



# SURPRISE LAKE CAMP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



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# RE-ECHOES

Summer 2010

Issue # 3

Editor: Celia Baczowski

## UPCOMING CAMP EVENTS . . . MARK YOUR CALENDAR TODAY!

LABOR DAY/FAMILY CAMPING WKND.....FRIDAY, SEPT. 3 TO MONDAY, SEPT. 6, 2010  
SLC ROSH HASHANAH PROGRAM.....THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2010  
SURPRISE LAKE CAMP SUPER-BOWL .....SATURDAY, OCTOBER, 16, 2010  
ANNUAL HIKE-A-THON.....SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2010



## A Dream Come True . . . Returning to SLC 25 Years Later

By Carter Mansbach, pictured left, with his family at SLC

Since I left SLC 25 years ago, I have had many dreams of being in camp again.

Late spring 1977, my mother took me for a crew cut and explained that she was going to send me out of the sweltering, dangerous streets of Brooklyn to upstate, NY for three weeks

at sleep away camp. Being just seven years old and attached at the hip to my mother, I got on the bus in Coney Island kicking and screaming. Needless to say, the heart and soul of Surprise Lake Camp enveloped me and took me in. For the next eight summers, I got on that same bus smiling, and instead, I was kicking and screaming when it was time to go home!! I often tell people that Surprise Lake saved my life. It got me out of Brooklyn, taught me to survive in camp, and gave me the ability to adapt to new surrounding and people from all walks of life. Back then, there were 4 boys to a bunk separate from the counselors, and no electricity! SLC definitely played a major role in molding me into the man I am today.

Fast forward 25 years; I am now married and the proud father of three great little girls ages 10, 9, and 5. They have heard thousands of stories about my life in camp, and finally, my two oldest begged me to go to camp. Living in Florida, it was hard to imagine sending them a thousand miles away to Cold Spring, NY. So we decided to take a trip in the fall of 2009 to show camp to my family and see if camp was still what I remembered it to be. We arrived at SLC (it was October), and the weather could not have been any worse - bitter cold and pouring! Camp was holding its fall Tour Day, and our tour guides were Sheryl and Ken, camp's Director and Assistant Director. While I had never met Sheryl before, there was an instant chemistry, and the SLC culture, heart, and spirit was so apparent, even through the rain clouds and blistering winds. My entire family was in consensus - my children needed to be at SLC. Sheryl and my wife, Laura, got to talking, and Laura was offered the job of running Cedarwood, the Two Week Program. Since I am an independent investment advisor, I am fortunate to be able to work remotely from anywhere. So we decided that all of us, including me, would move to SLC for first session!

Over the past decade or two, many "fancy" camps have been created, complete with motor boats, air conditioning, internet in the cabins, etc. I must say that after spending a month back at camp, nothing compares to the SLC experience. "Roughing it" with no a/c, hiking with Whammy (yes Whammy was in camp when I was a child!), singing old songs, confidence building exercises, and the strong Jewish heritage, along with incredible staff and amazing kids, in my mind, is the recipe for the most amazing place on earth. I can say with confidence that Surprise Lake Camp is not only the same place that my fondest memories recall, it's even better! It is a true camp experience! I am so thrilled to have had this opportunity to relive my experiences, but more importantly, to have my three daughters touched by the same heart and soul of SLC that touched me when I was as a child. While there are no motor boats or a/c, I see something even better . . . smiling faces. Once again, as the session comes to an end, I am leaving kicking and screaming, and not wanting to go home. Being a 40 year old man with three children, my perspective has changed, because now I am seeing camp through my children's eyes. But my feelings remain the same. I now fully understand why this place, "nestled 'neath the shady trees," has prospered through two world wars, recessions, etc. I expect that my children will be going to SLC for many years to come, and I will do everything in my power to refer as many people as I can to this fantastic place. This summer was truly a dream come true.

## SURPRISE LAKE CAMP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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## Alumni Happenings



- ☆ Mazel Tov to alumni Craig Miller and Tracie Herman (pictured right) on their 7/7/10 engagement! Another couple for the SLC Wedding album!



- ☆ Mazel Tov to Jason and Roni Nadell on the birth of Jake Maxim (pictured left), born July 9th at 9:43am.

- ☆ Mazel Tov to alumnus Nathaniel A Bialek (camper 1981 to 1988) on the birth of his son, Ryan Eugene Bialek, born June 30, 2010, weighing 10 lb 6 1/2 oz and measuring 21 1/2 inches. Baby Ryan's grandpa, Jack, is also an SLC alum, and was a Winter Camper from 1947 to 1948.

- ☆ Mazel Tov to alumna Elyssa (Rosen) and Brian Napoleon on the birth of their baby girl, Hayley Jane, born June 20, 2010 at 6:37 am. Hayley's grandpa, Bob, is also an alum!

\*\*\*\*\*

- ☆ Our condolences to the Seligson & Sidor families on the loss of their mother, Harriet Offen.

