

SURPRISE LAKE CAMP **ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Established in 1961 for the betterment of camp 307 Seventh Ave, Suite 900 New York, NY 10001 Phone 212.924.3131 Fax 212.924.5112

Email: alumni@surpriselake.org

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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



MAY

May 1: Volunteer Day May 14-15: Alumni Party

May 15: Parent/Camper Orientation/Tour Day

May 21: Spring Shabbat Program (honoring Howie Berk)

JULY

July 10: Alumni Day (earlier this year!)

AUGUST

Aug 24-28: Get Your Feet Wet

SEPTEMBER

Sept 2-5: Family Camping Weekend

OCTOB€R

October 3: Rosh Hashanah Program

October 9: Sukkot (See photos from last year's Sukkot

celebration on page 8)

October 23: Friends & Family Hike Day





Elyana Bassell, and their families on the loss of their mother, Eyline.

Our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Leith Rogovin, who passed away on January 9, 2016. Many tributes to him can be found on the "Leith of Life" Facebook page: bit.ly/leithoflife

We mourn the loss of Sheila Pollet, who passed away on February 1, 2016. There are no words that can adequately describe Sheila's impact on the Surprise Lake Camp community. We extend our most heartfelt condolences to her husband Kenny, and their children, Jared and Erica, and to evervone who knew and loved her.

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





A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

Hello SLC Alumni and welcome to the winter 2016 issue of Re- Echoes!!!

As I have mentioned in the past, the SLCAA never takes off for winter. We are very busy planning events and fundraisers for the coming year. Please take a moment and check out the calendar of upcoming events. I hope you can all find at least one event that interests you! If you have any ideas or would like to get involved, please let me know!

We have just recently completed our 2015 Annual Alumni Drive for scholarships. The Alumni Association's gift of \$28,000 helped the campaign exceed \$190,000! This

money, simply put, gives children the opportunity to share in the greatest experience ever . . . a summer at SLC! Your participation in our fundraisers and merchandise sales is the reason we are able to make such a tremendous gift, and I want to personally say thank you to every one of you who donated or participated in some way. As always, without you guys, the SLCAA cannot do what we do! This has been our mission since 1961, when a group of dedicated alumni got together and created the foundations of a society whose sole goal was to support and better the Surprise Lake Camp experience. That same concept still drives the Association today!

As I always do in the first Re-Echoes of the year, I want to ask everyone to join the Alumni Association. Annual dues are \$36 and a Lifetime Membership is a one-time fee of \$250. Membership entitles you to 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 continue its mission of helping children to experience SLC!

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 would like to finish this issue's President's Message with a request. Did you meet your spouse at SLC? Did you "date" at camp before getting married? If so, we would like to add you to the Surprise Lake Camp Wedding Album that is in the camp museum! I know there are a lot of couples out there who can claim that "it all started at SLC." If you think you fit this category, please contact me.

I hope you all stay well and, like myself, are looking forward to the warm weather and another great summer at SLC!

See you at camp,

Joe Goldberg President, SLCAA goldnglich@aol.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



Congratulations to our Super Bowl Box Pool Winners!

Jolene Schaefer (Bressler)

Matthew Tratner

Brian Blaufeux

We hope you'll join in the fun for Super Bowl 51!

Remembering 5 | Call |

On February 1, we said goodbye to our dear friend, Sheila Pollet, who succumbed to pneumonia, which progressed quickly because of a compromised immune system due to leukemia.

There are no words that can adequately describe Sheila's impact on the Surprise Lake Camp community. We extend our most heartfelt condolences to her husband Kenny, and their children, Jared and Erica, and to everyone who knew and loved her.

The following was written by Jordan Dale and read by him at Sheila's funeral:

Sheila was hyper, fun, irreverent, outspoken, funny, brave, and caring. A constant whir of energy. She was tough as nails, but also remarkably tender. At times, she was shockingly uninhibited. She was the life of the party, the glue that sustained so many relationships.

We've been friends since we were teenagers. Like many of you here.

