

SURPRISE LAKE CAMP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

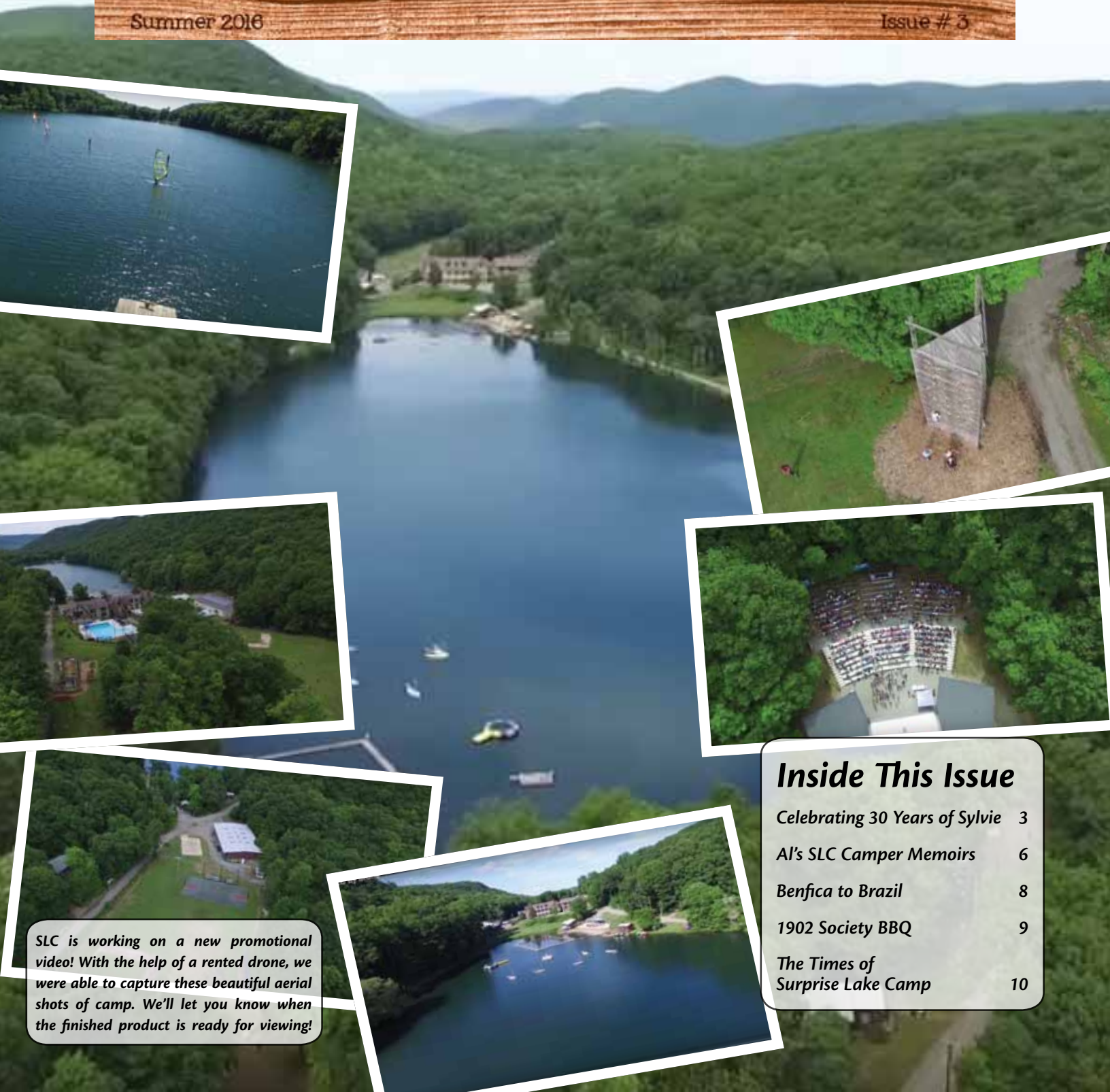
Established in 1961 for the Betterment of Camp

RE-ECHOS

The Official Newsletter of Surprise Lake Camp

Summer 2016

Issue # 3



SLC is working on a new promotional video! With the help of a rented drone, we were able to capture these beautiful aerial shots of camp. We'll let you know when the finished product is ready for viewing!

