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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.

Design & layout by James Dinn

MARCH 22: 3 ON 3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
AT SLC

MARCH - NCAA MARCH MADNESS POOL
(www.surpriselake.org/marchmadness)

APRIL 4 - PASSOVER SEDER @ SLC
(email holidays@surpriselake.org for more info)

APRIL 26 - VOLUNTEER DAY

MAY 16 - SPRING ALUMNI PARTY

MAY 16 - SPRING SHABBAT AT SLC AND
HONORING SHEILA POLLET (See page 6)
(email holidays@surpriselake.org for more info)

In Memoriam...

Our deepest condolences to Allen and Diane Weiner and their family on the loss of Allen’s Dad, Philip.

Our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Kathy Hurwitz Roseman who lost her battle with cancer in May of 2014. She met her husband Adam Roseman when they both worked at camp in the 80s. She was my best friend when we met at camp when we were 10, she was my maid of honor, and the best and strongest person I knew. (Submitted by Randi F. Plevy)

Our deepest condolences to Michele Mark Levine on the loss of her husband, Steve. He is survived by his mother Vera, father Mel, brother David, and their son, Nate.
Hello Surprise Lake Camp Alumni,

First, allow me to wish everyone a very Happy and Healthy New Year!!

Even though 2015 is off to a brutally cold and snowy start, the warm thoughts of summer at SLC are already making things seem better! It won’t be long before the frigid temperatures, ice, and gray of winter are replaced by the wonderful smells of clean cut grass and wild flowers.

Camp as we know it may not function in winter, but the SLC Alumni Association certainly does! Throughout this issue of Re-Echoes, you will read about some amazing upcoming events and fundraisers that I hope you will take part in. Prior to the summer, we have the ever-popular NCAA March Madness Pool, the 5th Annual SLC Basketball tournament on March 22, and on May 16, we will host our annual Spring Party (at camp).

At the time of publication, we will have already had our Family Hike Day, 2nd Camp Casino event, 2nd Super Bowl Pool, and our 1st CYC Event. A very special thank you to all the organizers and participants of these successful events!

The 2014 Annual Alumni Drive/Send a Child To Camp Campaign had its most successful year to date, raising over $190,000! Thanks to our fundraisers and clothing sales, the SLCAA was able to be one of the Alumni Drive’s top contributors with a gift of $30,000. Thank you to everyone who worked hard to enable us to reach this milestone!

This summer, Alumni Day will be held on Sunday, August 2. I want to invite each and every one of you to come up to spend time with your old friends, visit camp, and witness for yourselves the wonderful changes that have taken place. This is your best opportunity to re-connect with the SLC experience!

The upcoming year has the potential to be the SLCAA’s best yet. I hope that everyone reading this message will try to get involved. Come to an event. Come to Alumni Day. Join the Alumni Association. If you are interested in finding out about the Alumni Board of Directors, please email me!

Stay well. Have a great winter and as always, see you at SLC!!

Joe Goldberg, President, SLCAA
Goldnglie@aol.com

Congratulations to the big winners of camp’s 2nd Annual Super Bowl Pool!
Jeremy Smuckler, David Fleischner, & Larry Boxer.

And a special thank you to Bret Tenenhaus for organizing this pool, which raised $1,250 for camp!

Don’t miss out on the chance to support camp and win $$$ in our March Madness pool.

Register today at www.surpriselake.org/marchmadness
One does not travel to Jerusalem.
One returns.

One ascends the road taken by generations, the paths of longing on the way to redemption.

One brings rucksacks stuffed with memories to each mountain and each hill.

In the cobbled alleyways one offers a blessing for the memories in the past which have been renewed.

One does not travel to Jerusalem.
One returns.

Yitchak Yasinowitz, Yiddish Poet
(translated by Miriam Grossman)

From January 11 through January 22, I had the pleasure of traveling to Israel with my Lekhu Lakhem program. This program is supported by the AVI CHAI Foundation and was established by the Foundation for Jewish Camp and the Mandel Center for Jewish Education of the JCC Association. It is specifically designed for Jewish Camp Directors and offers participants accessible, positive, enriching experiences with Jewish learning.

