



SURPRISE LAKE CAMP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



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RE-ECHOES

Summer 2009

Issue # 3

Editor: Celia Baczkowski

Upcoming Camp Events... Mark Your Calendars Today and Call Us for More Information About Any of These Programs!

LABOR DAY/FAMILY CAMPING WKND.....	FRIDAY, SEPT. 4 TO MONDAY, SEPT. 7, 2009
ROSH HASHANAH AT SLC.....	SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2009
SEVENTH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING.....	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2009
SLC HIKE-A-THON.....	SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2009

A Special Announcement



The Surprise Lake Camp Board of Directors is pleased to officially announce the promotion of two of our key staff members in order to make us a more effective and responsive 21st century agency in the various communities where we work. This is an extraordinary moment in Camp's history.

Effective August 25, Sheryl Kirschenbaum, our Associate Director for the past three years, will become our Camp Director. She will be responsible for the planning and management of our biggest and most important program, the summer camp program that has been changing children's lives since 1902. Our Board is confident that she will continue the long history of exceptional leadership that Surprise Lake Camp has always enjoyed.

This will enable Jordan Dale, our Executive Director for 24 seasons, to devote his full energies to the work of an Executive Director. The truth is that Jordan has been doing two full time jobs all these years. While he has had the title of Executive Director, he has also run the camp, directing both its summer program and its year-round work. But Surprise Lake Camp has reached a point in its history where we need someone of Jordan's knowledge and ability to devote his full energies to executive functions: working with the Board, managing the finances of the organization, raising funds for our daily operation and to meet our future capital needs, overseeing the Teva Program, visioning multiple roles for our camp to retain its leadership status in the camping movement, doing strategic planning and site development, and supervising the department heads who assist with these aspects of our work. After 107 years, Surprise Lake Camp has come of age, and we are confident that having Jordan in this role will help us reach new heights as an organization.

These two promotions will become effective the day after the 2009 season ends so that Sheryl can devote the entire year to the planning of the 2010 season. Jordan, as Sheryl's direct supervisor, will continue to lend his considerable expertise to the success of the program, but Sheryl will be running the camp.

The Board wishes to congratulate both Jordan and Sheryl on this achievement. We look forward to continued success working together.

Sincerely,
Margery Arsham
President, Board of Directors



SURPRISE LAKE CAMP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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Celia Baczkowski

*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*



Alumni Happenings



☆ SLC is very proud of its former nurse, Mary (Caffrey) Pappas on being credited with alerting the CDC about the Swine Flu Outbreak.

☆ Mazel Tov to Jon Schneider who recently became engaged to Victoria Baranik.

☆ SLC wishes a hearty Mazel Tov to the Director of the Teva Learning Center, Nili Simhai, who is the recipient of a Covenant Award. This is a very prestigious award and we are very proud.

☆ Our condolences to the Seligson & Sidor families on the loss of Stu Seligson. The family has established the Stu Seligson Scholarship Fund and donations may be made to this fund in his memory.

☆ Our condolences to the family of Bernard "Pat" Benton who passed away in June. Pat was a Winter Camper and treasured his days at SLC. He often coordinated Winter Camp Reunions in Florida with fellow camp alumni.

☆ Our condolences to Michele Albo and her family on the loss of her mother.

☆ We wish a speedy recovery to Jennifer Friedman Toback.

We would once again like to thank Abigail Greenbaum, one of our campers, who donated a large percentage of her Bat Mitzvah money to the Surprise Lake Camp scholarship fund. Below is a picture of the display board she set up to inform her guests and congregation about the great work that we do. If you would like to borrow our display board for a similar purpose, please contact Celia at 212-924-3131.



OOPS!

In the Spring issue of Re-echoes, we accidentally omitted Jason Nadell from the Bald Spot Circle of Giving (\$770 or more).

Jason has been a long time supporter of camp and we sincerely regret this error.

In the Harry Henshel /Raise Your Match Campaign, we omitted Jim and Roberta Meyer. We thank them for their valued participation.

A LOOK Back At 1st Session Visiting Day

By Joshua Suchow

This year's Visiting Day was a huge success! It was a beautiful day at SLC complete with a musical performance, swimming, boating, hiking, picnics, and over 2,500 visitors! As Harry Vogel described, "The ball-field was a sea of cars." This year's musical performance at the Eddie Cantor Theater was entitled "SLC Family" and the Mainside groups put on quite a show! Their energy and enthusiasm was indicative of a thriving SLC family. As another sign that camp continues to thrive, we took nearly 250 registrations for Summer 2010! We look forward to 2nd session and a bright and sunny Summer ahead!



