

**SURPRISE LAKE CAMP**  
SINCE 1961  
**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

# RE-ECHOES

The official newsletter of the Surprise Lake Camp community

Summer 2020



## Camp misses YOU!!

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*President Emeritus*

\*Deceased

Surprise Lake Camp  
382 Lake Surprise Road  
Cold Spring, NY 10516  
(845) 265-3616

[alumni@surpriselake.org](mailto:alumni@surpriselake.org)

Please email your  
newsletter submissions  
or notify us of any errors:  
[alumni@surpriselake.org](mailto:alumni@surpriselake.org)

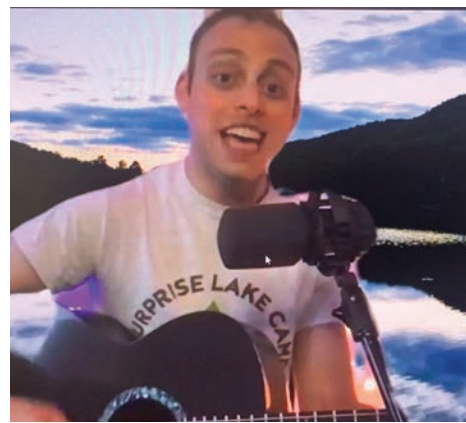
Layout by [James Dinn](#)

# IF YOU HAVE NOT EXPERIENCED SLC VIRTUALLY, CHECK US OUT!

Since the Covid-19 outbreak, SLC has taken to online platforms such as ZOOM and Facebook to connect with our SLC Family. Over the last several months, we have welcomed Shabbat each Friday with Paul and Elaine Suchow, participated together in Yoga with Jen HB, been amazed by several Magicians, enjoyed Storytime with Neil, had virtual meetups with different camp groups/units, sang our favorite Round-Up songs with Gabby and Jacob, did a Spike Singalong, and so much more. We are continuing our programs throughout the summer and will include new segments such as a series entitled "SLC Generations," connecting our generations with fun dialogue and Q&A. Please visit upcoming events at <https://surpriselake.org/events/> and join us!

And see the story on SLC Generations in this issue, featuring Whammy and Sammi Grosshandler!

Here are some images of past virtual events!



# SLC Tribute Fund



A gift that continues to give to others is truly the ultimate gift, and a donation through the SLC Tribute Fund will help us to continue our historic mission. We believe that an SLC experience should be accessible for every child, regardless of their family's ability to pay. The Tribute Fund supports the SLC Scholarship Endowment program.

By acknowledging a special person, a memorable occasion, an outstanding achievement, or honoring the memory of a loved one, you are supporting a commitment that has been core to our mission since 1902. In addition, an acknowledgment will be sent in your name. Please visit [www.surpriselake.org/donate](http://www.surpriselake.org/donate) at any time to make a Tribute gift.



## Thank you!

To all those willing to sacrifice their own safety and well-being in this crisis, the SLC Family is eternally grateful. We wish you safety and health as you forge ahead to get us to the other side of this pandemic. Your contributions are appreciated, and we thank you in our prayers, hearts, and minds each and every day. Stay strong!

Special shout out to all our SLC heroes!!!

## Invite Us to Speak About SLC!

Traditionally, over the winter and spring months, we travel to communities to speak with families about our incredible program. With the current environment, we still plan on having these conversations and presentations, and are happy to accommodate any group or individuals via ZOOM to explain why SLC creates magical, transformational summers for our campers. Email [sheryl@surpriselake.org](mailto:sheryl@surpriselake.org) to discuss further or call 845-265-3616.

## Moved or New Email Address?

Have you recently moved or prefer a new email address? Please email us any recent contact information changes at [alumni@surpriselake.org](mailto:alumni@surpriselake.org) so you can stay up-to-date with all things SLC!

## New Mailing Address

Please note our NYC office has closed.

