

SURPRISE LAKE CAMP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Established in 1961 for the Betterment of Camp

RE-ECHOES

The official newsletter of Surprise Lake Camp

Summer 2013 Issue # 3



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Tenured Campers**

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**Campers participating in a concert by the Shlomones & The What's Up Band
at the Eddie Cantor Theater.**

**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.



2013-2014 Calendar of Events

August/September

Aug. 30-Sept. 2: Family Camping Weekend

(www.surpriselake.org/familycamp)

Sept. 5: SLC Rosh Hashanah Service

(www.surpriselake.org/rosh)

Sept. 22: SLC Sukkot Program

(www.surpriselake.org/sukkot)

October

October 20: Friends & Family Hike Day

November

Date TBD: SLCAA Casino Fundraiser

April 2014

April 16: Passover

April 27: Volunteer Day

May 2014

May 17: Spring Shabbat

Date TBD: Spring Alumni Party

July 2014

July 27: Alumni Day

**A camper enjoying the view from one of our
high ropes elements!**



Welcome To The SLC Family!



* Mazel Tov to Marta & Lee Meyer on the birth of their son, Shay Lior (pictured left) on June 27th at 6:05pm. He measured 20 inches long and weighed 8lbs. 6oz.

* Mazel Tov to Nina Fineberg and her husband, Alex, on the birth of their son, Eugene, born July 11th. He weighed 8lbs.

Other Alumni News...

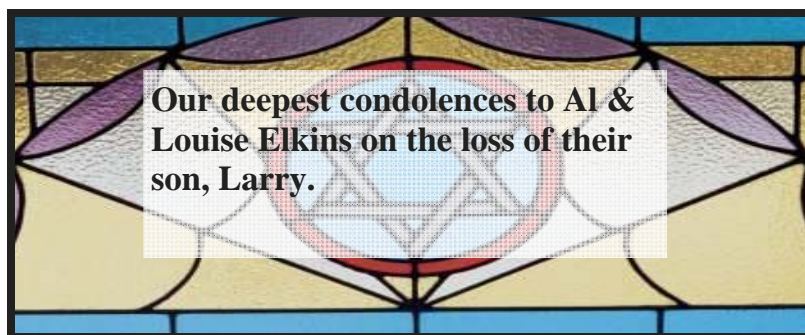


Mazel Tov to alumna Justine Blau on her recently published memoir, *Scattered*. She writes "the session I spent at Surprise Lake Camp when I was eight years old was the happiest three weeks of my childhood. I wrote about the experience in my recently published memoir, *Scattered*." *Scattered* is the story of Justine's nomadic childhood in the middle of Manhattan, moving from hotel to apartment to hotel for six years, with her mother and two older brothers - before she was taken from her mother and sent to live in children's group homes for six years.

Special thanks to alum, Arel Moodie, who came to camp on July 12 and gave an awesome, inspirational talk to our teen campers about how to maximize their summer both spiritually and for fun. Although Arel has spoken to over 100,000 people in 43 states and 4 countries (including the White House!), this was his first keynote at a Jewish sleepaway camp... and we were so happy that it was at SLC! He spoke to 200 teenagers for over two hours, and had their undivided attention the entire time! Thanks for finally coming home to SLC, Arel!