Inside This Issue

<i>Celebrating 30 Years of Sylvie</i>	3
<i>Al's SLC Camper Memoirs</i>	6
<i>Benfica to Brazil</i>	8
<i>1902 Society BBQ</i>	9
<i>The Times of Surprise Lake Camp</i>	10

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

Aug 24-28: Get Your Feet Wet surpriselake.org/getyourfeetwet

SEPTEMBER

Sept 2-5: Family Camping Weekend surpriselake.org/familycamp

Sept 18: Jordan's Send Off Celebration
surpriselake.org/jordanssendoffcelebration

OCTOBER

October 3: Rosh Hashanah Program surpriselake.org/roshrsvp

October 9: Sukkot surpriselake.org/sukkot

October 23: Friends & Family Hike Day surpriselake.org/hikeday

Beautiful cond. 70K orig. mi. \$10,500. More in stock!

Camp is grateful for donated items we receive from our alumni and friends throughout the year.

We are currently in need of the following:

- A 4-wheel drive pickup truck
- All-wheel drive vehicle in good shape with under 150K miles
- Pillows
- Bed Sheets
- Comforters or comforter sets

CONVERT. 2dr, blk/blk lthr

In Memoriam

Our deepest condolences to our camper, David Levine, and his family, on the recent loss of his father, Jonathan.

Our deepest condolences to the Hoffman Family on the loss of Alan's mother, Miriam.

Our deepest condolences to Mindy & Marty Zalin, Jessica, Andrea, and their family on the loss of Mindy's mother, Lillian Sohn.

Invite Us to Speak About SLC!

Over the winter months we travel to communities to speak with families about our incredible program. We'd love to come to your living room, school, JCC, or synagogue to explain why SLC creates magical, transformational summers for our campers. Email sheryl@surpriselake.org to set up a time or call 212.924.3131



On Saturday night, July 30, Surprise Lake Camp's registrar, Sylvie Erlich, was honored for 30 years of service. If you are a Sylvie Fan, don't worry... she is NOT retiring! We just wanted to say thank you to her for her exceptional service to camp. Friends, family, and co-workers gathered in the Rec Room for an intimate dinner, kind words from people who know her best, and in true SLC style, some special "surprises." Perhaps the biggest surprise of all was that Sylvie's children, Josh and Elana, their spouses, and Sylvie's three grandchildren, Luke, Maeve, and Alex, all came up to camp for the occasion. The look on Sylvie's face when they entered her office was priceless! It was a very special evening to honor a very special SLC lady.



Photos by Whammy

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

alumni news



DID YOU KNOW?

July 1, 2016 marked the 75th anniversary of the commercial. Long before America ran on Dunkin', it ran on Bulova. In fact, "America Runs On Bulova Time" was the only text of this spot (delivered as a voiceover) and included a simple graphic of a Bulova watch on a map of the U.S.

Harry B. Henshel, the last member of the Bulova family to run the Bulova Watch Company, was a member of SLC's Board of Directors for over 50 years. His wife, Joy, and two of his four daughters, Patti and Dayle, serve on the Board today. The Henshel Family donated the funds to construct the new Joy & Harry Henshel swimming pool.

We are very proud of SLC Alumna, Annette Osher, who donated 61 percent of her liver to her brother, Harvey Osher. Harvey, also an SLC alum, had seven days to live without his sister's help. We wish Annette a hearty Mazel Tov on this life-saving mission, and wish Harvey a speedy recovery. More information about this wonderful mitzvah can be found here: <http://bit.ly/harveyliver>

Benji & Kelly Sussman, a camp couple who are featured in SLC's Wedding Album located in the camp museum, recently returned to Cold Spring to hike Breakneck with their daughters, Charlotte and Sophie. They were kind enough to send us this family photo!





Mazel Tov to Ian Elimeliah and Heather Bilczic on their July 17 wedding. The ceremony was officiated by SLC alum, Jeff Berk!



