

SURPRISE LAKE CAMP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Established in 1961 for the Betterment of Camp

RE-ECHOES

The Official Newsletter of Surprise Lake Camp

Summer 2015

Issue # 3

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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.



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!



WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

I went to Surprise Lake Camp for the first and third trips (each three weeks) from 1959 to 1963. I am looking for any of the kids in my immediate group (I believe there were 8 kids to each group) for the 8 trips I attended. I'd like to reconnect with them.

Dr. Mel J. Colon

678-522-2870

drs4drs@gmail.com

**WE REMAIN GRATEFUL TO CAMP'S FORMER
DIRECTORS WHO HAVE HELPED US ACHIEVE
GREATNESS AND HAVE BROUGHT US TO WHERE
WE ARE TODAY:**

Max Oppenheimer * August, 1919 to March, 1954

Asher Melzer * March, 1954 to October, 1973

Jerry Mark * September, 1973 to December, 1984

Carol Seigel * February, 1985 to July, 1986



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

Hello Alumni!!

As I write this Re-Echoes message, the proof that the 2015 summer season is in full swing completely surrounds me. The sounds of camp permeate the air. Children playing and cheering, a lifeguard's whistle at the waterfront, guitars playing familiar songs, and of course, Harry yelling for a driver!

The smells of camp are a constant reminder as well: the lake, the fresh air, the freshly mown grass, and even the kitchen. Yes, I admit, I LOVE camp food!!

There is no place on planet Earth like Surprise Lake Camp... Period!

I hope as you read this you are reminded of your SLC experiences and begin to reminisce about the friends you have made and the adventures you have had. Consider, if you will, what it actually takes to make that same experience come true for a child today. This year, for the first time in its long, proud history, SLC has given over \$1,000,000 in scholarships! This is something to be very proud of. These scholarships are helping children who otherwise could not afford camp. These scholarships allow children to get the SLC experience.

This money comes, in part, from you, our Alumni. It comes from direct charitable contributions and from your participation in the Alumni Association's fundraising events. I want to thank all the Alumni for their support this year! Thank you for your support on Alumni Day, participation or sponsorship in the swim-a-thon, and attendance and support of future events.

In November, the SLCAA will be hosting its third Camp Casino and Alumni Raffle. We are grateful to A.M. Skier for once again stepping up and agreeing to be the Event Sponsor. I hope that many of you will consider attending! It is a fun night of mock gambling, prizes, food, refreshments, and pure fun. If you can't make it, I hope you will find another way to support the event; you can help us secure prizes, become a sponsor, or buy a raffle! (Details can be found in this issue, page 8)

We are still working on getting the Alumni Store online so that you can you can shop for camp swag year-round. In the meantime, if you are interested in purchasing SLC items, shoot me an email with what you'd like and we will go shopping!

My door is always open to alumni... so if you have any new ideas for fundraisers or alumni store items, please know they are always welcome. If you would like to get involved with the SLCAA, please let me know.

Hope to see you all again soon!

Joe Goldberg
President, SLCAA
goldnglich@aol.com

SAVE THE DATE!

C A S I N O

**A NIGHT OF FUN, FELLOWSHIP, AND FUNDRAISING
TO BENEFIT SURPRISE LAKE CAMP**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2015 6PM -10PM brought to you by
STAGE 48
605 WEST 48TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY **AMSkier**
INSURANCE

alumni news



Mazel Tov to Bret Tenenhaus on his engagement to Jenna Pfeffer on May 30.



Mazel Tov to Ian Elimeliah on his July 19 engagement to Heather Bilczic.



Congratulations to Bill Briggs on his marriage to Keith Perron. They were married on June 15, 2014 in Boston, at the Arlington Street Church.



Congratulations to Tatyana Kristalova Cruz and Phillip Cruz on the birth of their son, Liam Tiberius. He was born on May 14 and weighed 8lbs 4oz.



Mazel Tov to Jewelry Judge Ben Gordon on receiving a 2015 Award of Distinction for Excellence in the Workplace from the Houston Better Business Bureau. Gordon, a Master Graduate Gemologist/Appraiser and SLC Winter Camp Alumnus, has been appraising jewelry since 1975.



This is the story of Udi and Hanna Peretz. They met in camp long time ago as Israeli and American staff members, married, and moved to Israel.

I don't really remember who got to camp first, the American counselors or the Israelis. I just remember that on the 3rd day of counselor orientation, we met the Israelis. I showed a lot of interest in the Israelis and in Israel; I was very Zionist, although I'd never been to Israel. After lunch, Udi came up to me and offered to show me

posters of Israel he had back in his bunk. It was a pretty lousy pick up line, but it worked!

The photo is of a trip we made back to camp in December 2006. We found the exact spot where we first met and had our picture taken.

SURPRISE LAKE CAMP'S NAME ON THE BEACON FIRETOWER!

From time to time, Surprise Lake Camp hosts a hike to the Firetower for the Hudson Highlands Land Trust. HHLT is a local organization whose mission it is to preserve land in the Cold Spring area. They have been a friend to Surprise Lake Camp for many years.

On one of those hikes, HHLT arranged for David Rocco to meet with the hikers, both at the start of the hike and at the Firetower itself. David has been a key player in the restoration of the tower, which had fallen into serious disrepair but can now be climbed and enjoyed fully once again.

To raise money for the project, the organizers sold naming rights to each step on the way up. David mentioned to the hikers that it was now under consideration that the platforms would also be opened up for naming to raise additional funds. Surprise Lake Camp acted fast, asking for

the lowest platform, the one that will be seen by the most people and even those of our hikers who prefer not to climb the tower. It took a while, but it has now become a reality. What a thrill this will be for the Firetower hikers on Family Hike Day, both this year on October 18 and for many years to come!



Why I gave a gift of a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) to Surprise Lake Camp (SLC)

My wife is retired and I am semi (some days very semi) retired so, where possible, we make decisions with income in mind. The CGA allowed us to do a number of things, which is built into the IRS code for 501(c)3 organizations.

1. The CGA is an ideal gift for individuals 65 or older but interestingly the CGA can be used for a younger person incorporating a deferred starting date for the income.
2. The income from the CGA is guaranteed for life, the rate of return is much higher than we could have received from any "non risk" fixed income product, and a large portion of the income is tax free for approximately 14 years at which point all the income becomes ordinary for tax purposes.
3. While there are choices as to how one funds a CGA we chose to use long term appreciated stock so we would not have to pay Capital Gains Tax directly.
4. We received a partial tax deduction for the \$10,000 worth of stock, which we transferred to UJA-Federation NY for the benefit of SLC.
5. Our \$10,000 should yield approximately \$5,000 for SLC based on national averages.
6. While we chose a single life CGA for the higher yield we could have chosen a two life CGA which would guarantee payments while at least one of the two individuals are alive.



7. Payments may be set up quarterly, semi-annually or yearly.

It is truly a wonderful gift that allows for flexibility according to the donors' needs and no cost to set up through UJA-Federation NY. If you have interest in learning more about the CGA please contact the SLC development office at 212-924-3131

Jim Meyer

Member Board of Directors, Member Development Committee



SAVE THE DATE **Jordan's Retirement Gala**

Sunday afternoon, March 13
Museum of Jewish Heritage

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.



SURPRISE LAKE CAMP
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.*

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