Please mail all correspondence to our year-round address:

**382 Lake Surprise Road  
Cold Spring, NY 10516**



# Executive Director's Message

In March, April, and into May as the pandemic was emerging, the Board and staff of Surprise Lake Camp met regularly to discuss whether we would be able to open Camp this summer. We consulted with many professionals: from other camps, medical experts, government officials, lawyers, insurance specialists and others. From the onset of the crisis SLC was supported by organizations including the American Camp Association, the Foundation for Jewish Camp, the JCC Association, the Putnam County Department of Health and UJA-Federation of New York.

A few things became clear to the Board and staff early on: this was an unprecedented time, the health and safety of our campers, our staff, and all their families had to be our most important priority, and that we were not alone.

Even in the earliest days of the crisis, SLC received an outpouring of support from fellow camp professionals, from organizations that have supported us over the long history of Surprise Lake Camp, and most importantly, from you, from SLC's cherished camp families, friends and alumni.

While our decision was immensely painful, all of the experts seemed to be guiding the Board and staff in the same direction. We could not envision a path to safely opening Camp for our campers, staff and all their families for the summer of 2020.

I would like to share with you some of the things we have learned, discovered, and committed to between May, when we made the gut-wrenching decision, and today.

## **We Have The Best Community**

We were overwhelmed by the consistent message that came from current staff, parents and campers alike: we are devastated AND you did the right thing. The Board and staff have also been overwhelmed by the signs of support from our current families as so many of them elected to roll their 2020 tuition to 2021 and / or make donations to Camp without missing a beat.

## **We Are Not Sitting Still**

The SLC Board and staff recommitted to taking advantage of this unexpected moment to work hard to invest more than ever in the upkeep, repair, and refurbishment of our facilities including to Journey's Way, Mountainview, the Mainside Dining Room, and Teen Health Center as well as to taking the time now to ensure that the windows, screens, doors, roofs and decks of our camper cabins are in tip-top shape. Our senior staff has also begun work now to make sure that our program is the best ever for summer 2021.

## **SLC Is Needed Now More Than Ever**

On email, over the phone, in actual paper letters, and now on Zoom we have heard countless stories from parents and campers of how much they miss SLC. People have shared with us that they are missing the drive up Lake Surprise Road, sitting together as a whole Camp in the Eddie Cantor Theater, good-night stories in their bunk, Olympics, long-talks in a gazebo, swimming (in the pool AND the lake), and of course Nestling. But what we hear more than all of these is that SLC is more than a place, it's also the people. We miss being together with our cherished friends and counselors here at Camp. Now more than ever our campers and our staff miss the warmth, openness, inclusiveness, welcoming, safe place that they know to be SLC.

So many of us knew that we loved SLC but I am not sure we realized before now just how deeply. We have already begun counting down the days to summer 2021. Thank you for your support, and thank you for all that you do to make SLC a home to so many people from so many places. This is my home. This is your home. We look forward to welcoming you all back home in 2021.



*Bradley Solmsen*



# President's Message

Hello SLC Alumni,

I hope this issue of Re-Echoes finds you all doing well and that you and your families are safe and more importantly, healthy.

What a difference a year makes. Who could have predicted that for only the second time in SLC's long and wonderful history, Camp would not be able to open for the summer season? I am truly heartbroken, not just for all the children, but also the staff, who were so eagerly anticipating what would have been the SLC Summer of 2020.

Until Camp reopens, SLC will continue to engage our Camp family. The staff has worked hard to create fun virtual programs for the campers and staff. I hope that some of you were able to participate in and enjoyed our recent Virtual Alumni Day. If you want to see the full calendar of upcoming programs and events, please visit our [Virtual Events](#) site and full [Calendar of Events](#). In addition, the SLC Alumni Association will be re-evaluating our fundraising efforts and hope to be hosting events soon.