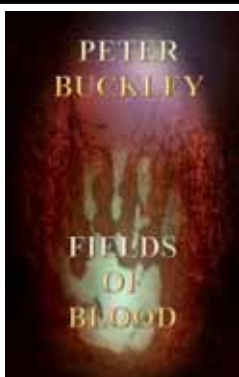
Mazel Tov to Melanie (Wilichinsky) and Seth Tucker on the birth of their son, Levi Jacob. He was born on January 22, 2016 and weighed 5lbs., 15oz.



Mazel Tov to Jennifer, Matt, and big sister, Savannah, on the birth of Lexington Grey Berk. She was born on June 29, 2016.



Mazel Tov to Lisa (Kurtzrock) & Eugene Keaveny, and big sister, Devyn, on the birth of Tegan Brenna. She was born on July 25, 2016 and weighed 8lbs.



Congratulations to our former Fitness Specialist, Peter Mayfield (Peter Buckley), on his third book, "Fields of Blood." It is available for download on Amazon, and was #2 in short stories and #8 in fiction/horror.

The following memoir is the first of three that will be published in subsequent issues of Reechoes. They were written by Al Elkins and will include Camper Memoirs, Staff Memoirs, and Alumni Memoirs.

AL'S SLC CAMPER MEMOIRS – June, 2016



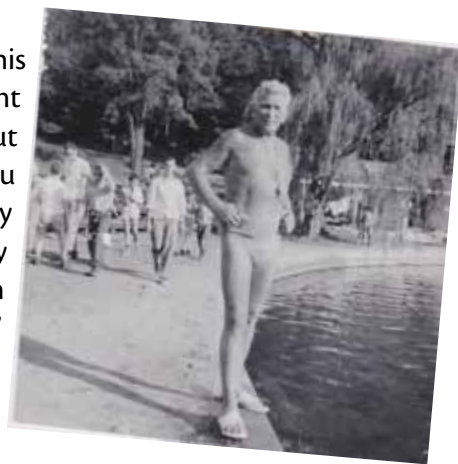
“Nestled ‘neath the shady trees lies our camp so dear.” All of us have fond memories of our days at Surprise Lake Camp, whether as a camper, a staff member, or both. Now that I am a permanent resident of Lakeland, Florida, with my wife, Louise, those good old camping days that I spent at SLC mean so much to me as I look back on that special time of my life.

In as much as I am a charter member and Past President of the Surprise Lake Camp Alumni Association, I thought it might be interesting to look back at some of the wonderful nostalgic recollections I have of the days when I was a camper at SLC. Although I was a camper for six years between the years of 1947 to 1952, I still remember some of the staff members during my first year at SLC like it was yesterday. I hope that some of our older Alumni members might remember them as well.

I first came to Surprise Lake Camp in August 1947 at the age of eight. As the bus arrived at camp we all sang: “We welcome you to SLC.” I was assigned to the “East” division. My Counselor’s name was Bob Greenberg; my Division Head was Jack Middleman; our Head Counselor was Henry “Henny” Cohen; and the Camp Director was Max Oppenheimer. Bob Greenberg and I stayed in touch with each other for many years, and when I became a counselor in the mid-fifties, it was a big thrill for me to introduce Bob to the boys in my group. My campers asked Bob if I was a good camper. Of course, Bob refused to answer that question.

I have so many wonderful memories about my days as a camper at SLC. I still remember the cheer of the “East” Division: **“Little dog, big dog, floppy-eared pup, come on East, let’s beat ‘em up.”** That cheer was recited on many occasions: when we went to the lake for our swimming sessions, played ball, or when we had our meals at the mess hall. Every division had their own cheer; the Midwest, the West, and so on.