This was my second time in Israel, the first time being twelve years ago. Although I was reluctant to go because of how busy things are, I knew that it was an important part of the program and that it would be a special experience. This trip was very different than the last one. Perhaps it was because we had a terrific guide, Julian Resnick, or because I was part of an incredibly talented group. Either way, the trip has impacted me in ways I could not imagine. We started our journey in the Negev and stayed on a wonderful kibbutz, Mashabim. We hiked in Ein Avdat and were able to read text and reflect on our own journeys. It was a very moving experience, and not only because the view was incredible.

We spent some time in Netiv Ha’asara which is a village on the Northern border of Gaza. While there, we met with an artist who created a program called Path to Peace: Mosaic Activity on the Border Wall. We sat in her studio and looked out at her neighbor’s house that was destroyed last summer, and saw the missiles that landed only a few feet away from her son’s bedroom. She had the missile and the piece of the iron dome that saved them right outside her front door.

Our journey also led us through the Jewish and Christian quarters of the old city, as well as the excavations adjacent to the Temple Mount. With many options for Shabbat, I opted to go to the Kotel. It was interesting to see the range of people there, from the very observant to non-observant. That first Shabbat in Jerusalem I was moved enough to light shabbat candles, which is something I had never done before, outside of camp.

We visited prominent cemeteries, went to Tzfat, witnessed Wings of Krembo (the only youth movement in Israel for young adults and children with special needs), XLN Labs (the first open 3D printer lab), SIT (an Israeli startup that works with people and organizations to develop a culture of innovation), and ate the most wonderful food. Falafel in Israel tastes much better than anything I have ever had in the states! Not only did we eat in restaurants, but we were also hosted by many different families and groups to get the “feel” of the different cultures of Israel. Each time I thought I had the best meal ever, the next was equally as wonderful! We had Bedouin meals, meals prepared by Druze, and we made a wonderful Israeli dinner at Studio Le Bishul.

The entire experience was incredibly overwhelming. I am still “emotionally unpacking” all that we did and will probably be doing so for quite some time. I know that I have been changed by this trip, and I will be bringing much of what I learned to camp with me this summer.

When the official part of the program was over, I had the privilege of staying on an additional three days to meet with several former SLC staff, and interview new ones for the summer of 2015. I look forward to welcoming these new hires to SLC!
Shalom Surprise Lake Camp Family,

Jill Simon “Photo” Miskanic here. I was an SLC camper and staff member from 1980-1988, and in the summer of 2000, I returned with my husband, John “Sports”, and my children, Jax and Matthew.

I have exciting news to share! Some of you may know this already, and some of you might not, but I’m kvelling. My daughter, Jax, an SLC camper from the time she was 4 years old (in the parent helper program) until her last year in Highlands in 2008, is going to Hollywood! She auditioned for American Idol Season XIV and has been advancing.

Jax’s very first stage was at the Eddie Cantor Theater. It helped that Lawrence “Drama” Nadel was her parent helper! She was in all of the ALL CAMPS SHOWS when she went to SLC and performed in The Wizard of OZ, Big, High School Musical, Little Shop of Horrors, Shrek, and Mary Poppins.

She will always have a place in her heart’s memory for singing with Rick Recht, Paul Suchow, and of course, Pete Seeger. She hopes to sing a Pete song live on TV... I guess we will have to wait and see.

Jax’s favorite part of the camp day was always at round-up, singing songs like Teenager in Love, If I Had a Hammer, Baby Shark, Rise and Shine, The Cat Came Back, and Cat’s in the Cradle. This is where she learned to sing her heart out.

“Hollywood Week” was intense for JAX. The “group rounds” felt familiar... and then she realized what it was like: OLYMPICS! Teamwork, staying up all night, planning, and practicing. What better training is there for the most important performance of your life than that?

If you watched her audition, you saw JAX draw on my face with a marker. That was only the beginning! Stay tuned to see some more pretty embarrassing stuff. UUUGHHHHH...

Please vote for JAX every single week!

We love and miss you, and look forward to seeing you soon!

Jill Photo
(John Sports, Matt & JAX)

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www.youtube.com/jaxofficialx • www.www.facebook.com/jaxofficialx
My favorite camp story was at the 2014 session 2 camp slideshow. I had never really been emotional about the slideshow but for some reason this year was different. The slide show started as usual and then as soon as I saw a picture of me and my friend Julia Palacios, I felt really sad to be leaving. I had never been in the slideshow before so I guess I never really felt as sad.