The closing of Camp this summer has also created a challenge for SLC financially. Basically, no summer camp equals no revenue, other than philanthropic support. To be able to get through this year and then to return to our mission of providing scholarships to those campers in need and continue to upgrade our facilities, SLC will need a strong fund-raising campaign. I am asking all of you, our amazing alumni and friends, for help. If you have never donated to SLC, this would be a great time for your first gift. For those of you who do donate annually, I hope you will consider a second gift or maybe, increasing your gift this year. SLC is also benefiting from two matching gift programs sponsored by The Harold Grinspoon Foundation and the UJA-Federation of NY. That means every gift we receive this calendar year will be matched. Your donation has never been so needed and worth so much, as it will this year!! As an example, if you donate \$180, camp will receive an additional \$360! If you are able to give \$1,800, it will be matched an additional \$3,600! What an incredible opportunity for both you and for Camp!

This pandemic has no doubt been a serious challenge. But SLC has many, many more summers to come! And we'll be back stronger than ever! There will be swimming in the lake and pool, hiking, softball, awesome camp food, and all the other great activities with friends, making memories that last a lifetime!

Thank you all for your continued love and support of SLC!  
I hope to see you all again soon...and of course...that means... in camp!!

Joe Goldberg  
President, SLCAA  
Member, SLC Board of Directors  
[goldnglich@aol.com](mailto:goldnglich@aol.com)

# SLC NEWS!

## Let us know, so we can share with the entire SLC Family!

We want to hear about new babies, jobs, engagements, graduations, anniversaries, celebrations, reunions, and more!

Email [alumni@surpriselake.org](mailto:alumni@surpriselake.org) at any time to have your news included in a future issue of Re-Echoes.

Also, if you have SLC nostalgia, pictures or anything that could be included in the SLC Museum, please let us know.

## Mazel Tov

### Births



Ariella Bernice Jacobson, born April 21, 2020, to Marissa and Ben Jacobson, joining their son Natan.



Hugo Bronson Klemer, born June 28, 2020, to Doron Klemer and Rachel Elstrott, joining their son Oscar.



Michael Dale, for joining Ropes & Gray's litigation & enforcement group in Washington D.C.



Ian Ross Snyder, for completing Air Force Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base,



Reuben Suchow, for graduating Binghamton School of Management, Class of 2020.



Sergeant Julia Weiner, for completing two years with the Israeli Defense Forces.

## Our deepest condolences to the following SLC Alumni, Friends and their Families

Evan Biale and Family on the loss of his mother, Barbara Dubin.

Judith Margulies on the passing of her brother, Peter Rose.

Judith Margulies on the passing of her husband, Michael Margulies, a long-time member of the SLC Board of Directors and founding member of the 1902 Society.

Larry, Steven and Michele (Wendel) Rosenthal, on the passing of their parents, Helen and Robert Rosenthal.

Silberman Family, on the passing of alum Gary Silberman.

The Stiller Family, on the passing of alum Jerry Stiller

David Vogel, on the passing on his father, William Leonard Vogel.

Allen Weiner and Family, on the passing of alum Ann Kralstein.

# How is Camp Doing?

A summer without camp as we know and love it is extremely sad, especially now when we all desperately need a dose of Jewish camp magic.

You know the difference camp makes in your own life. Creativity, resilience, compassion, and care for our neighbors – the qualities we've been celebrating as so valuable during the COVID-19 crisis – are what camp is all about.

But summer 2020 without camp is not just a major disappointment to the kids who were so looking forward to experiencing SLC as campers and counselors. It also means a devastating financial impact on Jewish camps across the country. Some may not survive.

Our goal now is to ensure that Surprise Lake Camp recovers from the disappointment and major financial blow of this year. Because we know there will be more summers, lots of them.

**Nestling – Shabbat Services at the Eddie Cantor Theater – Alumni Day  
Olympics – Israeli Day – Hiking – Teva – Ga-Ga – All Camp Show – Scholarship**

We could go on and on about the off season and summer SLC traditions  
that warm our hearts and make us yearn to be at Camp –

SLC needs you right now to be sure we will withstand the economic crisis of this year and return as strong as ever for campers and counselors in 2021 and beyond.