One day some forty years ago, we created a great big game of dots, maybe twenty rows by twenty rows. We passed that game of dots back and forth over the years taking turns. Sometimes it stalled on my desk, sometimes on hers. Sometimes it disappeared for a few years at a time until one of us discovered it in a drawer. Last summer we played a few rounds, and I was so optimistic that we would finish the game in the years ahead. But the game has ended. Too soon. And like everybody who knew Sheila and has treasured memories and unfulfilled plans, today I am heartbroken.

As everyone knows, Sheila had a lifetime love affair with Surprise Lake Camp. She was passionate about camp, and she was an integral part of the camp community. When you think of Surprise Lake Camp, there are certain personalities that somehow define the place. Harry Vogel. Whammy. And of course Sheila.

Sheila gave so much to SLC and got so much in return. Some of my fondest memories were when we worked precamp and postcamp together. I don't think I ever laughed as hard as I did when I watched her trying to kill a catfish I had caught so we could eat it for dinner. With a baseball bat!

She became a counselor, a supervisor, a sports specialist, a division head, and ultimately our Assistant Director, a position she held under three Executive Directors, Jerry Mark, Carol Seigel, and me. Her relationship with Carol was particularly close, and I want to mention it today because I was always impressed by it, and, to be honest, at times a little jealous.

She met her husband, my dear friend Kenny, at camp, and they became one of those quintessential camp couples.



Years later she started a second SLC career as a nurse. She became our Head Nurse, and more than that, she became the heart and soul of our health service, working throughout the year to hire staff and improve our procedures. On top of this, she was a volunteer and a donor.

But this is not the essential story about Sheila and SLC. The essential story is the impact she has had on so many people. You can see it in the incredible outpouring of love on Facebook, and in the stories, one after another after another, about how she made a critical difference in someone's life. You can see it in the sea of SLCers who are here today representing so many different camp generations.

I know first hand how incredible the SLC community can be at a time like this. When my brother Dave died, it was so comforting to me to see so many of you walking through those temple doors and entering my home. I was struck by the incredible power of the camp community to be there for one another, both to help celebrate the wonders of life, and to help get us through the hard times.

Today, here you are again. To celebrate the life of Sheila Pollet, and to stand by her family. It makes an enormous difference, and I know they are so very grateful.

Many people have made the comment "I cannot imagine camp without Sheila."

But of course she will always be there. None of us will ever come to our beloved SLC without feeling her presence,

remembering how she enriched our time, how she lit up a moment. Our hearts will ache a little, but we will also smile and laugh and be thankful that we knew her. And Jared and Erica will be at camp this summer once again. Sheila and Kenny have always been so proud of how Jared and Erica have inherited their love of camp. They will continue her legacy, and, chances are, so will their children.

And so will the countless SLCers who will tell Sheila stories about things like dots games and catfish, who will pass on the values they learned from her, and who will tell their children about that special counselor or that special friend they had when they went to camp, and about how she was a true SLC legend. And always will be.



SUPERGLUE

The following was written by Donna Cohen Ross, SLC camper and counselor, 1967 – 1978. It was read at the funeral by Rabbi Lance Sussman.

This is the song of the day.

For the past two years my daily emails to Sheila, usually sent in the early morning hours, began this way. You know how the line of a song gets stuck in your head and you just can't shake it? Well, I figured that since I couldn't be with her, if

we started the day with the same lyrics rolling around in our heads, in a sense, we'd be together. On good days, I'd pitch the first line, she'd answer with the second, I'd go onto the third and so forth. On dark days, I'd send the whole song and she'd just acknowledge it with an exclamation point or a smiley face.

There are A LOT of songs. We went through old folk songs, rock and roll, Motown hits, Broadway show tunes — you name it. Sometimes I scraped the bottom of the barrel and sent old commercial jingles and public service announcements from our 1960s childhood. (Don't cross the street in the middle, in the middle, in the middle of the block! Remember that one? Sheila replied: and wait and wait until you see the light turn green!) The song of the day.

I met Sheila at Surprise Lake Camp - the place that produced the soundtrack of our lives - when we were both ten years old. She and I were cut from very different cloth. I was Queens; she was Brooklyn. I approached with caution; she was fearless. She could play ball with the boys; "klutz" was inscribed on my DNA. That summer, Sheila revealed herself as a bona fide Superhero — my Superhero.