Home Away From Home

An essay by Michael Thompson, Ph.D., co-author of *The NY Times* bestseller, *Raising Cain*

I went to Vermont for a week this summer and re-discovered a fantastic lost world of family traditions. A world where people sit down and eat three meals together every day, serving their food from platters and talking with one another throughout the meal. A world where ten-year-olds set the table for dinner and take all the dishes back to the kitchen when the meal is finished, without complaint. A world where thirteen-year-old boys don't play video games every night, nor do they watch TV or sit in front of computers. Instead, they lie on their beds and read comic books and graphic novels, sometimes even grown-up novels. In this world, I saw eleven-year-old girls walking together and holding hands as they walked back to their cabins. Right out in the open. No girls there send mean instant messages to one another; they don't I.M. at all. Instead, they sing. When they are making their beds (yes, they make their beds every morning) and sweeping out their rooms, they sing together. First one starts to sing a song, and then the others join in, spontaneously. There is no adult leading them.

As amazing as these phenomena are, they aren't the most fantastic things that I witnessed in Vermont. I saw a world where nineteen and twenty-year-old young men spend hours of time swimming and diving and kayaking with eleven-year-old boys, and they all seem to enjoy it equally. When the swimming is over, the boys hang out with the young men and ask them questions. They also walked to dinner together, sometimes with the smaller boys hugging and hanging on the bigger boys, who don't tease them or act annoyed. Even more amazing, at the end of each evening, the young men, the twenty-year-olds, sit with older men in their fifties and sixties and listen to them tell stories about their lives. The young ones aren't sarcastic or dismissive the way that television sitcoms suggest they are supposed to be. They seem eager to learn from their elders, night after night. And at the end of the night, they all sing, boys and young men and old men, all together around a campfire.

But of course, this isn't a fantastic lost world. As the reader has certainly guessed, it is summer camp that I am describing. If we were lucky enough to go to camp ourselves as children, we know that these things are a precious part of camp life. However, when I visited a camp for a week in Vermont, some forty years since I had last attended one myself, I was struck hard by how rarely I see children engage in these activities anywhere else: not in schools, not in neighborhoods, not in families. It made me wonder if summer camps are one of the last places that kids can learn the so-called "family values" that hard-pressed families no longer have the time to teach.

"We send a questionnaire to the parents," the dedicated and very modern camp director told me. "We know what they're looking for when they send their children here." I asked the director what the parents say on the survey. "Fun and friends," he said, "Overwhelmingly, they send their children for fun and friends; they mention values third."

Doubtless, fun and friends are an important part of a camp experience. And though the children I saw were having fun, I didn't think that fun was at the core of the campers' psychological experience. From my viewpoint, three elements dominated the campers' days. They were living in a multigenerational community, they were following hallowed rituals that were universally respected, and they had a lot of downtime. The rituals started early, with reveille, morning formation, the raising of the flag, and tent inspection. Ritual surrounded every aspect of meal time, from the pre-breakfast song to the post-dinner sing. And everyone, no matter what their age, participated in and respected the camp traditions. The day ended with taps and a lullaby. That's right, a lullaby. At 9:30 p.m., I joined a group of men standing in the dark singing a version of the Brahms lullaby with camp lyrics to a circle of tents in the woods. The children were asleep by 9:45 and virtually all of them slept solidly until 7:30 when the ritual clanging of the bell woke them again.

Is there anywhere else in the United States where children, ages eight to fifteen, have a lullaby sung to them every night? Is there anywhere where fourteen-year-olds reliably get ten hours of sleep at night? Despite what the survey revealed, I don't think that families send their children to camp just for fun. They are sending them away to get something more fundamental. It may be too painful for parents to confess that they send their children away to have some family life that they cannot provide at home.

Continued on page 4 . . .

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After all, there can't be too many family dinners when you are driving your children to the 90-game ice hockey schedule which is required of thirteen-year-olds on the select ice hockey teams of North Andover, Massachusetts. You can't have much of an evening ritual when children are watching TV or are on the computer up until the last minute before bedtime. And there isn't much downtime in a family where all the children are in music lessons, tutoring, martial arts, town sports, SAT prep courses, etc., etc. The only place a child from a high-pressure family can enjoy some peace and quiet, and perhaps a good night's sleep (with a lullaby) is away from home at camp.