## SLC is Taking Action

The experiences that make SLC so special each summer mean that most of our expenses in planning, hiring, training, marketing, recruitment, etc. are incurred throughout the other 10 months of the years.

Canceling the 2020 camp season now means that we will have to refund camp tuition to any family who requests it. While we are committed to meeting our families' needs during uncertain economic times, refunds represent an unanticipated cash drain and bottom-line nightmare.

We are making crucial financial choices to stabilize our finances: cutting expenses wherever possible, pursuing CARES Act/SBA loan and grant programs, and working with our bank, UJA-Federation, and other partners.

The key drivers of our financial model are camper fees and philanthropy. The loss of our camper fees means that we must depend more heavily on the generosity of people who love camp and value our place in the Jewish world and our future. Our SLC Community.

Philanthropic support from our SLC Community is critical to camp stabilizing its financial condition as soon as possible so that we can begin to plan, market, and recruit for summer 2021 as well as year-round programming.

## What You Can Do NOW: A Major Boost to Your SLC Gift!

We are heartened that both UJA-Federation of New York and The Harold Grinspoon Foundation have recognized the urgency of our situation and have stepped up with matching grants to encourage everyone who cares about SLC to act immediately. Both are matching all unrestricted donations to Camp in 2020. For example, if you donate \$500, SLC gets an additional \$1,000! If you are able to give \$1,800, Camp will receive an additional \$3,600!

## The Difference You Will Make

When you and hundreds of other SLC families, alumni, and friends who love camp add your contribution, we know we will meet our goal of raising a total of \$1.5 million by the end of year.

Together we will help Surprise Lake Camp make a major step toward achieving critical financial stability in response to summer 2020's unprecedented crisis. Please take a moment and read why Ilana Sussman and her family chose to make a special donation this year. <https://surpriselake.org/giving-back-to-camp/>

And we will be setting the stage for SLC's next phase, drawing on those core lessons of camp – resilience, faith, creativity, compassion, and caring – to assure a bright future for our campers and staff for all the summers to come.

### How to contribute:

- Mail a check to Surprise Lake Camp. 382 Lake Surprise Road, Cold Spring NY 10516
- Visit [surpriselake.org/donate](https://surpriselake.org/donate)
- Call 845-265-3616

**You have our deep gratitude.**





# Donation Form



We are so grateful that you have chosen to partner with us in providing life-changing summer experiences for young people. To assist camps during this unprecedented time, JCamp180, a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation has created the *All Together Now* matching grant. Your unrestricted gift today to SLC is eligible to receive \$1 for every \$2 you donate.

**Use this form or give online at [surpriselake.org/donate](https://surpriselake.org/donate)**

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name(s) as you'd like to appear in donor list \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Our Gift

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Wherever my gift is needed most.

*Have a different gift in mind? Please contact David Rosner at (845) 265-3616.*

Please also:

☐ Add my SLC Alumni Association Membership Dues: ☐ Annual: \$36 ☐ Lifetime: \$250

*If paying by check, please remember to add in this amount!*

☐ Contact me about joining the 1902 Society for Legacy Giving. I'd like to consider joining the hundreds of families who have chosen to include Surprise Lake Camp in their estate plans.

So that SLC can apply my entire gift toward Camp, I'd like to:

☐ Cover the credit card company's transaction fee: Please add 2% to my gift.

☐ Save paper & postage: Please email my acknowledgement letter.

I'd like to make:

☐ Full gift now

☐ Monthly gifts of \$\_\_\_\_\_ each month for #\_\_\_\_\_ of months for a total gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_

*Credit card required. SLC will charge only the first monthly gift upon receipt of this form.*

I'll pay by:

☐ Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ Disc. Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

☐ Enclosed check: Payable to Surprise Lake Camp. Mail to 382 Lake Surprise Road, Cold Spring, NY 10516

**Thank you for your Generosity!**





# **\$300 Above-the Line Charitable Donation Deduction, COVID 19, and the Qualified Charitable Distribution**

**by Jim Meyer, SLC Board Member**

At first blush, the above topics look unrelated and yet they may all be important to you as well as to Surprise Lake Camp.

