

SURPRISE LAKE CAMP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Established in 1961 for the Betterment of Camp

RE-ECHOES

The Official Newsletter of Surprise Lake Camp

Spring 2015

Issue # 2

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SURPRISE LAKE CAMP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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.

Design & layout by James Dinn

Upcoming EVENTS

AUGUST

August 2: Alumni Day

> <https://surpriselake.org/alumnidayrsvp>

August 16: 1902 Society BBQ

> <https://surpriselake.org/1902societybbq>

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 4-7: Family Camping
Weekend

> <https://surpriselake.org/familycampreg>

Sept. 14: SLC Rosh Hashanah
Service

OCTOBER

Oct. 4: SLC Sukkot Program

Oct. 18: Friends & Family Hike
Day

NOVEMBER

Nov. 7: Third Annual Camp
Casino Fundraiser!



SURPRISE LAKE CAMP, THE NEXT GENERATION



Mazel Tov to Jennifer (Friedman), Jeffrey, and big sisters Allegra and Lillian on the birth of Vivienne Leah Toback. She was born on February 22 and weighed 6lbs 9oz. [top left]

Mazel Tov to Moran, Murray, and big sisters Ma'ayan and Meitar Lantner on the birth of Alma Yam. She was born on March 8 and weighed 7lbs 5oz. [top right]

Mazel Tov to Gayle (Hoffman) and Bryan Doyle on the birth of their daughter, Izzy Rose. She was born on April 3 and weighed 6lbs 5oz. [bottom left]

Mazel Tov to Becky and Kimmie Melzer on the birth of their twin sons, Lucas Hayden and Logan Sawyer, born on April 23. [bottom middle]

Mazel Tov to Celia Baczkowski and Sheryl Kirschenbaum on the birth of Parker Sofia. She was born on May 26 and weighed 7lbs 8oz. [bottom right]

Hello SLC Alumni!! Welcome to the Spring 2015 issue of Re-Echoes!

The inspiration for this President's message comes from what I observed today at camp during Volunteer Day. As I sit here thinking about the day's events, I am still amazed! Even though the weather was overcast and cool, it did not deter the 150+ volunteers from coming up and helping out. I saw alumni, old and new campers, parents, and friends show up to help get camp ready for the summer. At the end of the day, I saw moms and dads covered with paint, and kids with wood chips and dirt in their hair and clothes. And I wondered "why?" Why would these people come all the way up to camp on a cold day to essentially do chores? Why do I come all the way up to camp to participate in manual labor? The answer is actually rather simple: **TO GIVE BACK TO A PLACE WE LOVE.**



Surprise Lake Camp means so much to so many. To try to list the ways that SLC has affected us all would require this entire issue! We all have our own reasons why and how SLC has helped to make us who we are. The common thread to all these volunteers today is that they all want to help SLC continue to provide that for others. Giving back, even if it is by doing chores, accomplishes that goal.

The SLC Alumni Association has been giving back to camp for over 50 years, and it is all of you who make up the Alumni Association. So thank you for all the years of giving back!

Some of you may be reading this issue and saying to yourself "I want to, or I should, get more involved." There are several ways to do that:

- The SLCAA sponsors several fundraising events throughout the year, and we would love for you to attend one, or help to organize one.
- Or, perhaps you can support SLC by making a financial contribution. The Annual Alumni Drive for scholarships raised a record \$190,000 in 2014, and the SLCAA contributed \$33,000 of that!
- Or maybe you would like to volunteer at camp one day, helping to sell SLC merchandise on Visiting Day or coming to the next Volunteer Day?
- And of course, you can always join the SLC Alumni Association!! Annual dues are \$36 and a lifetime membership is \$250.

So, no matter how you do it, it is all about "giving back" to SLC. This is how SLC will thrive and continue to provide the same wonderful experiences that you hopefully had. If you are interested in getting involved, please let me know. All are welcome!

Our next big event is our annual Alumni Day in camp. Come up to SLC on August 2, 2015 and join the hundreds of other alumni and their families for a wonderful BBQ and day of reuniting and reminiscing.

Stay well my dear friends and as always... See you up at SLC!
Joe Goldberg, President, SLCAA
goldnglich@aol.com



Hello NCAA March Madness Players!!

