telling Jessel what he missed most were all of the charity benefits. "Giving back – isn't THAT what IT was all about?" Fortunately, that evening, I had my 35mm along with only one slide left and I had to make it count! I positioned Georgie on the arm of Gramps' chair, angled the closest lamp in their direction, and carefully framed what turns out to be the LAST PHOTO ever taken of Eddie Cantor—*appropriately*, arm-in-arm with his lifelong "little pal."



In my grandfather's second autobiography, "*Take My Life*," my grandfather wrote this: "When a newspaper man once asked me how I'd like to spend my last night on earth, I answered, unhesitatingly, 'with Georgie Jessel. It would be nice to die *laughing!*'"

On October 4, camp was pleased to welcome Ellen & Michael Metzger for their first-ever visit to SLC. Michael is Eddie Cantor's first grandson, and he was kind enough to write an article for us about their visit.

Judaism and Gardening

By Eve Rubinstein

On the sixth day God created Adam and Eve. He told them to “Be fertile and multiply, fill the earth and master it and rule over all living things.” (Gen 1:28) Instead of a leisurely life in the Garden of Eden, God gave Adam work to do. “The Lord God took the man and placed him in the Garden of Eden, *lo’vda ul’shomra*, to till/work it and to tend/guard it.” (Gen 2:15)

In today’s technological society, many of us are more removed from agriculture than ever before. We are often miles, states or countries away from where our food grows. In Jewish culture, our holiday calendar revolves around agriculture. The three major holidays Pesah, Shavu’ot and Sukkot all began as agricultural observances. Pesah is associated with the barley harvest, Shavu’ot is associated with the wheat harvest and Sukkot is associated with the fall harvest after all the produce has been gathered from the fields.

SLC’s mission includes an Environmental Goals statement, which is shaped by the Jewish value of respect for the land. One of those goals is to provide a healthy and appealing vegetarian alternative at each meal. As campers experienced at SLC’s new farm this summer, growing your own food is fun and delicious! Alan infused each farm lesson with hands-on experiences and connections to Jewish values. (If you haven’t read it yet, check out Alan’s last blog of the season at 143slc.wordpress.com)

The farm was one of the most popular activities this summer and is an easy one to continue throughout the year with the use of a Tower Garden. The Tower Garden is a vertical, aeroponic growing system. It is great for children—it keeps them involved in growing their own high quality foods and enjoying a year round garden.