You may ask, "How is the \$300 Above-the-Line deduction different from the regular charitable contribution?" The CARES Act allows a tax payer to deduct up to \$300 for their cash donation to a qualified charity, even if the tax payer does not itemize deductions. That's right, even if you take the standard deduction.

It not only reduces your taxes but excitingly for SLC, the amount of your unrestricted gift will be matched! That brings us to the COVID 19 part of the story. SLC has been fortunate to be awarded funds for matching gifts, through the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and UJA-Federation of NY. The matching funds, to assist Camp through the financial crisis caused by the Pandemic, makes your gift even more meaningful! Your \$300 gift, for example, brings in an additional \$600 for Camp!

Don't forget that you may also work for a company that matches your gifts and that would also increase the value of your gift yet again. Remember, this \$300 deduction is for individuals that do not itemize deductions. If you do itemize deductions, note that the limit on contributions has increased from 60% of AGI to 100% AGI.

The Secure Act, which dealt with the increase in the age for starting to take your Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs), left in place the use of the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). Even though you may not be required to take any RMDs in 2020, you may still send a gift, to a qualified charity like SLC, from your IRA. Remember however that the gift has to be either a direct transfer from your IRA custodian to the charity or a check may be sent to you,

made payable to the charity, so that you can forward it hopefully to Camp. This technique will also lower your taxes as you do not pay taxes on QCDs. And bonus, this unrestricted gift to Camp will also be matched in 2020!

For more information, please contact David Rosner, Development Director, at 845-265-3616 / [david@surpriselake.org](mailto:david@surpriselake.org) or contact me at (516) 993-4364 / [jemeyer32@optonline.net](mailto:jemeyer32@optonline.net). As always, please contact your accountant or financial advisor for more information.

# You Get to Decide The Legacy You Leave

**Please think about your legacy because you are writing it everyday**



The SLC 1902 Society is a special group of generous individuals who have committed to include Surprise Lake Camp in their estate plans. All it takes to join the 1902 Society is to sign a Letter of Intent and hundreds of alumni, parents, and SLC friends are already members.

Back in 1902, the Camp's founders established SLC as a life-changing summer home where costs would pose no barrier. Today's 1902 Society members carry forward that legacy (see pages 11-12).

Regardless of your stage of life – whether you're starting your first job, welcoming your first child into the world, or enjoying retirement – it's never too early or too late to create an estate plan to care for loved ones and remember those agencies like SLC which mean so much to you.

Careful estate planning helps you to prepare for the future by providing for your loved ones and the organizations you cherish most. Planned gifts are vital to Camp's work by helping us to continue our historic mission, respond to future challenges and ensure the future of Surprise Lake for future generations.

If you have already named Surprise Lake Camp as a beneficiary of your estate plans, please let us know so that we may include you in the 1902 Society.

If you have any questions, or want to discuss the 1902 Society, please call David at 845-265-3616 or email [david@surpriselake.org](mailto:david@surpriselake.org). As always with matters of personal finance, SLC encourages you to work with your accountant, financial professional and/or attorney to determine what works best for you and your loved ones.

Hear/See video testimonials from 1902 members at <https://surpriselake.org/ways-to-give/1902-legacy-society/>



# Members of the 1902 Society

We are extremely grateful to the following individuals who have included Surprise Lake Camp in their estate plans. Your commitment may inspire others, making your impact even greater!