We had a very successful year collecting \$1296 for the main pool and with the additional \$288 from the Sweet 16 pool, we were able to collect \$1584 for SLC!!!

Thank you all for your support!!!

Congratulations to all the winners of this year's pool!!!

Main Pool

1st Place: Patrick Narea
2nd Place: Lee Posniack
3rd Place: Keith Miller
4th Place: Tracie Basch
Last Place: Keith Miller

Sweet 16 Pool

1st Place: Paul Stetson
2nd Place: Jake Berger
3rd Place: Tracie Basch

Again, Thanks to you all for your support and see you again next year!! -Joe G.

Health Center Renovation Update!

As most of the SLC Community already knows, the Mainside Health Center underwent a significant renovation over the winter, thanks to a generous lead gift from Stan Josephson, and many other gifts from members of the SLC Community. This major project involved fixing up the interior of the building, as well as the construction of a screened porch, a wheelchair-accessible ramp, new bathrooms, a new kitchen, new exam rooms, and a new room for the night nurse. It will even feature new beds!

We are deeply grateful to all of our donors who helped to make this renovation possible, and can't wait for the special dedication on July 15.



Frequently Asked Questions About the Surprise Lake Camp Pool

Where Will It Go?

Behind the Main Building where there is currently a patch of woods between the main road and the lower road. We have done a shade study of this area to make sure that it will be warm and sunny all summer. Originally we considered a Lakeside location, but this was abandoned out of respect for the alumni who felt it was important to preserve the iconic SLC vista.

How Big Will It Be?

75 feet by 40 feet, with a shallow water L shaped extension measuring another 20 by 20. Depth will range from three feet to eight feet.



Will This Mean No More Swimming in the Lake?

Absolutely not!!! It is Surprise LAKE Camp after all. We are committed to lake swimming as an integral part of the SLC program, and we want every SLCer to remember the experience for the rest of their lives. While there are still details being worked out, the plan is for the lake to still host general swims, water trampoline, boating (duh!—obviously you can't do boating in a pool!), and lots more. The pool will be used primarily for swim instruction, competitive racing, special events, and NIGHT SWIMMING (which we anticipate will be VERY popular!).

Will You Have to Hire More Lifeguards?

Yes! But not another whole crew, since when one division is swimming in the pool, they won't be swimming in the lake at the same time. But we need to make sure that pool swimming and boating can take place simultaneously, so a couple of extra guards will be needed.

Will The Pool Be Heated?

Yes! And we are also installing a system of piping which will circulate water from the pool under the concrete deck. This will reduce the cost of heating the pool and make the deck cooler for little feet.

What If I Am Sensitive to Chlorine?

The pool will have an ultraviolet filtration system. This reduces the amount of chlorine needed in the pool to less than what is in municipal water—the water we drink and shower in at home. It will also eliminate the chloramines that produce that chlorine smell and irritate people who are sensitive to chlorine.

What Other Features Will the Pool Have?

Much is subject to permits and pricing, but here's what we are hoping for: a patio outside the back of the Little Play-house that looks onto the pool, a water slide into the deep water section of the pool, a large deck as well as a lawn area for assembly and hanging out, the same familiar blue shade awnings that we have at the Mainside and Teenside waterfronts as well as areas with the same black posts and white rope, removable racing blocks and swimming lanes, a handicapped lift, and the SLC logo on the bottom.

When Will the Pool Be Ready?

Fingers crossed, and Mother Nature and the Department of Health permit process allowing, we hope to start construction in September, 2015 and to swim in the pool in June, 2016.

How Is Camp Paying for the Pool?

Thanks to the generosity of the Henshel Family, who are funding the entire project with an historic gift in honor of Harry Henshel's lifelong deep love of and commitment to Surprise Lake Camp!

2nd Generation International Staff — By Evie Berger

For over 30+ years, international staff have joined the SLC summer staff from countries all over the world including Israel, The United Kingdom, Poland, Russia, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, and many more. Last summer, we had the pleasure of hosting our very first 2nd generation international staff member. This year we have 2 more!

