

SURPRISE LAKE CAMP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Established in 1961 for the Betterment of Camp

RE-ECHOES

The official newsletter of Surprise Lake Camp

Winter 2014

Issue # 1



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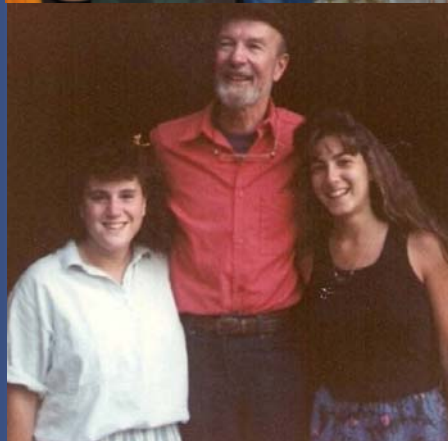
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SURPRISE LAKE CAMP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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betterment of camp*

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



2014 Calendar of Events

April 2014

April 16: 2nd Night Seder at Camp

<https://www.surpriselake.org/passover>

April 27: Volunteer Day

<https://www.surpriselake.org/volday2014>

May 2014

May 17: Spring Shabbat at Camp

<https://www.surpriselake.org/springshabbat>

May 17: Spring Alumni Party

Info to be announced in early spring

July 2014

July 27: Alumni Day & Swim A Thon

<https://www.surpriselake.org/alumniday>

August 2014

August 29: Family Camping Weekend

<https://www.surpriselake.org/familycamping>

September 2014

Sept. 25: Rosh Hashanah Program

<https://www.surpriselake.org/rosh>

October 2014

Oct. 12: Sukkot Program

<https://www.surpriselake.org/sukkot>

October 18: Friends & Family Hike Day

<https://www.surpriselake.org/hikeday>

In Memoriam

☆ Our deepest condolences to Adele & Henry Stern on the loss of Henry's brother, Fred.

☆ Our deepest condolences to the Fahn and Heitzner Families on the loss of Howie Fahn.

☆ Our deepest condolences to Cheryl Leedy Greenwald, Brian Greenwald, and their families on the loss of their young daughter, Molly.

☆ Our deepest condolences to Rabbi Claire and her family on the loss of her mother, Mindl (Pelet) Devorah bat Shlomo v'Genendl.

Welcome To The SLC Family!



Nathan Ross Wind



Ava Jean Umans



Hunter Logan Jainchill



Sadie Jill Korn

- ✧ Mazel Tov to Jennifer (Weitz) & Benjamin Wind on the birth of their son, Nathan Ross (left). He was born on February 19th at 12:17 am, weighing 6 lbs., 10 oz. and measuring 19 inches long.
- ✧ Mazel Tov to Valerie & Jamie Umans on the birth of Ava Jean. She was born on December 2nd at 1:43 pm. She weighed 9lbs. and measured 23 inches long.
- ✧ Mazel Tov to Chuck Jainchill & Jill Rosenberg on the birth of their son, Hunter Logan. He was born on February 20th at 2:09 pm, weighing 9 lbs., 1 oz and measured 21.85 inches long. He was excited to arrive in time for Derek Jeter's final season!
- ✧ Mazel Tov to Jenna (Pasternak) Korn & Jonathan Korn on the birth of Sadie Jill on December 10th at 7:22 pm. She weighed 6 lbs., 14 oz. and measured 18 3/4 inches long.
- ✧ Mazel Tov to Bob Altabet, SLC alum and Board Member, on the birth of his first grandchild, Magnolia.

Other Alumni News...

Mazel Tov to Ilana Lambert Sussman on the launch of her new company, Think Big Ink. She designs invitations, camp and non-camp stationery, and address labels. Anything can be customized, and you can print items right at home! Email her at thinkbigink@gmail.com learn more about her services and [special discounts for the SLC community!](#) (You can also see her ad in SLC's Community Cornier on page 10).



Roman Vishniac is a Russian-American Jew who is best known for his photographs of Central and Eastern European Jewish life, captured from 1935-38, which are considered the last photographic documentation of these now vanished Jewish communities. The majority of his work has never been published or seen by the public, but a collection was recently on display in NYC. Among the photographs was this picture (left) taken at SLC in the 1940's. The description reads: *Camp Surprise Lake was established in 1902 by the Educational Alliance to provide underprivileged Jewish boys from NYC's Lower East Side tenements with summer vacations in rural Cold Spring. The camp operated summer and winter programs, offering enriching experiences that integrated religious, recreational, and artistic growth and providing nutritious meals and medical/dental services regardless of families' ability to pay. The oldest Jewish resident camp in the US, Camp Surprise Lake recently celebrated its 110th anniversary and continues to serve Jewish boys and girls from the NY metro-*

politan areas, providing generous scholarships. Eddie Cantor, Jerry Stiller, and Neil Diamond are among its famous alumni. Thank you to Daniel Stettin for providing the photo.