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\*Deceased

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

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

# WANTED!

Camp is always looking for donated items. Money not spent on goods is spent on scholarships so children can come and enjoy the sunshine at camp! As always, your donations are tax deductible. We are currently looking for the following:

|   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Bookshelves   | Snow Plow                      |
| Digital Cameras   | Batteries (New)                |
| Laser Printers  | Cars or Vans in Good Condition |
| Flat Screen Monitors  | Dump Truck                     |
| Box Springs   |                                |
| Bed Frames  |                                |
| Full Sized Mattresses (good or excellent condition only, please)        |                                |
| Pop-up Canopy Tents (like those used by many families on Visiting Days) |                                |

# From the Campers . . .

Hi! I'm Rebecca Lantner and I am a camper in Work Program. So far, this session has been a blast. For me, the Work Program experience has been different from any other summer at camp. We are training to be future staff members here at SLC, and because we are in WP, we receive special privileges that ordinary campers would not have. For example, being part staff and part camper, we are allowed to spend time in the Mainside canteen with staff at night, but also get to participate in Teenside activities like specialty and out-of-camp trips. As Work Program campers, we have blocks of time in either the morning or afternoon when we work. Each week, we are assigned to new jobs, ranging from Counselor Aide or Canteen Aide to Kitchen Aide or Office Aide. Besides working part time at camp, the Work Program counselors teach us lessons that emotionally prepare us for life as staff. We engage in activities that promote teamwork and communication, and that really help us to grow both as individuals and as a group. Overall, I feel that Work Program is more than just a fun summer; the skills we learn here will benefit us throughout our lives.



Hi, I'm Tyler Shatesky and I'm in Work Program, Session 1. Work Program is this great experience that you share with nineteen other teenagers. So far, I have been able to try out jobs in two areas of camp. First, I was a Mountainview Boys CA. It was so much fun! The kids and I really connected, and they looked up to me, which felt awesome. I love how they still yell my name and run up to me with news to tell me, even though I'm not working with them anymore. My second job was helping the programming aide. The current aide showed me the ropes, and I learned how to do her job, as well as other jobs in the office. When I was assigned to the office, I thought it was going to be boring and that I wouldn't like it, but I ended up having fun and meeting a bunch of very nice people.

As a group of twenty (plus four counselors), our Work Program group has really bonded. We've all improved our leadership skills, our teamwork, and our communication skills. We have come to trust each other and I believe that as a group, we can overcome anything that is thrown at us. Being in Work Program is very different than being a normal camper, but it is amazing because you become such close friends with everyone, and I feel we'll be friends forever. So far, Work Program has helped me to learn how to become a great future staff member, and a greater person in general. I will remember this experience forever.



# SLC Olympics 2010



By Jessica Bergson, Program Aide

In the mind of a typical SLC camper, Olympics means everything. This summer, Surprise Lake experienced an Olympics unlike any other. If you are a daily Facebook user, there is absolutely no way that you could miss Whammy's year-long status updates about the plans for our "LEGObration." However, Legos were only one aspect of the day that made Olympics 2010 truly special.

After much time and planning, the Red Rolling Stones, Blue Who, White Beatles, and Black Kiss rocked to the end, fighting for first place. As per tradition, the campers and counselors were split up among the four teams and assigned to different events. One of the most magical places to be found during Olympics was, indeed, the Eddie Cantor Theatre. In the four corners of the stage, each team had possession of 25,000 legos. They were challenged to build an SLC bunk using their team theme. The results were incredible and exceeded all of the judge's expectations!

You may be thinking to yourself, "how did they possibly get a hold of 100,000 legos?" Well, the answer is this: we got them from you! Alumni, campers, parents, staff members, and friends collected legos from all over the country and sent them in to a very happy Whammy. Whammy even created a Lego Facebook group, and before we knew it, we had Legos arriving almost daily at SLC. Our biggest donors, Laura and Carter Mansbach, donated an impressive 110 pounds of Legos! "I attended Surprise Lake Camp as a camper 25 years ago," Carter explained. "When I saw that Whammy was looking for Legos, I made it my mission to collect as many Legos as I possibly could. I loved Olympics when I was a camper, I loved the Lego idea, and I wanted to do anything that I could to help out. I also did it as a sign of gratitude towards SLC for welcoming me and my family back to camp with open arms."

The Lego creations, team plaques, songs, and cheers were presented to the judges in the late afternoon at the Eddie Cantor. As the campers headed to dinner, the scores were tallied. Exhausted as everyone was, the campers and staff returned to the theater after dinner, still bursting with ruach (spirit). It was time for the All Camp Show (which was rained out the night before). Mainside and Teenside performed their shows, the Jeff Herman Award was given, and of course ice cream was distributed, all while sitting by Olympic teams. While sitting in the midst of this excitement, and right before the winning team was announced, I realized why Surprise Lake Camp is such a special place to be. Instead of fighting against each other, the four teams of Olympics supported and cheered for one another. In the end, it did not matter to the campers who won or who lost. At the end of a long day of competitions, judging, legos, and cheering, we ended the day together, as one camp, as one family, nestled neath' the shady trees.