The Waterfront Director was Stanley “Doc” Maslin, who was known for wearing his leopard “Speedo” swim trunks. Doc was very strict when it came to all waterfront rules, and whenever he spoke, you could hear his deep voice resounding throughout the camp. We used to have the buddy system, and when Doc blew his whistle, you had better put your hand and the hand of your buddy up high, with absolutely no talking until that whistle blew again. At least once every summer, somebody hoisted Doc’s leopard “Speedo” swim trunks up on the flagpole. However, when Doc sang his famous signature song at any camp show, “If I were a Millionaire,” everyone assembled always cheered wildly. When I reached my early teens I remember Doc introducing us to his new assistant waterfront director, Harry Vogel. Needless to say, Harry has now been a vital part of SLC for more than sixty years, and I think he still has the same “Speedos” he wore back in the fifties.



Another person who meant so much to SLC was “Mama K” (Anna Kosoff), our camp mother. She was a special, wonderful human being, who simply made campers and staff feel like they were at home, and took care of sewing clothing, lost & found, and many other vital domestic details. Every Friday evening, before our Sabbath dinner, the entire camp assembled in front of the mess hall, dressed in white shirts, and sang Shalom Alechem. This was followed by



"Mama K" reciting the blessing over the Sabbath candles before we enjoyed our dinner. By the time I became a counselor at SLC, "Mama K" could no longer walk around camp as she used to, due to her advanced age. Instead, she maintained her position as camp mother in the Infirmary, making all the patients feel good, despite their illnesses.

The campers always enjoyed running into our Head Counselor, Henny Cohen. He used to do his disappearing coin trick with his hands, finding the coin in a camper's hair, or in their ears. I also remember that Henny could hit a softball quite soundly, especially when he would hit a ball into the woods on the left side of the ballfield. Although Henny did hit many home runs, I recall that we also lost several softballs due to Henny's hard hit foul balls in the woods.

During the late 1940's when I was a camper, we had an illustrious chef by the name of Karl Kitzel. I recall many stories that were told to us about

Karl and his magic potato peeler. Karl's many adventures were supposed to be true. One such story involves a time capsule that was secretly hidden by Karl in the library on the second floor of the mess hall building. Although I happen to remember where that time capsule was hidden, I wouldn't want to upset the memory of Karl Kitzel by divulging that secret.

One of the many popular activities that occurred every evening right after dinner was a period called "Free Play." As soon as dinner ended, we were able to go anywhere in camp to participate in any camp activity we wanted to participate in, as long as we were back in our units at 7:30 P.M., in time for the evening activity. There was always so much to do during the "Free Play" period, and we enjoyed doing something different every night. Every Friday night after dinner was a special time at SLC. We had Sabbath Services, stories, and discussions within our respective units.

During the six years I was a camper at SLC we went on many terrific hikes, including the Revolutionary Trail (where George Washington once walked), Mt. Beacon, the Fire Tower, Sugar Loaf, Bald Spot, and to the picturesque town of Cold Spring. I will never forget the many exciting camp activities, like going to the Little Playhouse on rainy days, arts & crafts, Israeli dancing, learning lots of camp songs, the overnight cookouts, and the all-camp shows that we had. Even bedtime was a special time of the day at SLC. Every night, at 9:00 P.M., we used to hear three lines that were loudly echoed across the lake: This was followed by the melodious tones of the camp bugler playing taps. With that, another exciting day at SLC came to a close.

I would like to end this article by mentioning a famous person who visited us at SLC during the summer of 1949, and that was Eddie Cantor. I am proud to say that I have pictures of Eddie when he spoke to all of us by the waterfront, and once again in 1955, when he dedicated the Eddie Cantor Theater.

I find it hard to believe that so many years have passed since I first came to Surprise Lake Camp as a camper, and as soon as I can jar my memory once again, I will look forward to sharing some additional memories with you of the days when I was a counselor and bugler at SLC, and my eventual involvement in the formation of the Alumni Association in 1961.

Al Elkins, Past President
SLC Alumni Association



Benfica to Brazil

Doron Klemer is the younger brother of camp's Director of Finance, Avri. He took a summer out from his taxing world travels to work as Supervisor for the Idyllwood Unit in 2011. He has since returned to his wandering ways and recently published a book about his travels and his love of sport – Benfica to Brazil.

Following is an excerpt about his time at SLC. The full book can be ordered in paper or eBook version from Amazon.com. Purchase this (or anything else!) through Amazon's Smile portal and a portion of the proceeds will go towards the charity of your choice: hopefully SLC!