The next time you visit the Mainside tennis courts, you may notice a new equipment storage shed. This was made possible by the friends and family of David Marc Friedman who wanted to memorialize this special young man and his love for tennis. Special thank you to his sister, Jennifer Friedman Toback, for pushing the project along and seeing it through to completion.



From Our Alumni

Below is a letter we recently received from a Get Your Feet Wet camper, and the answer he received from local Cornish expert and friend of SLC, Thom Johnson.

1/29/ Alexander,
Dear counselors at Surprise Lake Camp,
Last year at Get Your Feet Wet, I heard about a crazy man named Cornish who used to live here. Well, today while doing Social Studies homework I read about a man named Samuel Eli Cornish. I was thinking that maybe they were related. Is this inference correct? If so please write back to the address you find on the envelope. Can you also include the crazy Cornish's first name if you know it? If not, well, don't write back. I expect to hear from you because Cornish is not a popular name. I don't personally know anyone named Cornish.
Your former camper
Alexander [redacted]

Alexander,

The letter that you wrote asking for information on a "crazy man" named Cornish was sent to me to answer your questions. The camp sent it to me, as I am one of the people that have learned a great deal about him and his estate that is near your camp.

First I must praise you on your letter as it was to the point and shows you as a young man that is curious. From my view the best way to learn is to ask good questions and all questions are good.

As to your questions his first name was Edward. As to whether he was related to Samuel Eli Cornish the answer would be no. Samuel was a preacher in the New York area and a black man. Edward was from Omaha Nebraska a businessman and white.

The stories about crazy Mr. Cornish are an important part of the history of the Surprise Lake Camp and part of the camp experience. The real Mr. Cornish had no children, would bring 4H kids to his estate to show them his farm and a very nice man.

This letter is being sent to you through the camp office and they are sending you a copy of a recent edition of RE-ECHOES with an article that I wrote that will give you more information on the history of the Cornish estate.

I hope that that answers your questions. Also I hope that you are getting ready for this summer at camp and all you can learn there.

Thom Johnson

Thom Johnson
Board Member Hudson Highlands Land Trust

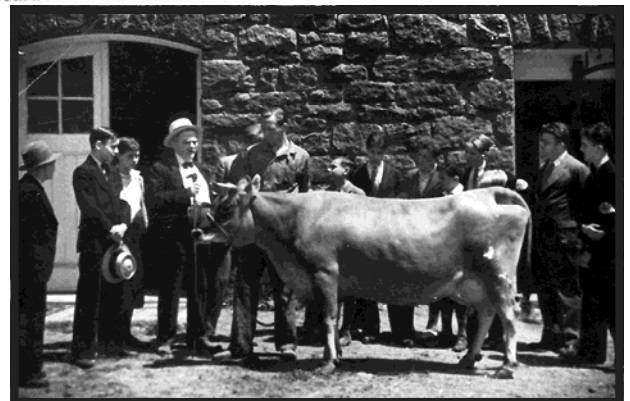


Photo of Edward Cornish with 4-H kids that is believed to have been taken in front of the barn that is near camp. Photo credit: Stephen and Victoria Rasche.

Meeting President Obama

A couple of months ago, the White House asked students all across the country to talk about the technology in their classrooms. They were asked to demonstrate why technology is so important, and how it will change the educational experience for kids in the future. More than 2,500 official entries were received.

Among the 16 finalists was a short about a 7th grader named Kyle, and how he attends classes in Florida via robot while being treated for cancer in PA. (you can see President Obama introduce him at the 9:10 mark here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGPzJFd3Ko#t=545>).



Photo credit: Sun Sentinel

Before Kyle got sick, he was a regular guest at SLC's Family Camping Weekend. His brother, Brian, and Dad, David, are both SLC alumni. We are very proud of Kyle's efforts towards this film, and wish him a refuah shleimah (a speedy recovery). We hope to see the whole Weintraub Family back at SLC very soon!

You can view the video that Kyle and his classmates made here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dd-LMvvpjSM>.



Message From The President of the Alumni Association

Hello SLC Alumni!