Like all superheroes, she had a special, defining super power. Hers was not X-Ray vision or flying — and her powers surely were not derived from magic bracelets. (If you know Sheila, you know she had no need for jewelry.) No, her powers manifested themselves as Social Super Glue. Sheila could magically bring all sorts of people together — stick them together so they worked together, played together and felt part of something larger than their own wishes and talents and fears. Here's an example:

When we were ten, we shared one of those long bunks in Unit E, eight girls together. After lunch was "rest hour" ... I'm using air quotes here... We were supposed to be quiet and calm, write letters home, you know — rest. But there was no resting with Sheila. Exasperated, our counselor declared that during rest hour every girl should be on her bed and no one's feet should touch the floor. Undaunted, Sheila devised a game where contestants ran around the room touching every bed, the top of every cubby —but never the floor. Sheila would go first, Janice was in ... so was Nancy. I desperately wanted to play, but Sheila took one look at me and knew it wouldn't end well. Then ... out came the super glue! A way to include me. She threw me a watch (which I promptly dropped) and she declared me the official timekeeper. The girl who completed the course the fastest without touching the floor would win ... and I was in charge of awarding the honor. Super glue!

Sheila's super power worked in the other direction, as well. With the aid of super glue, she was willing to leave her comfort zone temporarily and adhere to yours. A show of good faith and camaraderie. Like the time, years later, when I convinced her to join a hike up Mt Beacon. She was skeptical ... spend a hot summer day scrambling uphill through the woods? But Sheila dabbed on a little super glue and agreed to come along. As we were heading

out, I noticed her stuffing some dollar bills into her pocket.

"Why?"

"So when I get to the top I can buy some candy."

I had to break it to her that there was no candy store on the top of Mt Beacon. Although, as an historical note, there once was a cog railway to the top and a casino that sold ice cream. But now hikers had to be satisfied simply with a magnificent view. Sheila was appalled. "All that work, and there's no chocolate at the end?"

But she went anyway and we had a great time. That's the power of super glue. She never let me live it down though. Forever after, when we did anything ... when she visited me at school; when we met at the Starbucks on 81st and Broadway and went into the park with bagels and double smoke from Zabars; when we went to the beach for sun and a swim; whatever ... She'd always check: Will there be chocolate at the end?

There are so many stories from later ... especially that mystical summer of 1976 ... and I know many of you will be telling those stories. That summer there had to have been a sale on super glue because it was out in force. She and I shared the A-frame bunk in Unit A and, using super glue, Sheila (and so many of you) got scores of kids stuck on the ways of camp and helped cement many deep and abiding friendships that carry on to this day.

And then, something happened to the super power of super glue between the two of us. For some inexplicable, unimaginable reason, the super glue between us dissolved.

Sheila and I lost contact ... For 20 Years. I don't know ... maybe it was the kryptonite. Sometimes paths diverge ... there are lots of songs about that. In those silent years, we both married boys named Ken, we both launched careers, and Sheila became the mother of two extraordinary children. But we didn't speak.

Then, in 2002, SLC was celebrating its 100th anniversary and there was to be a big bash at a fancy hotel in the city. My brother, Michael, also under the influence of super glue, insisted I come. I said no. He said yes. I said no. He said yes. And finally I bought a new dress, a train ticket from DC, and a hotel room to retreat to. I said I would stay for exactly 30 minutes. Turned out to be the longest 30 minutes ever.

When I arrived at the party, the very first person I saw was Sheila. Within seconds, super glue was in the air... super glue was in the soup! It was everywhere. Sheila and I talked as if we were picking it up from just the day before. Using her superpowers, she pulled me close, back into the fold, sealing the deal with super glue. After that we were in regular communication, catching up on everything. Friends, work, our two Kens, and especially the doings of Jared and Erica, who she spoke of with deep love, great sensitivity and respect, and unabashed pride.