My brother, Avri, had returned to the city of his birth soon after graduating from university in England. A summer work placement through Camp America had led to him working his way up the ladder of Surprise Lake Camp in Cold Spring, around an hour north of Manhattan along the Hudson River and surrounded by the beautiful mountains of the Hudson Highlands. He had been trying to get me to join him and work there for years, so when I finally found myself with nothing to do for a summer I took a job as a 'Unit Supervisor' at the camp.

Summer camps in the USA are a big business. Summer holidays, (or 'vacations,' to translate it into its native parlance), are ridiculously long, and parents don't want their kids hanging around for three months getting in the way and needing to be entertained. That's why, for over a century, camps have been the place where folks could leave their offspring for a couple of months and forget about them. I knew nothing about these camps except what I had gleaned from a few childhood movies, and yet found myself parachuted in, (not literally, sadly, the budget wouldn't stretch that far), to take charge of nine late teens, all former campers themselves.

They in turn were responsible for three dozen ten- and eleven-year-old boys. For someone who does his best to avoid responsibility at all costs, having so many children's lives in my hands came as something of a surprise to me.

Summer camp is such a tradition on the East Coast that it can seem almost like a (really, really nice) cult to the uninitiated. Many campers and staff had been attending SLC since they were seven years old, and often their parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents had been before them. Once they get too old for camp they fall over themselves to spend their summer back there, working practically for free in order to look after the kids they used to be, and to scare them with the ghost stories that former campers used to tell them. I felt like an outsider for the first few days, but was soon welcomed into the fold, and before long I began to understand why the place felt like home to so many people.

I worked six days a week, from 7am until at least lights out at 10pm, although in practice much later if there were ever emergencies such as snakes, bats, bullying, unofficial midnight excursions, snoring, or a million other things which pre-teens get up to whilst away from home in the middle of the night. Days off usually involved taking the train to Manhattan as soon as my shift was done, exhausting myself with shopping, sight-seeing, sports, and spirits, before returning thirty-six hours later not quite as refreshed as a break from work should have left me.

Those breaks were a necessity. Being based on a gorgeous lake, (hence the name), Surprise Lake Camp prides itself on keeping the campers, (hundreds of them, aged seven to fifteen), entertained from morning to night, including daily swimming sessions. Not only did I have to make sure that my wards were enjoying their sports, arts and crafts, culture, and nature activities, I was also on hand to supervise their swimming sessions. Safety was taken so seriously that if a camper were ever unaccounted for, three sharp blasts of the lifeguard's whistle brought every adult in the area diving into the lake until they were found again. They always were found, invariably in a nearby toilet having just wandered off without telling anybody.

I ended my time there with bottomless respect for all of the full-time staff, but even more so for the camp counselors. These were the staff members, some as young as eighteen, upon whom much of the responsibility fell: from waking the kids up to getting them to sleep at night, and including everything in-between from making sure they'd brushed their teeth and weren't too homesick, to ensuring they weren't interfering with each other after lights out. And they were doing it all practically for free, driven by the love of the camp experience. I am still in awe of the hard work they did; I just had to keep a few of them in line, and I was getting decently paid for it.

PHOTOS FROM THIS YEAR'S 1902 SOCIETY BBQ HELD ON SUNDAY, JULY 30 (DESPITE TORRENTIAL RAINS).



We now have 258 members! If you are interested in being part of this amazing group of camp supporters, please contact David Rosner at 212-924-3131 or visit www.surpriselake.org/1902society



The Times of Surprise Lake Camp

This summer, we launched the Lenore Hershey Newspaper Program, an innovative and fun way to engage campers, develop their writing skills, enhance the community feeling at SLC, and share some Surprise Lake history with younger generations.

Below are some excerpts from the first two issues of The Times of Surprise Lake Camp.

OP ED: FRUIT FOR DESSERT? WHY! by Aviva Harmon, HL 21

Never serve fruit for dessert.

I love fruit, it is a good snack, but it's a terrible dessert. I hate it when it replaces ice cream or cookies, even though the cookies aren't popular with Highlands or Frontier.