The winter of 2014 has been a tough one to say the least. But with each passing day, we edge closer and closer to the warmer days of the upcoming camp season. As I write this message for the winter Re-Echoes, the lake is frozen solid and camp is under a blanket of snow . . . but it won't be long before SLC thaws out and the green grass and blue skies emerge!

Until then, the SLCAA continues its important work!

Our first ever Camp Casino night was a tremendous success. Through the support and contributions of so many alumni and friends, we were able to raise over \$18,000 for camp scholarships!

As always, we are also busy planning our other annual events: the NCAA March Madness Pool, the Spring Alumni Party at Camp, Alumni Day, and Family Hike Day. Look for details about these events in future issues of Reechoes, on camp's web-site (www.surpriselake.org), in your email (make sure we have your updated email address!), and on camp's Facebook page (be sure to like us!).

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the 2013 Alumni Drive. We were able to raise \$156,000! A very special thanks to Jack Ryger, camp's new Development Director, for his hard work over the past few months to help us achieve these results.

As I always do in the first Re-Echoes of the year, I want to ask everyone to please join the Alumni Association. Annual dues are \$36, or you can become a Lifetime Member for a one-time fee of \$250. Membership gets you all four issues of Re-Echoes, discounts at Alumni Events, and 10% off at the Alumni Store. More importantly, it allows the SLCAA to stay strong and enables us to continue our mission of helping children to experience the magic of camp.

There are so many ways to get involved: Come to a meeting. Come to an event. Help plan or run an event. Send in ideas for new events. Everyone is welcome. I am always available to discuss the next best idea!

I want to wish everyone a very Happy New Year. I hope that 2014 brings health, happiness, and good fortune to you all! See you at SLC!!

Joe Goldberg, President, SLCAA, goldnglich@aol.com

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 20-24, 2014

The Best Staff!

The Best Program!

The Best Facilities!



For the past five years and this coming summer, *Get Your Feet WetSM* has been supervised and staffed by Surprise Lake Camp Alumni. 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 SLC, please call Seth at 917-922-9986 or email sstein@ssteinlawfirm.com. We look forward to another amazing year of *Get Your Feet WetSM*!



A Recap Of Camp's BIGGEST FUNDRAISING EVENT OF THE YEAR

By Jennifer (Gordon) Ambrose

After returning to camp last summer after a hiatus of 16 years, I was looking forward to becoming more active in the Alumni Association. The first Camp Casino Night on January 16 was a great opportunity to show my support for camp, and also to see friends, both old and new. The event was fantastic! Upon checking in, each guest received a bag of chips, which could be used at any of the gaming tables. Options included blackjack, craps, and roulette. It was so nice to see everyone cheering each other on at the tables and having a good time, all while good music and a slideshow of favorite camp photos by Whammy played in the background. When the gaming was over, guests could cash in their winnings for raffle tickets that could be used towards various prizes of goods or services. The prizes included restaurant gift certificates, sporting event tickets, unique experiences, handmade items, and so much more. In addition to those prizes, there was also a silent auction that included some more high-profile, valuable items. All of the items were donated to the event by generous individuals and businesses, and together with the annual alumni raffle, the proceeds from the event helped to raise over \$18,000 for a place we all love... Surprise Lake Camp!

Event supporters can be viewed at www.surpriselake.org/campcasinosponsors.

The complete set of event pictures can be viewed at photos.whammywow.com/2014slccasino.





IT'S BACK! VOLUNTEER DAY 2014!

Sunday, April 29 * 9:30am-4:00pm

Volunteer Day is an annual event where campers, staff, friends, and alumni help get camp ready for the summer after a long, cold winter. Projects include:

- ♦ Painting
- ♦ Spreading woodchips
- ♦ Gardening
- ♦ Weeding
- ♦ Brush clearing
- ♦ Food Crew
- ♦ Filing
- ♦ And more!



All participants receive a *Kosher BBQ lunch and

Volunteer Day t-shirts are provided to all who work until at least 3pm.