That August, Sheila and I decided to hike Breakneck. In a flash, she was brandishing the super glue and our twosome became a party of ten. We hiked in the heat of an August day ... brilliant, right? We sang our way up those seven peaks, pulling each other along, stopping for drinks and snacks and wisecracks. We all made it, with popsicles and, yes, chocolate at the end. After that, our twice-a-year women's weekends were born. A spa in the Berkshires, out to the Hamptons, a trip to Florida ... once the gang even came down to my place in DC. And of course, our crisp fall weekends at camp. I am so grateful to Sheila and her super glue, for her super efforts to always make it easier for me to come along. She'd provide a sleeping bag, a pillow, an extra bike ... stuff I couldn't carry on the train or plane. But that's a far second to what she really was offering – a chance for me to find my way back to such important and loving friends.



And now, here we are in this unthinkable place. I am incredibly sad I can't be with you in person – but, in fact, I am with you — courtesy of super glue.

And what about the song of the day? That song has yet to be written, but we can hear it being formed. There are guitars playing with bursts of energy... hands are clapping to keep the rhythm ... and there's a rich, sweet melody that flows like the best dark chocolate. What are the lyrics? I don't know. But someone start and we'll each add a line.



Mazel Tov to Board Member, Joy Henshel, who was honored as one of The New Jewish Home's "Eight over 80." Eight over 80 celebrates what octogenarians are doing, not just what they've done. They are still building, still writing, still experimenting-still making waves.

The honorees show the world that trailblazing is ageless.







SUKKOT: THAT FUN SURPRISE LAKE CAMP EVENT YOU MISSED ... JOIN US THIS YEAR ON OCT 9TH FOR OUR SUKKOT FESTIVAL!

FOOD · FARM

FUN - MUSIC CRAFTS AND MORE!









Overcoming Adversity: SLC Alum, Sebastian Robeck, is using his experiences in a New York City homeless shelter as his college entry essay for American University. His interview with Fox5 can be found here: bit.ly/SebRobeck. We are very proud of him and wish him luck in all of his future endeavors. Sebastian was able to spend several summers at camp with the help of significant scholarships, made possible from donations to our Alumni Drive. Thank you to everyone who contributes to this fund and helps campers like Sebastian every summer.



Mazel Tov to Jennifer (Weitz), Ben and big brother, Nathan, on the birth of Spencer Richard Wind. He was born on December 5, 2015, and weighed 5lbs, 14oz. (1)

Mazel Tov to Carrie and Ben Haber (and grandparents Robin (Erlich) and Gordon Krompier) on the birth of their daughter, Laine Aaron. She was born January 15, 2016, and weighed 5lbs, 7oz. (2)



Mazel Tov to alumni couple Melanie (Wilichinsky) & Seth Tucker on the birth of their son, Levi Jacob. He was born January 22, 2016, and weighed 5lbs, 15oz. (3)



Mazel Tov to Sara and Adam Benmoise on the birth of their son, Nathan Leo. He was born February 9, 2016, and weighed 7lbs, 10oz. (4)

Mazel Tov to Marissa Garfinkel on her marriage to Ben Jacobson on November 12, 2015 at the Westin Resort & Spa in Cancun, Mexico. (5)



















Congratulations to alum Jonathon Weisberger (son of SLC chef, Lenny), who has published a book called Rainforest Medicine: Preserving Indigenous Science and Biodiversity in the Upper Amazon. It can be found at http://bit.ly/JWeisberger



In the summer of 2014, we published an article about a new concept: Alumni All Stars.

Now we want to be clear about this. We consider all of our alumni to be all stars. SLC has the best, most loyal, most supportive alumni any camp could possible want.

ALUMNI ALL-STARS But the Alumni All Stars is a way to recognize those very special alums who support camp in all five of the following ways, making them exemplary even among a group that is already exemplary:

- 1. Paying alumni dues, either annually or lifetime.
- 2. Making an annual gift to our Alumni Drive (or Board campaign) to support current year scholarships.
- 3. Attending or supporting at least one alumni event a year (Casino Night, alumni parties, Hike Day, etc.).
- 4. Contributing to a capital campaign/project (Health Center, Scholarship Endowment, etc.).
- 5. Joining the 1902 Society (we now have over 250 members—you'd be surprised how easy and how impactful this is!).