Anonymous (6)	Nancy Chanin Collins	Aurora Luna Griggs
Estelle & Herbert Adler	Larry Cooperstein	Brenda & Matthew Grosshandler
Paola & Ronnie Adragna/Gilbert	Anita Cruso	Andrea & Arthur Gruber
Michele Albo	Jane Hershey Cuzzo	Michael Gurman
Jacob Albrecht	Dave Dale*	Gwen & Larry Hamberg
Marcia & Bob Altabet	Jordan Dale	Julia Handel
Jennifer & Marc Ambrose	Kate & David Danino	Irving Harris*
Walter Arnstein*	Mia Desmedt	Dayle Henshel
Margery Arsham	Wendy & James Dinn	Joy Henshel
Margie & Bob Atwater	Michele Mars DiRuggiero	Patti Henshel
Celia Baczkowski	Laurie Dobkin-Helm	Andrew Hess
Sylvaine Baczkowski	Jenna Dorfman-Tandlich	Barbara & Stanley* Hirsch
Jason Bailis & Jeff Henderson	Matt Dorter	Roberta & Peter Hirsch
Marilyn Bailis & Jerry Mark	Jill Dosik	Thelma & Sanford Hochberg
Tracie & Mark Basch	Mandy Efrati	Jennifer Hochstadt
Peter D. Baum	Amie Ettinger	Margot Hodes & David Rosenstrauch
Pearl & Harry Belkowitz	Michael Fandal	Gayle Hoffman
Janeen Bellafiore Levine & Brian Levine	Lori Heitzner Fishman	Jason A. Hoffman
Jennifer Herman Benalt & Adam Benalt	Seth Fishman	Nancy & Alan Hoffman
Karen* & Adam Bendeson	David Fleischner	Carol Robin Horowitz
Lauren & Mark Benmoise	Paulette Ann Forgacs	Rachel Israel
Molly Benton	Ralph Forgacs	Seymour Israel
Jake Berg	Beulah Fox*	Sharon & Jeff Jacobs
Evie & Jon Berger	Gregory Fox	Suzanne Jacobs & Jeff Borkan
Blanche Berk	Robert French	Zach Jacobs
Howie Berk	Glen Frick	Amy & Bruce Jaffe
Jeff Berk	Marissa Garfinkel	Chuck Jainchill
Jennifer & Matthew Berk	Rose & Harris Ghersin	Susie Jainchill & Tsahi Gelardin
Michael Berk	Scott Gilden	Danielle Johnson
Andie Biederman	Allie (Ball) and Jordan Golan	Erez Jontef
Jake Biederman	Amy Goldberg	Stan Josephson
Brian Blaufeux	Dr. Joseph Goldberg	Michael Kall
Robbie & Steven Bloom	Rabbi Claire Ginsburg Goldstein	Linda Kane
Martin Blum	Michelle Goldstein	Erica Karron
Nelson Braff	Shira Goldstein	Heidi & Bruce Katz
Amy Bram	Linda & Ben Gordon	Karri & Joel "Whammy" Kaufman
Elyse Braun	Melissa Gordon	Faith Altschuler Kirkpatrick
Jill Breder	Stephen Gordon	Sheryl Kirschenbaum
Mitchell Brenner	Karen Gorsky & Vicky Eggleton	Alan Kleiman
Ezra Cahn	Jaclyn Greenbaum	Barbra & Ty Klein
Justin K. Cantor	Pam & Jay Greenbaum	Ele Klein
Meridee Simon Cole	Suzy Greenberg	Wendy Kleinman
	Shira & Evan Greenblatt	Andrew Kominik
	Rob Greenspan	Andrew Korn

Marc Krigsman  
 Robin & Gordon Krompfer  
 Ellen & Jeff Lambert  
 Karen & Stewart Lantner  
 Maureen & Howard Lantner  
 Moran & Murray Lantner  
 Beth & Dave Levene  
 Dena & Elly Levine  
 Galit & Alan Levine  
 Mark Levine  
 Michele Mark Levine  
 Fred Levy  
 Randi & Scott Lieberman  
 Ted Liebowitz  
 Laura & Carter Mansbach  
 Dylan Marcus  
 Jamie Marcus  
 Judy & Michael\* Margulies  
 Lisa Mark  
 Linda Markowitz  
 Marissa Marx  
 Caryl & Mike Melasky  
 Paul Mermelstein  
 Miriam Messinger & Felicia Hayes  
 Ruth Messinger  
 Emilie & Andrew Meyer  
 Estelle Meyer\*  
 Jerry Meyer  
 Roberta & Jim Meyer  
 Jodie Meyer & Steven Tuber  
 Lee Meyer  
 Jonathan Miller  
 Susan Feldman-Miller  
 Barb & Steve Mink  
 Jill (Simon) & John Miskanic  
 Karen & Jim Morrison  
 Suzanne & Steven Moses  
 Elizabeth Moskow & Ari Kaufman  
 Suzanne Moskowitz  
 Alyse Kunkin Murabito  
 Roni & Jason Nadell  
 Stephen Nitkin  
 Joey Novick  
 Paul Novick  
 Shelli & Larry Olinsky  
 Emily Palmiotto