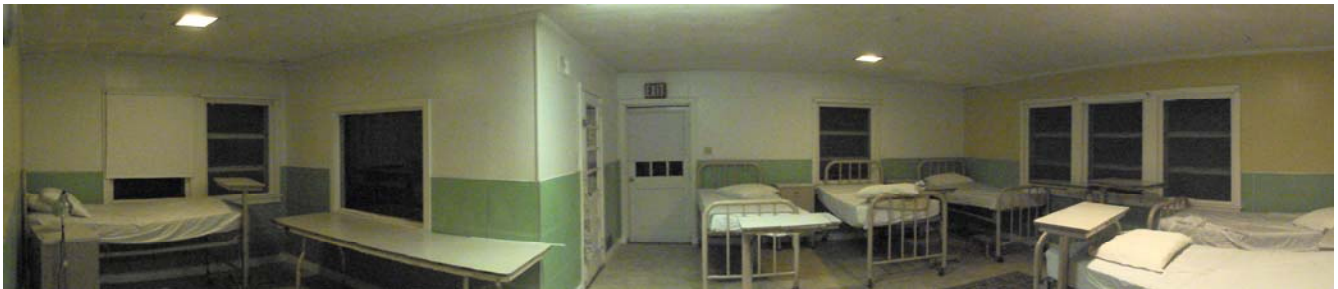
This is an excellent way to fulfill community service or mitzvah requirements for schools.

Most important, Volunteer Day is fun and fulfilling, an inevitable byproduct of bringing so many warm and enthusiastic members of the Surprise Lake Camp and local communities together.

We hope you and your family will join us this year. To sign up please email jared@surpriselake.org with your name, email address, telephone number, and number of people in your party.

*not Glatt

UPDATE ON THE HEALTH CENTER RENOVATION CAMPAIGN



In the last issue of Reechoes, we reported that we needed to raise \$100,000 by March 18 in order to earn all of the available matching funds from JCamp 180's Chai Match Campaign. This money will be used for a complete overhaul of the Mainside Health Center. We are pleased to report that WE DID IT! We are blessed to have such loyalty and commitment from our Board and alumni.

"It is a fact that in the right formation, the lifting power of many wings can achieve twice the distance of any bird flying alone." ~Author Unknown

We are very touched by how everyone pulled together on this. What seemed impossible a few weeks ago is now a huge accomplishment worth celebrating! The fact that we earned all of the matching funds is a testament to the strength and generosity of the SLC Community.

While we have earned all of the available matching funds, we still need additional dollars to cover the cost of this significant capital improvement, so it is not too late to participate.

Any gift of \$1,800 or more will be memorialized on a plaque that will be prominently displayed. In addition, there are some larger naming opportunities within the Health Center:

\$25,000 for the new convalescent porch

\$18,000 for either the boys ward or the girls ward

\$10,000 for the new night nurse's room, or one of the two exam rooms.

Please call Jack or Jordan at 212-924-3131 to ask questions or get started.. Thank you!

Camp Friendships: Withstanding the Test of Time

By Jennifer Friedman Toback

"I'm getting married Jen and I would like you to be there!" was all I needed to hear to quickly and excitedly book a flight for a weekend getaway to England. I booked it even before I received the invitation in the mail. Everyone who knew me, especially my husband Jeff, understood that this was a friendship that was worth the expense and time off from work.

You see, it all started one fateful evening on OD ("On-Duty", now called Shmira) in Mountainview during the summer of 1991. Karen and I had been working together as counselors in different units, so we never really got the chance to forge a friendship until I was asked to do OD in Mountainview instead of my usual Unit J. That night, Karen and I talked about everything, and talked even past our shift. Karen was very positive and inspiring, and it was refreshing to hear that the same problems and concerns I had here in the US, she too went through in the UK. We were two kindred spirits going through similar situations. I knew then that we would be friends for a very long time.

Even though it was nearing the end of the summer, we made a promise to keep in touch through letters. This was before Facebook, just at the beginning of the internet boom, and when phone calls were still too expensive...so snail mail it had to be!

Over the next 15 years, we wrote back and forth and I strongly believe that it was through these letters that we solidified a very strong bond and friendship that not only has stood the test of time but became more like a sisterhood. It was through these letters that I sought advice and support, and writing the letters was very cathartic - once it was written down, whatever was troubling me at the time didn't seem so bad after all. We used these letters like a journal and appreciated the feedback and advice, however brutally honest it was. We grew up together through our college years and afterwards when we searched for jobs and first apartments/"flats," and eventually when we met our future husbands.

As the years went by, letters gave way to email, phone calls, and now Skype and Facebook. But this technology hasn't diminished keeping in touch, nor has it diminished a most cherished friendship that I have in my life because of Surprise Lake Camp. I thank my Mom and Dad quite often for sending me to camp, since so many special friendships have come from this most beloved place. I have kept every single letter and card that Karen has ever sent me to this day, and I hope that one day I can show it to her children and share the story of how their Mom and I became friends on the steps of a cabin called "Mountainview" during the summer of 1991 at a special place called Surprise Lake.