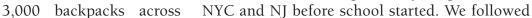
We are excited that the first class of Alumni All Stars will be officially announced in the next edition of Re-Echoes. If you see someone you know on the list, please thank them. Someday we hope that the list will be too long to fit on a single page.

PCNY

that up with

Mazel Tov to Talia Schneider, Wayne Schneider, their parents, and their siblings on their great work in helping the homeless. The following description was sent to us by Talia.

PCNY is a high end concierge business which began in NYC in 2010 and has spread out to Miami and LA. My brothers handle everything from car service to private jets to VIP event tickets. About 6 months ago we started a philanthropic initiative on our own without the help of any non-profit organization. We had the backing of our PCNY clients (clients and friends and with that we were able to raise enough money to give out

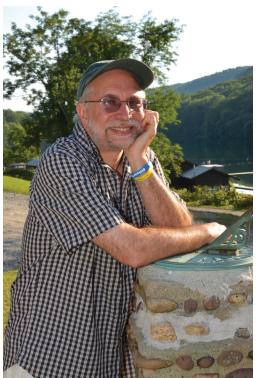


raising enough funds to hand out 500 turkeys for Thanksgiving across Westchester, Long Island, and NYC. We thought just giving back on the holidays wasn't enough so since January we have been out 3-4 times a week handing out hot food and water to the homeless. We recently sponsored a HashtagLunchbag event in NYC where volunteers came together to make over 1,000 sandwiches and gave them out across NYC.

In the beginning we were purchasing everything but recently have been very lucky to have restaurants donate food for us to hand out (Ricardo's Steakhouse, 1 if by Land, Wood and Fire Pizza, etc). We are trying to spread this mission across the country and have actually received videos from

people in Philidalephia and Miami who have been inspired to do the same. If you look on Instagram under @PCNY, @PCNYinthestreets and @tschneider621 you can see some of the videos and photos from our evenings. We have built a rapport with the homeless people who sleep around MSG and have been setting up at 10 pm and handing out food on 33rd and 8th.

If you know any restaurants that would like to be a part of this mission, which we are calling #PCNYinthestreets and #inspirationrun, please call 845-893-4966.



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.

Register Today! surpriselake.org/jordanssendoffcelebration

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

Surprise Lake Camp 2016 Alumni Drive & Dues Form

First Name:	Last Name:
Address:	Span 1902
Email:	
Home Phone:	Cell Phone:
	Alumni Drive/Send A Child To Camp
current need. If you are sup	e used to support this year's scholarships. <i>This is camp's greatest</i> porting this annual drive, please consider making an additional gift cure our ability to provide for future scholarships.
☐ 2 Days at SLC: \$330☐ 3 Days at SLC: \$495	☐ 5 Days at SLC: \$825 ☐ Full Summer at SLC: \$1,150 or more ☐ Two Weeks at SLC: \$2,250 or more ☐ One Session at SLC: \$4,400 or more
SI	C Alumni Association Membership Dues
Membership entitles Alumn calendar of events, quarterly Alumni store, and a discoun	to be kept informed of alumni events, receive a membership card, Re-Echoes newsletter, free admission to Alumni Day, a discount at the to all alumni events at which a fee is charged. Membership: \$36 □ Lifetime Membership: \$250
	Scholarship Funds
This money goes toward an	endowment to provide for <u>future</u> scholarships.
☐ Jeff B. Herman Memor Pays for camp's annual award to fund camper scholarships. City policeman and was tragic	given to the most outstanding male and female athletes on Teenside and he eff Herman was a beloved Surprise Lake Camper who became a New York
***	*************
☐ Please bill my credit ca	d: (No AMEX, please)
•	Exp. Date: Total Amount to Charge: \$ vcontributions with my credit card.
	Month to begin: Monthly amount: \$
☐ I would like to speak with Professional staff about be	Total donation amount: \$ th an Alumni Fundraiser and/or member of Surprise Lake Camp coming a member of the 1902 Society. Membership in the 1902 Societ c 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 generosis



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ALUMNI DAY! SULL DAY FARITRE THAN 15 UNIT OF THE PROPERTY OF