Children don't develop because they are pushed and prodded and pressured to develop. Children don't develop because of town teams or because their parents prepare them to go to a "good" college. Growing up is what kids do, because development is their biological and psychological imperative. It is the job of adults to create environments where they have the time and freedom and safety to grow up at their own pace.

In Vermont I was struck by the fact that a summer camp seems to provide something that is in short supply in our fast-paced worlds: respect for ritual, time for the generations to get to know one another, and of course, the opportunity to take a nap or read a comic book after lunch every day. A number of the counselors at the camp, young men and women in their twenties, told me, "I missed the years when I wasn't at this camp. That's why I came back to work here." Others simply said, "I love this camp." One young man, the graduate of a prestigious university and the product of phenomenally successful parents from New York, stood up on the opening night of camp and told his fellow counselors, "This camp is my home."

I hope that camps will be able to maintain their traditions in the face of the frantic, competitive zeitgeist of modern America. I'm suddenly worried that they will all become specialized (and driven) learning camps, teaching Division 1 sports skills or computer skills. I hope not. I am planning to go back next summer and do some singing. I don't seem to have the time for it around my own house.

Michael Thompson, Ph.D, is a psychologist and the author of *The Pressured Child: Helping Your Child to Achieve Success in School and in Life*. (Ballantine Books, August, 2004) and co-author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys*. (Ballantine, 1999)

If you agree with this author's point of view and want to preserve the summer camp experience for children regardless of their ability to pay, please consider a donation to the Alumni Drive. Gifts to this drive support current year camp scholarships. Surprise Lake Camp has provided over \$850,000 in 2009!

Want to see pictures of camp?



All members of the SLC community are invited to view photos of camp! We have various folders, including Board Day, Alumni Day, Whammy's World and more. It's easy to register! Just visit our website at www.surpriselake.org and click on the "camp photos and email" box at the bottom center of the page. This will take you to the Bunkl registration page. The registration process takes a few minutes the first time, but after that it will be easy to log in and view photos! If you find a picture you love, you can even have it printed on a t-shirt, mug and more!

2009 Alumni Drive and Dues Form



Did you know that . . .

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

Please call the SLC Development Office at (212) 924-3131 to inquire or make a gift today!

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.*

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.

Alumni Association/Henny Cohen Scholarship Fund:

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

Jeff B. Herman Memorial Fund:

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

Please Complete:

Annual Alumni Fundraising Drive—"Send a Child to Camp" (Please circle one)

The Breakneck Circle \$6,200 or more	The Bald Spot Circle \$800 or more	3 Days at camp \$345
The Hudson Overlook Circle \$3,200 or more	5 Days at camp \$575	2 Days at camp \$230
The Hinterlands Circle \$1,600 or more	4 Days at camp \$460	1 Day at camp \$115

Alumni Association Dues

\$180 Lifetime, \$25 Annual..... \$ _____

Alumni Association/Henny Cohen 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: _____ Signature: _____

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

Month to begin: _____ Monthly Amount: \$ _____ Total Number of Months: _____ Total Donation Amount: \$ _____

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

☐ I request that my gift be listed as "anonymous."

☐ I would like to speak with an Alumni Fundraiser and/or member of Surprise Lake Camp's professional staff about a special gift.

Surprise Lake Camp accepts contributions in memory or in honor of someone, gifts of stock, matching gifts, and planned gifts (deferred giving). Additionally, camp's long-term Capital Improvement Plan includes many opportunities for endowing scholarships, staff positions, or programs, as well as naming gifts for buildings or recreational facilities. We also welcome major gifts to fund donor-initiated projects.

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

PLEASE RETURN TO:

Surprise Lake Camp
Alumni Association

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
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845.265.3616

alumni@surpriselake.org

Who Says You Can't Live Forever?

Immortality is possible when you Create a Jewish Legacy by joining the 1902 Society!

Your legacy gift ensures that Surprise Lake Camp is provided for—according to your wishes—for generations to come.

There are many ways to ensure a strong future for SLC, and you don't need cash!

To learn more, please call us at 212-924-3131.

Current Members of *The 1902 Society*

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

Anonymous	Irving Harris	Ruth Messinger
Walter Arnstein	Patti Henshel	Michael Rieger
Celia Baczkowski	Nancy Hoffman	Robin & Larry Rubinstein
Molly & Pat Benton	Alan Hoffman	Judy & Steve Sails
Evie & Jon Berger	Chuck Jainchill	Gayle Schwartz
Howie Berk	Stan Josephson	Harvey Sills
Martin Blum	Alan Kleiman	Steve Sommer
Amy Bram	Jerry Meyer	Mara Rubinstein Tanzman & Jeffrey
Jane Hershey Cuozzo	Jim Meyer	Tanzman
Jordan Dale	Judy & Michael Margulies	Alice & Steve Turner
David Fleischner	Linda Markowitz	Barbara & Michael Zbar

Why Become a Member of the 1902 Society?