I was very happy to be able to share in her wedding day as she did mine and am overjoyed that our children will be getting the chance to grow up together as well. This friendship has now lasted over 20 years, and like many SLC friendships, this one will stand the test of time.



CALLING CAMP COUPLES!

With the help of the very talented, Steve "Video" Lawrence, Surprise Lake Camp has created a video montage of interviews with couples who met at camp and later married. This video has been uploaded to camp's YouTube page, and will be used for historical and promotional purposes. We plan to add more footage in 2014 and will be conducting interviews during the 1902 Society BBQ on Sunday, July 6 and on Alumni Day on Sunday, July 27. If your location makes it impossible for you to be interviewed in person, you may also submit a video of your own to alumni@surpriselake.org. Otherwise, we hope to see many of you through the camera lens at camp! The current video can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HbhUaIZUuXU>.



Surprise Lake Camp 2014 Alumni Drive & Dues Form

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

Address: _____

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

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

2014 Alumni Drive/Send A Child To Camp

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Day at SLC: \$140 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Days at SLC: \$700 | <input type="checkbox"/> Full Summer at |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Days at SLC: \$280 | <input type="checkbox"/> One Week at SLC: \$975 or more | SLC: \$7,500 or |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Days at SLC: \$420 | <input type="checkbox"/> Two Weeks at SLC: \$1,950 or more | more |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Days at SLC: \$560 | <input type="checkbox"/> One Session at SLC: \$3,900 or more | |

SLC Alumni Association Membership Dues

Annual Membership: \$36

Lifetime Membership: \$250

My/Our 2014 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

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When you join the Surprise Lake Camp group on Linked In, you'll automatically have a natural common connection with each group member, which facilitates job networking and idea sharing! Join our group by signing onto Linked In and searching for "Surprise Lake Camp Alumni."

Remembering Pete



As most of you know, our neighbor and friend, Pete Seeger, passed away in January. Pete performed with the campers and staff at Surprise Lake Camp countless times over the course of several decades, and generations of alumni can tell you about getting lost on a hike and ending up at his house, about weed wallowing with him in the Hudson River, or about singing with him in the Eddie Cantor Theater.

The outpouring of love and memories that were expressed in the days following Pete Seeger's death, both via emails and Facebook posts, were heartwarming, and we were so touched to see the SLC community rally together to memorialize this special man. Our own Jordan Dale wrote a moving letter which can be found on our website at www.surpriselake.org/peteseeger and alumnus Justin Bank wrote a poignant piece for the Washington Post entitled Pete Seeger, Neil Diamond and Me, which can be found here: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/style-blog/wp/2014/01/28/pete-seeger-neil-diamond-and-me/>.

We've heard numerous suggestions about how to remember Pete at SLC, and here's what we decided: **We will be naming our annual music show The Pete Seeger Memorial Music Show and will have it bear that name going forward.** For 2014, we will have the show feature Pete's songs and include a simple memorial ceremony—one that is both informal and inspiring. The evening will also include a sing-along component, since we know Pete would not have wanted it any other way.

We will do our best to make the event a fitting tribute to a giant of a man who lived a humble life and never sought celebrity, and who somehow found the time to come sing with the children of SLC.

May he rest in peace, and may his words, music, and ideals never be forgotten.

Registration Report for Summer of 2014

SLC is 80% filled!



Registration is arriving daily so we encourage you to contact us ASAP to inquire about availability or to have your child's name placed on a waitlist.

If you know anyone who is hesitating to register for next summer, tell them to give us a call before it's too late!

ASK US ABOUT ONE OF OUR NEW CAMPER INCENTIVE PROGRAMS!

We will let you know whether your child is eligible for a non need-based grant at Surprise Lake Camp.



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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 Lacey Sherman on her October 13th marriage to Justin Lewis.



Mazel Tov to Lauren Hoffman & Mark Benmoise on their February 9 wedding at the Sands in Atlantic Beach. Lauren and Mark met at SLC and it is also where Mark proposed. Over 50 SLC alumni were present at the wedding!

Mazel Tov to Anthony Rodol on his December 22nd marriage to Liz Shoai.

Mazel Tov to Matt Grubler on his February engagement to Amanda Boege.

Congratulations to Lauren Haber and Josh Caplan on their November engagement. Their wedding will be held in Baltimore, MD in August of 2015.