When another picture came up of me and my friend Emily Schoenblum with matching tattoos that said married, I was in tears. I realized that I had made so many good friends and strong relationships this year, and I just couldn’t bear to leave. I wanted to stay at camp forever.

Then by the end of the slideshow, I was in full waterworks I didn’t want to leave my home and all of my amazing friends. I went over to Carol Drama and said, “I’ve never cried before at the slideshow.”

“Well then that must mean that it’s really been a good year,” replied Carol.

And I realized she was right. I had had the most fun that I had ever had at SLC. After I calmed down I just sat with all of my friends and gave them a big hug, and just enjoyed the last few hours that I would be with them for a long time.

And because of that slideshow, I had my mom sign me right up for next year as soon as we got home.
Mazel Tov to Mandy (Storfer) and Etan Efrati on the birth of their son, Yitzchak Shalom. He was born on November 7, 2014.

Mazel Tov to Melody, Brandon, and big brother, Darby, on the birth of Bastian Meyer Sherman. He was born on November 8, 2014, weighing 8lbs 2oz.

Mazel Tov to Faith (Altschuler) and Mike Kirkpatrick on the birth of their daughter, Logan Maria. She was born on November 25, 2014, weighing 7lbs 5oz.

Mazel Tov to Allison Tratner, Peter Gard, and big brother, Lucas, on the birth of Owen Michael. He was born on December 18, 2014, weighing 6lbs 15oz.

Mazel Tov to Lauren (Hoffman) and Mark Benmoise on the birth of their son, Tyler Isaac. He was born on January 5, 2015, weighing 6lbs 7oz.

Mazel Tov to Melanie Fleischmann and Bobby Bernieri on the birth of their daughter, Lily Rose. She was born on January 26, 2015, weighing 5lbs 1oz.

Mazel Tov to Matt Grosshandler for being named one of Jewish Boston’s Most Inspiring Young Adults by Combined Jewish Philanthropies. Matt Grosshandler is a community builder in every sense of the phrase. Prior to co-founding Bald Hill Builders, he helped to create Hebrew SeniorLife’s NewBridge on the Charles campus. He is the immediate past-president of the Friends of Hebrew SeniorLife and serves HSL as a trustee. In addition to volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, and riding in the Pan Mass Challenge, he has helped raise millions of dollars for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Boston Children’s Hospital. He and his wife Brenda also provide scholarships for Jewish overnight camp and support the ongoing maintenance of our beloved Lake Surprise.
Why I Joined the 1902 Society

Since I always have a hard time putting into words what Surprise Lake Camp means to me, and am particularly fantastic at creating lists, I am, instead, providing a list of reasons I love SLC (in no particular order).

I adore my collection of lifelong friends who I consider to be sisters and brothers. • The wonderful places I get to visit in order to see these incredible friends. • My irreplaceable memories of growing up in the sunlight next to that stunning lake • Having a first real job that enabled me to work under people I adore • Developing a love for children, which led to a career in teaching • A wonderful influx of “nieces and nephews” that I’m gaining. • Experiencing countless life lessons • Knowing the true understanding of how people from all walks of life can coexist together • Gaining an incredible work ethic • The ability to get along with others • Being able to wake up every morning with “rise and shine” in my head and ALWAYS being alive, awake, alert, and enthusiastic. • Seeing the real meaning of the word community • Experiencing countless unreal hikes • Understanding the evolution of a love for my religion • Witnessing my campers grow up before my eyes • Having comfort in knowing that one day I will be able to see my love for this incredible place through my children’s eyes.

Joining the 1902 society will ensure that I will be a part of all that SLC is, forever. That makes me the happiest woman in the world.

Jaime Zuckerberg :)

Surprise Lake Camp. Home. It is the reason that, throughout my life, two summer months seemed so much longer and more important than ten school year months. It is the place where I am the real authentic version of myself. It is where I have made lifelong friends, year after year. Keeping Surprise Lake Camp open and thriving in the future is the only way to ensure that anyone who wants to can have the experience I have had. Over the past 15 years I have had enough experiences and memories to last me a lifetime. And I know that with the 10516 still running for generations to come, I will have many, many more.