In Memoriam

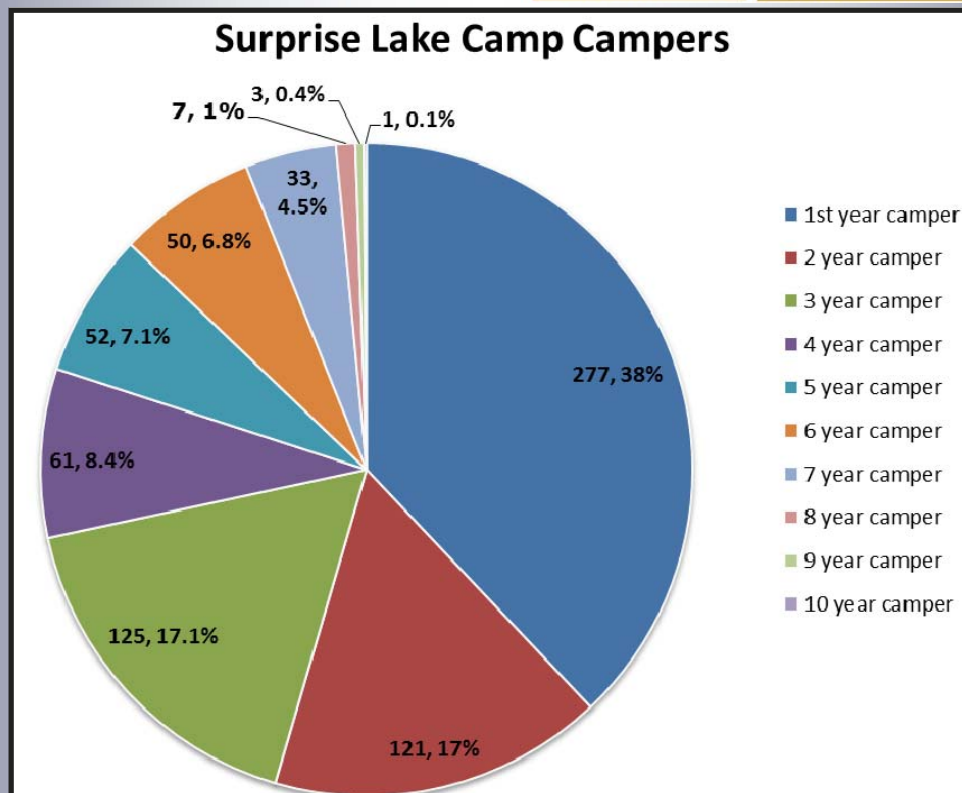


CAMPER STATS

Much to the dismay of alumni who came prior to the 90's, Surprise Lake Camp now recognizes its tenured campers and staff with special gifts. For close to two decades, campers who have been at camp for 5 summers have been receiving 5 Year Camper sweatshirts. This year, we thought to ourselves "why stop there?" Why not honor 6, 7, & 8 year campers, too? So we did! At the All Camp Show, 6, 7 & 8 year campers received special pins. And 8 year campers also received personalized jerseys. Boy, were they a hit! Are you curious about how many years campers have been at SLC? The chart below will help!



FUN FACT! An eight-week camper will spend more time at camp in one summer than they will at school during the whole year!



What's Been Happening at Camp?

Olympics 2013—The Year of The Superhero

By Ali Beck

There was no better place to be on July 4th than nestled 'neath the shady trees at SLC. Although this year's annual patriotic affair wasn't quite so shady (it was 95 and HOT!), it was still THE place to be! On the afternoon of July 3rd, Surprise Lake Camp was invaded by superheroes! While our campers were having a blast with a dance off at the Eddie Cantor, in an instant, the music & dancing stopped, and a voice came over the speakers. Within seconds, Batman arrived in record speed on his flashy cart, Captain America jumped off the theater lighting booth, Ironman climbed up to greet the crowd, and Spiderman scaled the theater wall. By then, the campers knew... it was Olympic Breakout! The cheering and shouting began, and continued up until Closing Ceremonies the night of July 4th. Red Iron Man was victorious, followed closely by White Captain America, who took on the important responsibilities affiliated with 2nd place. (Thanks to Whammy and his "importance of 2nd place" speech, this American superhero was not entirely defeated on his own special day.)



Shomrei Adamah Day (Keepers of the Earth)

By Wendy "Teva" Dinn

We had a great Shomrei Adamah Day on Sunday, July 21st. The campers learned all about birds, dissected owl pellets, and saw "Skyhunters in Flight," a live bird of prey show presented by Brian Bradley. He brought an owl, a hawk, and a fowler, and the birds showed off their flying and hunting skills. It was awesome!

Taking Challah Baking to a Higher Level of Learning!

By Rabbi Claire

Rabbi Claire Time turned into a fun-filled, 3-ring Jewish learning center with Cedarwood last week. What began as a lesson in the whys and hows of challah baking and its impact on building community evolved into so much more. First, a discussion broke out on The Ten Commandments and how they have shaped our society in an ethical direction. And this morphed into a conversation about the impact of Jewish prayer on our community. The campers looked at the prayers L'cha Dodi, Barchu, Shema, and the Amidah (Avot v'Imahot) as four examples of how we go to greet G-d "more than half way." The group concluded that torah study, prayer, and making challah to share with friends are all good ways for us to communicate with G-d.



Surprise Lake Camp 2013 Alumni Drive & Dues Form

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

Address: _____

Email: _____ **Date of Birth:** _____

Home Phone: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____



2013 Alumni Drive/Send A Child To Camp

1 Day at SLC: \$135	4 Days at SLC: \$540	Two Weeks at SLC: \$1,850 or more
2 Days at SLC: \$270	5 Days at SLC: \$675	One Session at SLC: \$3,700 or more
3 Days at SLC: \$400	One Week at SLC: \$925 or more	Full Summer at SLC: \$7,200 or more

SLC Alumni Association Membership Dues

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

My/Our 2013 Contributions:

Alumni Drive/Send A Child To Camp: \$ _____

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

Alumni Association Dues: \$ _____

Membership entitles Alumni to be kept informed of alumni events, receive a membership card, calendar of events, quarterly Re-Echoes newsletter, free admission to Alumni Day, a discount at the Alumni store, and a discount to all alumni events at which a fee is charged.