In 1980, Zvika Rifinski arrived from Israel to work at SLC for the first time and couldn't stay away. He was part of the SLC family from 1980-1988! His wife, Hagit, was also an Israeli *shlich*a in 1986! Last summer we learned that their daughter, Danielle, was applying to the Jewish Agency to be a summer camp staff member in the US and we knew that we wanted her to be part of our family. She joined our team as the Dance Specialist.

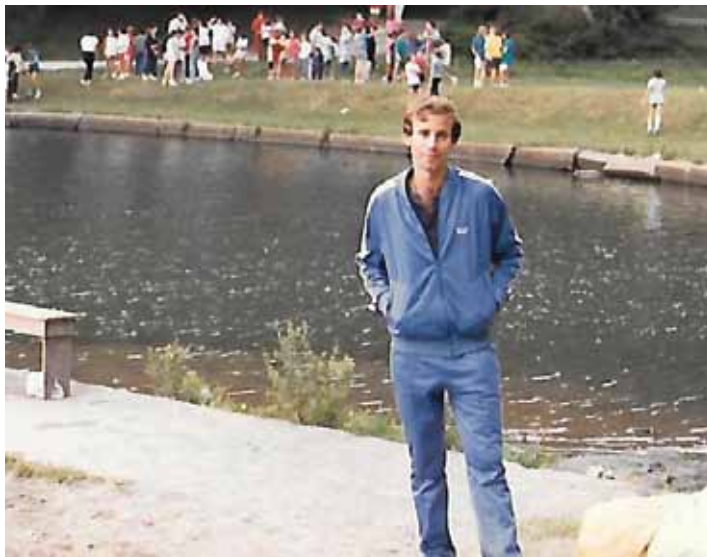
Zvika says "In 1980 I started the tradition of the Rifinski's by coming to one of the nicest and most special spots in the world for me. It meant a lot for me that Danielle experienced the special atmosphere of camp like me and Hagit did!"

When asked about her experience at camp, Danielle said "Being a part of the staff at Surprise Lake Camp as a Dance Specialist was an unforgettable experience for me. After years of hearing amazing stories about camp from both my parents, I finally got to feel the magic and spirit of SLC myself! Although I was miles away from home, I felt right at home because Israel plays such an important part at SLC."

This summer, we have not one, but TWO 2nd generation international staff members; one from Israel and one from England. Tamar Ran Cohen and Bronte Snow both join us as counselors on Mainside this summer. When we asked their parents how they felt about their daughters following them across the sea to SLC, Irit Ran Cohen said "My daughter is about to arrive to the camp and I am over my head with memories and longing to see camp again! Apparently the camp experience stayed with me all those years, and looking back I realize it made a strong effect on me and on my life." Irit spent one summer as a Teenside counselor in 1986 and her



Danielle Rifinski



Zvika Rifinski in the early 80s

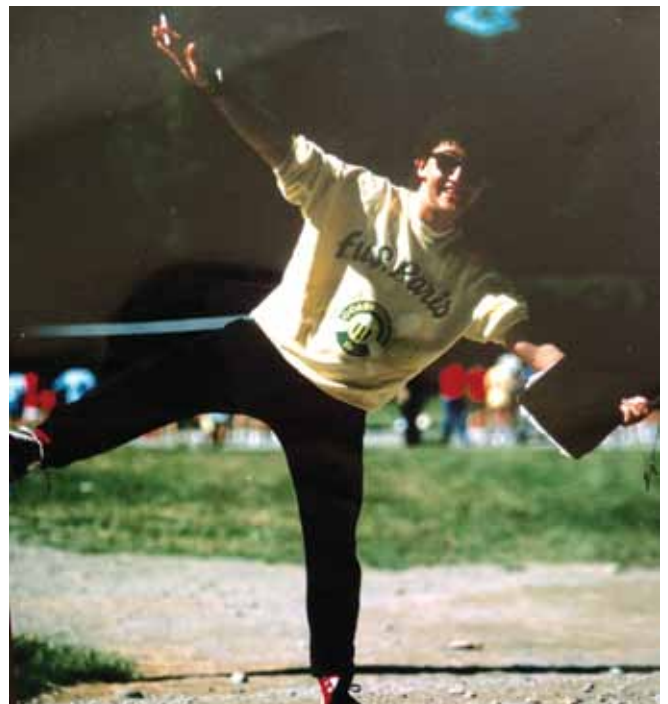
memories are vibrant. Tamar is looking forward to seeing camp through her mother's eyes when she arrives here in June.