You can sense their disappointment when the kitchen staff have fruit on their platters where the dessert should be.

Nothing against fruit, it tastes great, but not as a dessert!

DOWN WITH FRUIT!

CAMP REGATTA by Jarren Diaz, SW36



This past Friday we were told that we were having the first ever Camp Regatta.

We really didn't know what to think at first. We were told it was about celebrating the lake and water.

We came down in the after-noon not sure what we were getting into. We were put on the field and saw water balloons, super soakers, sponges and buckets. At first we thought, "oh no!"

Then we were instructed to just go and have fun.

At first only a few people walked over but pretty soon all of Upper Teens were darting towards the water balloons and buckets.

Everyone, counselors and campers alike, was spraying and pouring water on every-one else.

Most kids took a little while to get up and join in, but by the end of the Regatta every-one was playing and having a great time.

It was probably one of my favorite camp memories, of just really enjoying the moment in camp with my friends.

THE PETE SEEGER MUSIC SHOW HONORING JORDAN DALE by Elianna Sussner, ML39

This week every unit took part in the music show to say goodbye and thank you to Jordan Dale.

It was an amazing night of classic camp songs that are personal favorites of Jordan. The songs varied in genre and in the ways the different units interpreted the music. As a camp we all learned a lot about Jordan, all he has done and continues to do every day for all of us at camp.

At the end of the night, after we sang the song Paul wrote for Jordan, A Light Shines On SLC, there wasn't a dry eye in the audience.

We all came together to nestle as a camp to end the amazing evening we all shared.

WE WON THE CUP!! by Jarren Diaz, SW36

In camp we have a lot of good days. Some of the best moments of the summer are when we come together to celebrate.

When the boys hockey team came back from Camp Mon-roe there was nothing more exciting than all of them running off the bus holding the cup.

All of Teenside was there to greet them. After 10 years Surprise Lake Camp was able to bring back the cup.

It was by far the highlight of the session.



DONATE EASILY & SECURELY ONLINE @ WWW.SURPRISELAKE.ORG/DONATE

Surprise Lake Camp 2016 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: \$165 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Days at SLC: \$825 | <input type="checkbox"/> Full Summer at |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Days at SLC: \$330 | <input type="checkbox"/> One Week at SLC: \$1,150 or more | SLC: \$7,800 or |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Days at SLC: \$495 | <input type="checkbox"/> Two Weeks at SLC: \$2,300 or more | more |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Days at SLC: \$640 | <input type="checkbox"/> One Session at SLC: \$4,600 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.*



GET YOUR FEET WETSM

Is your child curious about sleepaway camp, but not quite ready to take the plunge? Why not try Surprise Lake Camp's Five Day **GET YOUR FEET WETSM** Program for Children entering Grades 1-5 August 24-28, 2016

Only \$195

THE BEST STAFF!
THE BEST PROGRAM!
THE BEST FACILITIES!

GET YOUR FEET WETSM is supervised and staffed by Surprise Lake Camp Alumni, and has been for the past several years. This fantastic, dedicated, and energetic group of volunteers, led by Seth Stein and Gayle Hoffman Doyle, takes this already remarkable program to new heights! If anyone is interested in learning more about this wonderful opportunity for kids to get a taste of Surprise Lake Camp, please call Seth at 917-922-9986 or email him at seth@surpriselake.org. We look forward to another amazing year of **GET YOUR FEET WETSM**!



Jordan's Send-Off Celebration!

Sunday, September 18, 2016 from 10am-4pm
at Surprise Lake Camp, Cold Spring, NY

A fun, family-friendly party at camp to congratulate Jordan Dale on his retirement and thank him for his 30 years of service to Surprise Lake Camp.

The day will include hiking, basketball, swimming, arts & crafts, climbing tower, archery, and a delicious, BBQ lunch. There will also be a brief ceremony at the Eddie Cantor Theater to formally wish farewell to Jordan and welcome incoming Executive Director, Bradley Solmsen.

Register Today – surpriselake.org/jordanssendoffcelebration