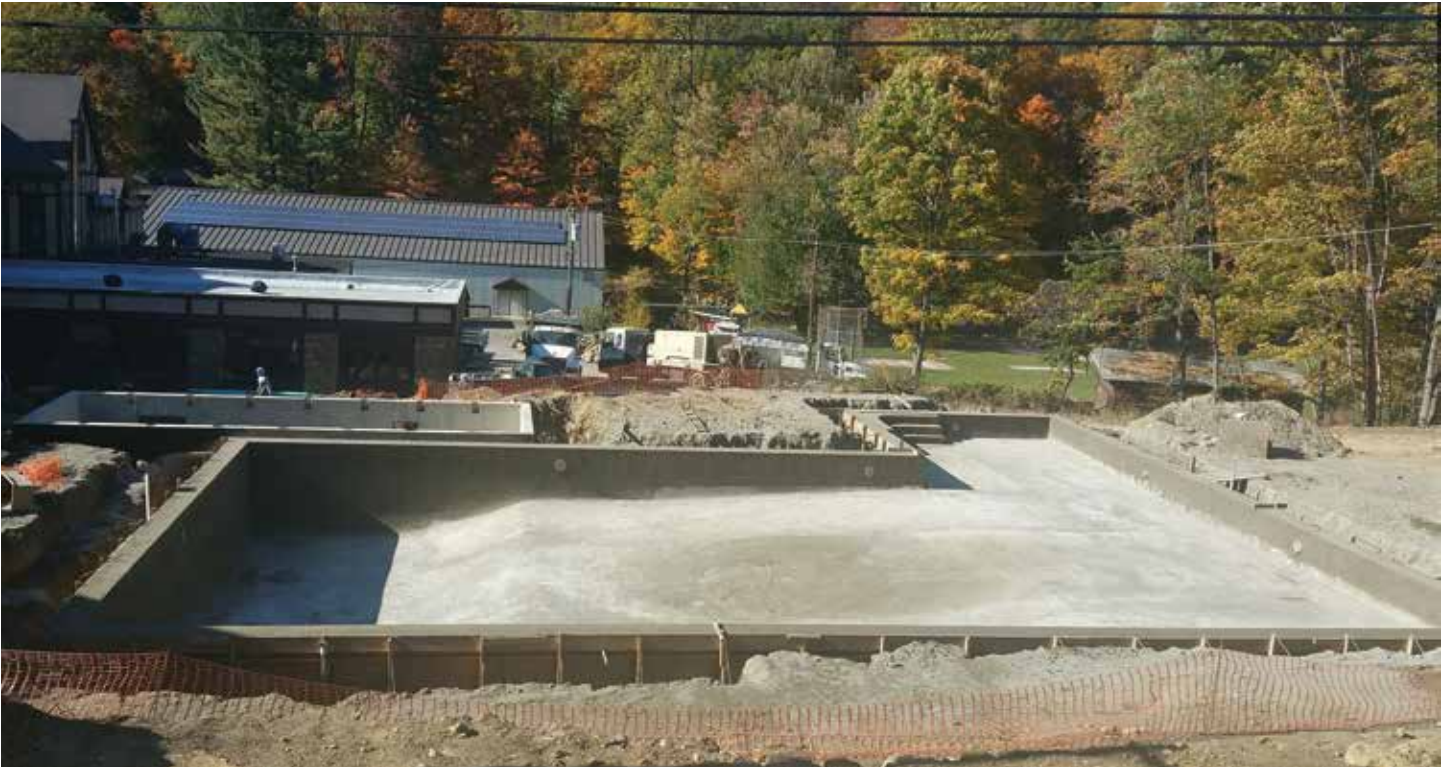
Another of SLC’s Environmental Goals is to promote energy and water conservation. Because the Tower Garden utilizes aeroponics, it recycles 100% of its nutrients and water. Plants therefore use **as little as 10% of both the water and the land** that are commonly used in conventional and organic farming. And Tower Garden plants generate **30% more produce** than their soil-grown counterparts, as shown by a recent University of Mississippi study. Plus, the aeroponic growing system reduces the need for pesticides, insecticides or herbicides.

If you are interested in having a Tower Garden for your home, contact Beth Meyer at the website bethmeyer.towergarden.com. All proceeds from the sales of the Tower Gardens to members of the SLC community will be donated in support of the farm program at SLC. Thanks to Beth for her generosity in support of SLC’s mission and our farming initiative!



LAST one in is a ROTTEN egg!

If you haven't already heard the news, Surprise Lake Camp is building a swimming pool!



Site work began on August 31, and the concrete shell was poured in mid-October! To see a slideshow of the progress, you can visit www.surpriselake.org/pool.

The pool will have an enormous impact on today's campers, and it will enrich the lives of young people for many generations to come. It will be a facility that will make the entire camp community proud.

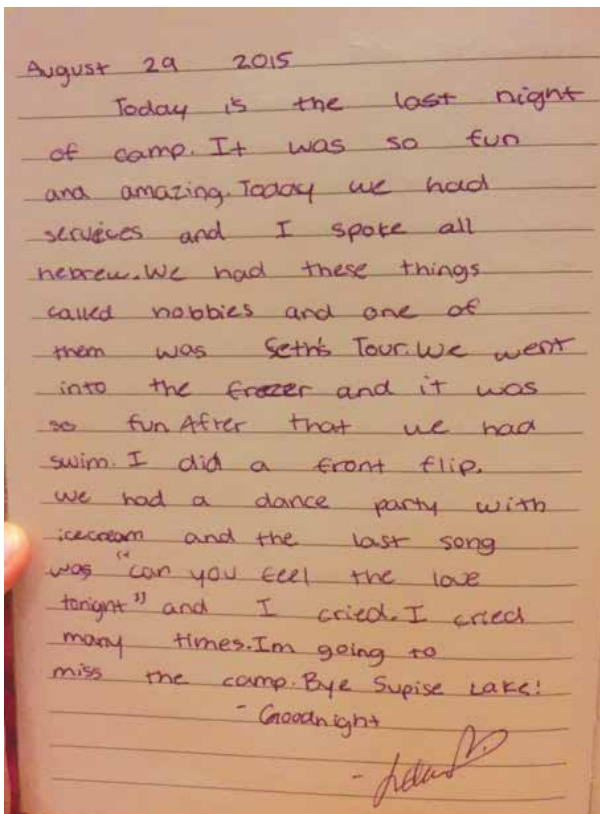
Some of the exciting things to look forward to include: all instructional swims will be in the HEATED pool; there will be competitive racing teams using real racing blocks; the slide will be awesome fun; evening pool party socials for all age groups! We are particularly proud that the pool will have ultraviolet filtration. This reduces the amount of chlorine needed to roughly the same amount that is in drinking water, which means little to no irritation or chlorine smell.