Bronte's father, Antony Snow spent two incredible summers at SLC; he was a counselor in 1985 and then a supervisor in 1986. Antony said "I'm really happy that Bronte has decided to follow in her Dad's footsteps to work as a counselor at camp. She's going to have the best summer ever... just as I did!" Bronte told us that she has been hearing stories about camp her whole life. She cannot wait to join the staff and see for herself how magical camp is and continue the tradition.

We are so excited to be able to provide the opportunity for these international staff to come to America and be part of the SLC Family. We hope they create wonderful new memories to take home and share with their parents.



Antony & Bronte Snow



Antony at SLC in the 80s



Tamar Ran Cohen and Irit Ran Cohen



Irit Ran Cohen and Tamar Ran Cohen

DEDICATED TO OUR 2014 SUPPORTERS

The following pages are dedicated to the many friends who have supported Surprise Lake Camp in one way or another during 2014. Camp is blessed to have so many special people who care about its mission. Please know that camp is very grateful for all the support we receive, and we hope that one day we will have a chance to thank everyone . . . in person, in print, or both!

What's the Difference Between an Annual Campaign and a Capital Campaign?

Capital campaigns are conducted periodically to provide significant funds for major expenses such as the renovation of the Main Building, Arts & Crafts and the Health Center, as well as the scholarship endowment, etc. Annual campaigns, such as the Alumni Scholarship Drive and Board Campaign, are designed to provide scholarships for current year campers. **The Annual Campaign helps us live, the Capital Campaign helps us grow.**

The following individuals made gifts to one of several funds in our endowment, or made gifts to support a capital/building campaign.

Bar & Bat Mitzvah Fund

Roberta & Peter Hirsch
Jill & John Miskanic

Billie Schwartz Scholarship Fund

Jordan Dale
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Roberta & Peter Hirsch
Amy & Bruce Jaffe
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Stu Seligson Scholarship Fund
 Maria Seligson
Winter Camp Scholarship Fund
 Molly Benton
 Mike Bishansky

Other Honorable Mentions

THANK YOU . . .

- ✧ Michele Albo for donating special SLC-imprinted clipboards for our supervisors.
- ✧ AM Skier for being the corporate sponsor of Camp Casino.
- ✧ The Camp Casino committee, sponsors, and donors.
- ✧ The 2014 Hike-A-Thon Participants and Supporters, and co-chairs, Joe Goldberg & Barbara Zbar.
- ✧ Joe Goldberg for sponsoring the Hike-A-Thon Breakfast.
- ✧ The Pollet Family for purchasing t-shirts for the Girls & Boys Hockey Teams
- ✧ Ken Seligson (z'l) and Jersey Lynne Farms for their donation of Poland Spring Water on Alumni Day, and other special program equipment as needed.
- ✧ Howie Berk for volunteering his time, summer after summer, overseeing the Arts & Crafts program and the SLC Museum.
- ✧ The SLC Alumni Association and its volunteers for organizing the clothing sales on Visiting Days and Alumni Day.
- ✧ All the wonderful volunteers who help out on Docks Weekends, Visiting Days, and Volunteer Days.
- ✧ Thelma & Sandy Hochberg for setting up an additional Charitable Gift Annuity to benefit Surprise Lake Camp.
- ✧ Jeff Berk for coordinating the spring Alumni Overnight at camp.
- ✧ Seth Stein, Gayle Hoffman, and all of their amazing staff who volunteer to work the Get Your Feet WetSM program.
- ✧ The following donors who supported our off-season Jewish programs: Anita Cruso, Eleazer Klein, Paul and Elaine Suchow in memory of Robert Gary Bieber, D. Silvestri and Sons, the Pollet Family, Barbara & Michael Zbar.
- ✧ The following Board members who obtained financial gifts from their friends and business associates to support camp's mission and programs: Bob Altabet, Amy Goldberg, Alan Hoffman, Lee Kaplan, Alan Kleiman, Jim Meyer, Seth Stein, Adele Stern, Michael Zbar.
- ✧ SCOPE for scholarship funds allocated to SLC

THE SURPRISE LAKE CAMP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Surprise Lake Camp wishes to express its sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Board of Directors of the camp. These volunteers constantly work to ensure that camp remains the Best in Jewish Camping. In 2014, the Board contributed over \$475,000 in annual and capital gifts to SLC. We are proud that we have one of the best non-profit boards in the US!