We'll let our current members tell you!

As some of you know from mentions in the Newsletter, I am Max Oppenheimer's granddaughter. Unfortunately, he died when I was too young to really appreciate having him in my life. But his daughter, my mother, Lenore, made sure that I was aware of the miraculous story of Surprise Lake Camp. We made frequent summertime visits, and I owe my love of lake swimming to these sun-filled excursions to Cold Spring. When Lenore died in 1997, the directors decided to name a new fund for female campers in her honor.

All of these facts have encouraged me to provide for Surprise Lake in my estate planning. Perhaps you hope that, in this tumultuous time, there will be a safe and joyous place for your children and grandchildren to spend their summers. Nothing is certain except that time keeps moving us forward. Some of us are still in good shape, physically and economically. Some not. But leaving a legacy is something which all of us can do at any point in our lives. Generosity comes in many forms and is a "good deed" at all times. Money--that too oft-tainted word. Lately, it's gotten a bad reputation because of a handful of selfish uncaring people. Let's start this season of rebirth with giving words like "wealth" and "assets" a more positive inflection. Leaving a legacy is one of the best ways to celebrate a life well-lived. We can't take it with us, but we can make sure that when we're gone, the fruits of our success travel beyond our lives to where they bring the potential of new successes to others.

Jane Hershey Cuozzo

Why I choose to become a member of the 1902 Society is very simple. Surprise Lake was a big part of my life during the summers of 1970-1973. After my first summer at SLC, I ended up spending six weeks at camp. I went for the first session and the last session. At the end of school, I always looked forward to going to SLC and meeting old friends and making new friends.

Surprise Lake Camp was fun during my childhood, and I still have good memories of camp. I decided to leave SLC money from my estate through my will. I do not have any children of my own, and I would like to leave this portion to children who cannot afford to go to camp. I have donated books to the camp's library in the past and now I can leave something for children to enjoy in the future.

Gayle Schwartz (nee Allen)





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 joined the 1902 Society by: (Please check the options you are considering)

- ☐ Making a bequest in my/our Will or Trust
- ☐ Investing in a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) with Surprise Lake Camp
- ☐ Naming Surprise Lake Camp as Beneficiary of a Charitable Remainder or Lead Trust
- ☐ Naming Surprise Lake Camp as a Beneficiary of a Life Insurance Policy
- ☐ Naming Surprise Lake Camp as Beneficiary under a Retirement Plan
- ☐ Directing my/our Foundation to make annual gifts beyond my/our lifetime(s)
- ☐ **Optional:** The amount of my/our planned gift is: \$ _____ or _____% of my/our estate.

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

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

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

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ Email address: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____



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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!*

It's Not Too Late To Sign Up For. . .

Get Your Feet Wetsm: August 26-August 30, 2009. A special introduction to sleepaway camp for children in grades 1-5! Call 845-265-3616 or email info@surpriselake.org for more information.

Labor Day/Family Camping Weekend: September 4-7, 2009. SLC is the perfect setting for the final hurrah of the summer. It is a beautiful place to spend Labor Day Weekend at an affordable price, and only an hour from New York City. There are activities for children only, for adults only, and for the entire family. It's like 4 weeks of SLC squeezed into 3 days of fun! For more information, call 845-265-3616 or email sheryl@surpriselake.org.

The 7th Annual SLC Golf Outing: Monday, September 14, 2009. Spend a glorious day golfing, eating, and having a ball, all while benefiting SLC scholarships. We are currently seeking golfers, dinner guests, hole sponsors, and auction items. For more information, email alumni@surpriselake.org.

Surprise Lake Camp Rosh Hashanah Service: Saturday, September 19, 2009. SLC is pleased to offer you the opportunity to celebrate Rosh Hashanah in the most beautiful synagogue we know - right here at camp! For more information, email celia@surpriselake.org

The 4th Annual SLC Hike-A-Thon: Sunday, October 18, 2009. Join us for a beautiful autumn day as we hike to Breakneck Ridge, Hudson Overlook/Firetower, or Cornish. For more info, please email Barbara Zbar at redrabz@aol.com or Joe Goldberg at goldnglich@aol.com or call 212-924-3131. (IN SUBJECT LINE OF EMAIL PUT HIKE-A-THON)