For lake enthusiasts, don't worry! Our program will still feature lake swimming, boating (including MORE stand up paddleboards in 2016), and of course our water trampolines. And we are planning a big surprise activity for the lake-stay tuned. We are thrilled that the pool will bear the Henshel name. The Henshel Family has been one of our leading families for more than six decades. Harry Henshel, the first Henshel to serve on the camp's Board, loved camp and loved swimming.

If you missed the Frequently Asked Questions about the Henshel Family Swimming Pool that we printed in the spring issue of Reechoes, they can be viewed on our website at www.surpriselake.org/poolfaq.

We can't wait for the inaugural swim! Until then, keep an eye out for updates on our website, on our Facebook page, and in e-blasts to the camp community.

From Our Campers—Journal Entry By A Get Your Feet Wet Camper



August 29, 2015

Today is the last night of camp. It was so fun and amazing. Today we had services and I spoke all Hebrew. We had these things called hobbies and one of them was Seth's Tour. We went into the freezer and it was so fun. After that we had swim. I did a front flip. We had a dance party with ice cream and the last song was "Can You Feel The Love Tonight" and I cried. I cried many times. I'm going to miss the camp. Bye [Surprise] Lake!

**—Goodnight,
Lela <3**

DONATE EASILY & SECURELY ONLINE @ WWW.SURPRISELAKE.ORG/DONATE

Surprise Lake Camp 2015 Alumni Drive & Dues Form

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____



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.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Day at SLC: \$155 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Days at SLC: \$775 | <input type="checkbox"/> Full Summer at |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Days at SLC: \$310 | <input type="checkbox"/> One Week at SLC: \$1,050 or more | SLC: \$7,600 or |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Days at SLC: \$465 | <input type="checkbox"/> Two Weeks at SLC: \$2,100 or more | more |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Days at SLC: \$620 | <input type="checkbox"/> One Session at SLC: \$4,200 or more | |

SLC Alumni Association Membership 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.

- ☐ Annual Membership: \$36
☐ Lifetime Membership: \$250

Scholarship Funds

This money goes toward an endowment to provide for future scholarships.

- ☐ **Henny Cohen/Alumni Association 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: \$ _____

Total number of months: _____ Total donation amount: \$ _____

- ☐ **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.



MICHAEL ZBAR, CPA

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SLC's Community Corner Advertising Rates:

	Fall or Winter Issue	Spring Issue	Three Issues
Business Card	\$36	\$54	\$120
Quarter Page	\$72	\$100	\$180



Nurses Needed!

A wonderful opportunity for nurses & their families at a children's sleepaway camp.

Modern healthcare facilities with a large medical camp staff.

400 beautiful wooded acres including a private lake.

Compensation includes salary, childcare if applicable, room, & board!

Please send resumes or inquiries to staff@surpriselake.org



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*It takes money and resources for the Alumni Association to mail you this newsletter.
Please let us know if you move, get multiple copies or would like to be removed from our mailing list.*

SHARE YOUR CAMP STORIES!



**JCC Association
of North America**

The Jewish Community Center Association (JCCA) of North America (of which Surprise Lake Camp is a member) is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2017.

To help mark the event and promote its work, JCCA would like to tell the stories of those lives touched by its member agencies over the past 10 decades. The JCCA is developing a public relations campaign that will be shared both internally through JCCs and externally through the media. In addition, they will create both a physical and a virtual exhibit as part of the celebration.

We need your help to gather these stories — stories that made and make Surprise Lake Camp what it is today. Stories that talk about the lasting impact that SLC has had on your life.

JCCA wants to hear from people young and old, those who were at camp back in the day, and those who can't imagine life without SLC today. They have developed an online portal for you to share your stories.

A team of people will go through these stories looking for the most meaningful and significant ones to share. If chosen, JCCA may contact you for more details, photos, videos, or even ask you to join them at a major event to share your story.

Submit your stories here: jcca.org/100stories