Stacey & Rob Panepinto  
 Jerry Person  
 Esther Pessin  
 Nicole Pilevsky & Joseph Osheroff  
 Johanna Pinzler & Avri Klemer  
 Julia Pisetsky  
 Serge Podolski  
 Jared Pollet  
 Sheila\* & Ken Pollet  
 Lee Posniack  
 Jillian & Brian Rauer  
 Marc Rentzer  
 Andrew "AJ" Retig  
 Shari Riechelson  
 Michael Rieger  
 David Rimmer  
 Max Damon Robkoff  
 F. Peter Rose\*  
 Robert Rosenbaum  
 Gail & Dan Rosner  
 Michele & David Rosner  
 Eve Rubinstein  
 Mara Rubinstein  
 Robin & Larry Rubinstein  
 Rebecca Safeer  
 Judy Freiser Sails & Steven Sails  
 Alan Saltz  
 Bryan Salz  
 Carolyn & Dave\* Samuels  
 Joshua Sarkozi  
 Robert Schechter  
 Talia Schneider  
 Meri & Paul Schoenblum  
 Dan Schulman  
 Andrew Schuster  
 Gayle Schwartz  
 Maria & Ken\* Seligson  
 Julia & Michael Seltzer  
 Eliot Senor  
 Isaac Shapiro  
 Laurie Feldman-Shepherd  
 Joanne Sherain  
 Peter Sheridan  
 Roy Shirwindt  
 Cindy Shmerler  
 Jenna Sidor  
 Nancy & Lee Sidor

Harvey Sills\*  
 Rebecca Solomon  
 Steve Sommer  
 Susan Namm Spencer  
 Randi Sperber  
 Jeff Spiegel  
 Gary Spielvogel  
 Seth Stein  
 Charles Stendig  
 Adele & Henry Stern  
 Brittany Sternberg  
 Denis Sternberg  
 Matthew Stollerman  
 Elaine & Paul Suchow  
 Joshua Suchow  
 Jennifer Sussell  
 Ilana (Lambert) & Michael Sussman  
 Audrey & Mark Tenenhaus  
 Bret Tenenhaus  
 Lisa Tenenhaus  
 Mike Tenenhaus  
 Alice & Steve Turner  
 Jennifer Anne Toback  
 Allison Tratner  
 Susan & Matthew Tratner  
 Jared Tyler  
 Marlene & "Ranger" Barry Vegter  
 Jordan Waldman  
 Charles D. Wasserman  
 Wendy & Stu Waxman  
 Lisa & Steve Weinberg  
 Diane\* & Allen Weiner  
 David Weintraub  
 Julie & Neil Weintraub  
 Tommy Wills  
 Jennifer & Benjamin Wind  
 Abbe Wittenberg & Rob Schneider  
 Cheryl & David Wolff  
 Anne & Joel Zbar  
 Barbara & Michael Zbar  
 Elise & Corey Zbar  
 Jordana Zbar  
 Richie Zbar  
 Steven Zbar  
 Arthur Zilz  
 Jaime Zuckerberg

*List current as of August 2020*

\* This person reached beyond his/her own life to enrich the future.  
 They left the world a little better than they found it. May their memory be a blessing.





The 1902 Society was created to help fulfill our mission of providing the magic of summer camp to every child, regardless of ability to pay.