Scholarship Fund: \$ _____

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

Jeff B. Herman Memorial Fund: \$ _____

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

Other Fund: \$ _____ **Name of Other Fund:** _____

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

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

☐ **I'd like to make monthly contributions with my credit card.**

Preferred day of charge: _____ Month to begin: _____ Monthly Amount: \$ _____

Number of Months: _____ Total Donation Amount: \$ _____

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

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

☐ **I would like to speak with an Alumni Fundraiser and/or member of Surprise Lake Camp's professional staff about becoming a member of the 1902 Society.** Membership in the 1902 Society is open to all those who include Surprise Lake Camp in their estate plans. We hope you will tell us when you have done so because we would very much like the opportunity to say "thank you" for your generosity.

DONATE EASILY & SECURELY ONLINE @

WWW.SURPRISELAKE.ORG/DONATE

From Our Alumni...



The following was a speech given by Zoe Abrams, a former camper (and current office aide) at her recent confirmation.

Shabbat Shalom everyone. When I was younger, I remember wandering through stores and the endless aisles admiring the holiday decorations. I would always tell my mom that I wanted to be "Christmas" and not "Hanukkah" because of my jealousy of Santa and the Christmas trees and all that my friends had talked about, but that I never got to experience. This mindset continued as I grew older and had to attend Monday and Wednesday Hebrew School classes. Some of my friends would ask me what I was doing on those days, and I would hesitantly answer by whispering that I was attending Hebrew School. I felt I had to defend my parent's choice to send me because I was embarrassed of being different than they were.

My only other Jewish education has been during my summers at Surprise Lake Camp, where their tagline is "The Best in Jewish Camping." I would always look forward to the Shabbat service and dinners, when the entire camp would wear their nice white shirts and come together as one. I believe that I loved camp so much because I was around people just like me, and surrounded by so many friends to share those experiences with. Given the support and encouragement of others, I learned to embrace Judaism and my heritage.

As time went on, I spoke out proudly that I was going to Hebrew School. My Bat Mitzvah was a huge accomplishment for me, and although many of our classmates stopped coming after that milestone, it was important for me to continue. I am extremely proud to be following in the footsteps of my older brother, Logan, in being a part of the confirmation class. I would not have been able to achieve this without the continuous love and support from my family. I never thought I would want to be anything other than "Christmas," but as I stand here before you, I am proud to say that I am "Hanukkah."

SLC... Keepin' It Green!



Surprise Lake Camp is grateful to the Jewish Greening Fellowship for the energy efficiency grant it awarded camp this year. With the funds from this grant, camp purchased two new washing machines, a new dryer, and equipment for remotely monitoring the solar panels on our gymnasium.

We estimated the savings from the new appliances with the help of our electrician. They add up to approximately 1,300 kwh per appliance, or a total of 3,900 kwh per year. At an average cost of \$.15 per kwh, this comes to an annual savings of \$585. Of course, the reduction of our carbon footprint and the benefit to the environment are priceless!

The Jeff Herman Award

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 Award for the Most Outstanding Male and Female Athlete on Teenside. 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 as an NYPD officer. Invariably, the audience is so riveted that you could hear a pin drop.

Then we discuss the significance of the award--that it is not just for someone with athletic skills, but that it is also given to someone who displays the kind of character and sportsmanship that Jeff epitomized. We say that the Herman Award is one of the highest honors given to a Surprise Lake camper. At this point, the anticipation as to who will win it is so thick you could cut it with a knife.

Then the names are announced, and the campers roar with enthusiasm for their lucky friends, for the nature of the award almost always means it ends up going to a camper who is widely respected and admired. We give a huge trophy, and the winners carry it with a pride that is touching to see. The award keeps alive Jeff's memory and legacy at the camp he loved so dearly.

This year in Session 1, for what we believe is the first time in Jeff Herman Award history, we awarded the trophies to a brother/sister combo... twins, in fact! We congratulate Yoni & Abbie Auerbach on this special milestone!





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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
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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!*

Love Is In The Air



*Mazel Tov to Lisa Kurtzrock and
Eugene Keaveny on their July 21st
wedding.*



*Mazel Tov to Adam Benmoise &
Sarah Levine on their May 19th
wedding.*



*Congratulations to Iris LaPolla
and Frank Romano on their July
19th wedding.*