- Rebecca Safeer

For more information about the 1902 Society, to view a full list of members, and/or to download a Letter of Intent, please visit www.surpriselake.org/1902society
Recognizing Our Angels

Surprise Lake Camp wants to take a moment to recognize and thank our angels. The following three individuals have made incredible gifts that will not only impact camp today, but will have a lasting effect that will enhance the camp experience for generations to come.

Joy Henshel: Joy Henshel has been a dedicated member of the SLC Board of Directors for over 50 years! This illustrious career started when her husband Harry, who had been an active and dedicated Board member, asked her to step in because his focus on his career was making it difficult for him to devote enough time to the agency he cared so much about. The Henshels were dedicated to SLC because Harry’s father, Colonel Harry D. Henshel, was a camper starting in 1905 and a Board member up until 1961. Joy’s tenure on the Board included the role of President, which she held from 1974 to 1977. She was very active in the interview and hiring of our current Executive Director, Jordan Dale. She loves sharing stories of the many changes that have taken place at SLC over the past 50 years like electricity in the bunks, the building of Mountainview, and updating so many of the buildings.

Joy believes in the magic and wonder, friendships, and life experiences that only sleep-away camp can bring to a young child. Her dedication to SLC springs from her commitment to help nurture the lives of our youth today and to help them grow to be well rounded, strong, happy, and healthy individuals. We honor her today for her lifetime of giving. Joy and her four daughters were all instrumental in the creation of the Harry Henshel Scholarship Fund, the refurbishment of the old “G” Lodge (now called the Henshel Lodge), and most recently, in their incredible gift of $1.2 million to fund the construction of Surprise Lake Camp’s pool, which is scheduled to be completed by summer 2016!

Stan Josephson: Stan has been on the Board since 1999. He first came to camp in 1948 as a winter camper on 100% scholarship. His dad was ill with TB and needed to be away in the country to get better, and his mom was working and needed a place for him to be taken care of. He was the youngest kid at winter camp.

Stan cares a lot about scholarships, has given countless dollars to camp’s scholarship fund, and has even funded the camp tuition for Ethiopian Israelis for many summers.

Last summer, Stan funded the construction of the Mainside “Sport-a-potty” (the bathroom on the Mainside ballfield), which was a huge improvement to the program. No more having to walk from the tennis courts all the way to the Main Building! In the fall of 2013, Stan made the lead gift of $100,000 to renovate the Mainside Health Center, which was in desperate need of a complete overhaul. And now, he has pledged to fund the construction of two more projects! The first being the Teenside Field Bathroom (which will be located near the teen equipment shack), and the second being the creation of camp’s new farm!

We can’t thank Stan enough for being a true mensch, seeing the need for certain improvements, and stepping up to help them come to fruition.

Jerry Meyer: Jerry has been on our Board since 2007, and in that short time has done extraordinary things. He has served on our Development and Transition Committees, has solicited donations from several of his friends and family, has reached out to help us gain new members of the 1902 Society, and has given generously to our annual Alumni and Board campaigns.

An artist himself, (www.jerrymeyer.com) Jerry appreciates the importance of an appropriate artists’ work space. Therefore, most recently, Jerry and his wife, Roz, made a gift to camp of over $150,000, which enabled us to completely renovate Mainside Arts & Crafts. For anyone who visited camp in 2014, this was a HUGE improvement over the prior building…it’s no longer called a shack! It now boasts a screened in porch, ceiling fans, a working fireplace, bathroom and kitchen facilities, and is even heated, which makes it available to rent in the winter! We thank Jerry and Roz for their incredible generosity and for making this improvement that will be appreciated for generations of campers to come.
Surprise Lake Camp 2015 Alumni Drive & Dues Form

First Name: __________________ Last Name: ____________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________________

Email: __________________ Date of Birth: _____________

Home Phone: __________________ Cell Phone: ________________________

2015 Alumni Drive/Send A Child To Camp

☐ 1 Day at SLC: $155  ☐ 5 Days at SLC: $775  ☐ Full Summer at SLC: $7,600 or

☐ 2 Days at SLC: $310  ☐ One Week at SLC: $1,050 or more  ☐ Two Weeks at SLC: $2,100 or more

☐ 3 Days at SLC: $465  ☐ One Session at SLC: $4,200 or more

☐ 4 Days at SLC: $620

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.

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Kenneth Seligson
Ext. 149
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.

Health Center Renovation

Do you like the new screened porch?