Our 2014 Annual

THE GIFTS LISTED BELOW WERE MADE BETWEEN FEBRUARY 1, 2014 AND JANUARY 31, 2015. THIS LISTING INCLUDES ALUMNI WHO MADE GIFTS TO OUR ANNUAL ALUMNI DRIVE (TOTALING \$190,000+) AS WELL AS BOARD MEMBERS WHO MADE OR SOLICITED GIFTS TO THE ANNUAL BOARD CAMPAIGN (TOTALING \$101,000). WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO EVERYONE FOR THEIR GENEROSITY.

Full Summer at SLC: \$7,500 or more

(Up to \$30,000)

Estelle & Herbert Adler
Jay Jacobs
N M Morris Family Foundation Inc.
Roz & Jerry Meyer
SLC Alumni Association

One Session at SLC: \$3,900 or more

(up to \$7,500)

Cooperman Family Fund
Neil Diamond
Roberta & Peter Hirsch
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Stephanie Montano
Stanley Josephson
Cindy Shmerler

Two Weeks at SLC: \$1,950 or more

(up to \$3,900)

Moe Bordwin
Marjorie & Robert Feder
Christina & Greg Fox
Joe Goldberg
Ronnie & Bob Greenblatt
Kevin Hellman
Vicki & Michael Herson
Nancy & Alan Hoffman
Eleazer Klein
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Dana & Jonathan Miller
Steven Moses
Stephen Nitkin
Carol & Larry Seigel
The V & L Marx Foundation
Judy Weinberg

One Week at SLC: \$975 or more

(up to \$1950)

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David Berkowitz
Marlene & Stanley Besen
Nelson Braff
Carolyn & John Canova
Haylynn Conrad
Gayle Doyle
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Amy Goldberg
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Mark Segal

Eileen & Eliot Senor
Roy Shirwindt

Susan & Matthew Tratner
United Way / SEFA

Lior Yahalomi

Barbara & Mike Zbar

5 Days at SLC: \$700 or more

(Up to \$975)

Margery Arsham

Ariel David
Kathy & Mel Kalichman
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Space & Gene Kelly
Andrew Kominik

Nance & Martin Liebgott
Lisa Lucania Stulberger
Bonnie & Barry Mantel

Shuying Wang & Paul Mermelstein
Marc Ochs

Rina & Howard Pianko
Bruce Rubinger
Aimee & Seth Stein
Anne & Joel Zbar

4 Days at SLC: \$560 or more

(up to \$700)

Scott Ehrlich
Alan Kleiman
Harvey Osher

Audrey & Mark Tenenhaus
Michael Tenenhaus
Stuart Rachlin

3 Days at SLC: \$420 or more

(up to \$560)

Peter Baum
Amy Beaumont
Evelyn & Nick Beilenson
Howie Berk
Thomas Berner

Lori & Seth Fishman

Ira Goldfarb
Matt Grubler
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David Perecman
Queens Village Jewish Center

Mark Rothman

Bernard Saidel
Edith & Arnold Schwartz

Steve Sommer
Michael Witman

2 Days at SLC: \$280 or more

(up to \$420)

Susan Alintoff
Tracie Basch
Jennifer & Matthew Berk

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Willow Ridge Charitable Foundation
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1 Day at SLC: \$140 or more

(Up to \$280)

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Surprise Lake Camp 2015 Alumni Drive & Dues Form

First Name: _____ **Last Name:** _____

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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 |
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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.

In Memoriam...