Lego creations, from left to right: Blue Who, Red Rolling Stones, White Beatles, Black Kiss



## 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](http://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!

# 2010 Alumni Drive and Dues Form



## 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  
Cold Spring, NY 10516  
845.265.3616

alumni@surpriselake.org

## 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?

## Make Your Gift Online!

<https://www.surpriselake.org/about/donate.php>

## Please help us to confirm our records by completing the following:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates/Years at Camp: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Alumni Drive:** Gifts to the Alumni Drive are used to support this year's scholarships. *This is camp's greatest current need.* If you are supporting this annual drive, please consider making an additional gift to our scholarship fund to secure our ability to provide for future scholarships.

**Scholarship Fund:** This money goes toward an endowment to provide for future scholarships. (Gifts will be credited to the Henry Cohen Scholarship Fund unless you direct that they be put into another scholarship fund.)

**Alumni Dues:** Used to pay for Alumni reunions, scholarships sponsored by the Alumni Association, and other functions that support camp. Membership entitles Alumni to be kept informed of alumni events, receive quarterly Re-Echoes and receive a discount at Alumni activities for which a fee is charged. All members will receive a membership card and calendar of events.

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

## Please Complete:

|                       |  |   |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| 1 Day at camp: \$125  | 4 Days at camp: \$500                        | The Hinterlands Circle (2 Weeks): \$1,750 or more       |
| 2 Days at camp: \$250 | 5 Days at camp: \$625                        | The Hudson Overlook Circle (1 Session): \$3,500 or more |
| 3 Days at camp: \$375 | The Bald Spot Circle (1 Week): \$875 or more | The Breakneck Circle (Full Summer): \$6,600 or more     |

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

Alumni Association Dues \$180 Lifetime, \$25 Annual .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship Fund .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Other Fund: .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Enclosed** .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please bill my credit card: (No AMEX, please)

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount to Charge: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I'd like to make montly contributions with my credit card. Preferred day of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Month to begin: \_\_\_\_\_

Monthly Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Number of Months: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Donation Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

**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.



# *Photos from the 1902 Society BBQ*

On Sunday, July 11, the members of Surprise Lake Camp's 1902 Society were invited to camp for a special BBQ in their honor. Over 40 people attended and were treated to a delicious, multi-course meal. This was not your traditional camp BBQ! Here are some photos from the wonderful day! For a complete list of members, please visit our website:

[http://surpriselake.org/alumni/legacy\\_society.php](http://surpriselake.org/alumni/legacy_society.php)







# 1902 Society



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

## Letter of Intent

We hope you will tell us when you have included Surprise Lake Camp in your estate plans. We would very much like the opportunity to say "thank you" for your generosity. Letting us know of your intentions also helps us to be better aware of your particular interests and will allow us to keep you informed of developments at SLC which may be relevant to your planned gift. Recognition of your gift may also inspire generosity in others.

In support of the work of Surprise Lake Camp, I/we want to provide for future generations and to ensure the continuity of the services it provides.

This Letter of Intent represents my/our commitment to Surprise Lake Camp. It does not represent a legal obligation on my/our part and may be changed at any time.

☐ I/We have already joined the 1902 Society by: (Please check the 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 be (a) member(s) of the 1902 Society but wish to remain anonymous  
Name (s) as you would like it (them) to appear (for Anonymous, please check the box above):

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (       ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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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 Wet<sup>sm</sup>:** August 25-August 29, 2010. A special introduction to sleepaway camp for children who just completed grades 1-5! Call 845-265-3616 or email [ssstein@sssteinlawfirm.com](mailto:ssstein@sssteinlawfirm.com) for more information.

**Labor Day/Family Camping Weekend:** September 3-6, 2010. 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](mailto:sheryl@surpriselake.org).

**Surprise Lake Camp Rosh Hashanah Service:** Thursday, September 9, 2010. 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 [alumni@surpriselake.org](mailto:alumni@surpriselake.org)

**The SLC Super-Bowl:** Saturday, October 16, 2010. Spend a fun filled evening bowling, snacking, and reminiscing, all while benefiting SLC scholarships. We are currently seeking bowlers, non-bowling guests, lane sponsors, and auction items. For more information, email [alumni@surpriselake.org](mailto:alumni@surpriselake.org) or register online at <http://slcsuper-bowl.eventbrite.com>.

**The 5th Annual SLC Hike-A-Thon:** Sunday, October 24, 2010. Join us for a beautiful autumn day as we hike to Breakneck Ridge, Firetower, or Cornish. For more info, please email Barbara Zbar at [redrabz@aol.com](mailto:redrabz@aol.com) or Joe Goldberg at [goldnglich@aol.com](mailto:goldnglich@aol.com) or call 212-924-3131. (IN SUBJECT LINE OF EMAIL PUT HIKE-A-THON)