Surprise Lake Camp mourns the loss of **Karen Jacoby Bendeson**. Karen's involvement with SLC stretches over the past 35 years, beginning in the early 80's as a counselor on Junior Side and Senior Side. She eventually became a Unit Supervisor (PA) and was then Teenside Arts & Crafts Supervisor. In 2000, she married Adam, whom she met at camp. We offer condolences to Adam, their children Tyler, Emily, and Zachary, her brother Stephen and the extended family. Karen's indomitable spirit serves as an inspiration and a blessing to all of us, and she will be sorely missed.

Surprise Lake Camp mourns the loss of **Ken Seligson**. Ken started his SLC career in 1969 when he was 11 years old. His brother Stuart and sister Nancy were also campers. At 16, Ken was hired to work in the kitchen. But Ken was a member of the Evander Childs swim team that won the city championship, so when one of camp's lifeguards backed out, Harry selected Ken to fill the spot. He was the youngest lifeguard Harry had ever hired. After a couple of years on the waterfront, Ken was promoted to Waterfront Director. He served in this role for six seasons, starting on Junior side and finishing on Senior side.

Ken set up three different camper scholarships: two in honor of his niece and nephew, Jenna and Brandon, and one in memory of his brother, Stuart. He did this out of appreciation for the scholarships that camp provided to him and his family when he was young. Ken helped for many years with putting the docks in the water before camp. He also participated in countless Volunteer Days, including the very first one when the Noah's ark playground was built. In recent years, Ken took to creating his own Volunteer Day projects, putting together and painting the picnic tables and Adirondack chairs he himself donated to camp. He especially enjoyed these hands on projects as a way to involve the next generation in his family with giving back to camp.

We offer condolences to Maria, Krista, Katie, Nancy, Lee, Jenna, Brandon, and the entire Seligson/Penney/Sidor Family.

Surprise Lake Camp mourns the loss of **Charles Weinberg**. Charlie served as a member of our Board of Directors for over 50 years. He was a Past President and Treasurer, and his financial guidance and his deep involvement in the development of our site paved the way for the strength that our agency enjoys today. Every building on our property has either been rebuilt or renovated with Charlie's help. His support has enriched the lives of thousands of children. We offer condolences to his wonderful wife, Judy, to his daughter Jean, who has also extended considerable service to our agency, to his daughter Barbara, to his son David, and to their families.

Our condolences to Judy Freiser Sails on the loss of her mother, **Ruth Freiser**, on April 16, 2015.

Our condolences to Stefanie Allman and her family on the loss of her mother, **Cindy**.

Ken Seligson: An SLC Hero

by Jordan Dale



After we sadly lost one of our most devoted alumni, Ken Seligson, I got a call from Bruce Katz who shared an amazing story. Nearly forty years ago Ken and Bruce were both Waterfront Directors. Ken was on Preteen dock and Bruce was on Mainside. One day Ken called over to Bruce. He had noticed that someone was having a problem. A camper was taking his sailboat test. Part of the test is to turn over and then right a sailboat. The camper had turned over the boat and was trapped UNDER THE SAILBOAT by the buoyancy of his life jacket. Bruce hadn't seen it, but he was closer, so Ken called over to tell him. Bruce and Ken both went into the water. Bruce got there first and managed to free the camper from under the boat. But the camper wasn't breathing! Bruce administered initial rescue breaths in the water and began to swim with the camper toward the dock. But Bruce's foot got caught in the boat's lines and precious time was being lost. Ken arrived in the nick of time, and freed Bruce. They got the child to the dock. They continued rescue efforts. The child suddenly coughed, water poured out, and breathing resumed. Bruce wanted someone to know that somewhere there is an SLC alum who would not be alive today but for the alertness and heroic actions of Ken Seligson. I, in turn, wanted everyone in the camp community to know about this incredible story.



Mazel tov to Jonathan Belkowitz on receiving his Doctorate in Engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology.

Mazel tov to Keith Jacobs on receiving his PhD in Biomedical Sciences from Washington University.

Mazel tov to Lenny Frenkel on receiving his D.O. (Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine) from NY Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine.



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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 Alex Ullman and Jaclyn Krongold on their March 29 wedding.



Mazel Tov to Devon Isaacson on his April 17th marriage to Danielle Press.



Mazel Tov to Lauren Rollman and Lenny Frenkel on their April 17 engagement. Another camp couple!