This is critical to who we are and the vision of our founders. Through the 1902 Society, we acknowledge the philanthropic intent of individuals who have made provisions in their estate plans, or other means, to benefit Surprise Lake Camp, which was founded in 1902.

"Just as my parents planted for me, so do I plant for my children."

## LETTER OF INTENT

☐ I/we would like to be listed as a member(s) of Surprise Lake Camp's 1902 Society.

There is no minimum planned gift amount to become a member. Your membership will be completed with this signed and returned form. You may decide at a later date how you wish to fulfill your Letter of Intent.

☐ I/we intend to include Surprise Lake Camp in my/our estate plans by the following date: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I/we have already made provisions for the following planned/deferred gift(s) to SLC:  
(check all that apply)

☐ Bequest in a Will

☐ Charitable Gift Annuity

☐ Retirement Plan/IRA

☐ Life Insurance Policy

☐ Charitable Lead Trust

☐ Charitable Remainder Trust

☐ Real Estate

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

(Optional)

The amount of my/our planned gift is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ OR \_\_\_\_% your estate or appropriate planned gift.

Attorney/Trustee Name & Contact information: \_\_\_\_\_

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By signing this Letter of Intent, I/we reaffirm my/our commitment to Surprise Lake Camp. I/we understand that this commitment is revocable and can be modified by me/us at any time.

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Spouse's Full Name (where applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please complete and return this form to:**

Surprise Lake Camp, 382 Surprise Lake Road, Cold Spring, NY 10516

Phone: (845) 265-3616 - Fax: (646) 582-0138 - Email: david@surpriselake.org

# A Remembrance of Mike Margulies

by Larry Rubinstein

I first met Mike Margulies in the Spring of 1990 when I joined the Board of Surprise Lake Camp. He, as an “old timer” gave me a warm welcome even though we were the same age. He had been on the Board since 1972 and was Board President from 1984-1986. With a wry smile and a little chuckle, he said that he wanted to see what Ben Rubinstein’s son would be like. My father had been on the Board from the 1950’s. I found Mike to be as devoted to Surprise Lake as any Board member could be, even though he wasn’t an alumnus. He and Charlie Weinberg, his very good friend, were the leaders of the Building and Grounds Committee and knew every inch of the camp.



It was Mike who let me know early on, that the one thing that was keeping the camp from upgrading its facilities was a lack of funds and he told me that he would help me in any way to improve the camp’s financial situation. As I became more involved in fund raising for Surprise Lake, I frequently turned to Mike and his amazing wife Judy for advice and for financial support. He turned out to be an ideal donor. He never turned away from any appeal that camp made and he was especially concerned with upgrading the camp’s physical plant. Throughout the years that we served together, Mike turned out to be one of Surprise Lake’s most generous donors.

But aside from his love of Surprise Lake, and his intense devotion to it, Mike was a good friend. We shared a mutual interest in playing the piano, and we were always comparing notes. I especially remember talking to him about the difficulties playing the Shubert impromptus and the Chopin Waltzes. He was an excellent pianist and knowledgeable about the piano world.

He had a great sense of humor. He had gone to Dartmouth and I went to Columbia, so all through the ‘90’s we would place a bet on the annual football game between the two schools. Dartmouth never lost, so I was always in a position to have to pay the debt (it was always a contribution to Camp). I always knew that on the Monday after the game, I would get a call from Mike and he would chuckle as he reminded me that once again I would have to pay up.

He was also an avid pilot and on a number of occasions he flew his plane up to Maine to get my father who was summering there to fly him back to Surprise Lake for the annual summer meeting of the Board. For me, it was an example of his devotion to the camp and his loyalty to the Board and what its role was. At the time I had not yet moved to Maine so I wasn’t involved in the plane rides. For this I was grateful, not because of Mike’s piloting capabilities but because it meant that I wouldn’t have to hear my father complain about what the camp was doing wrong during the ride. Mike listened intently to my Dad. I’m not sure he was really interested, but he seemed to be, and for me that was a measure of his “Menschlichkite.”

In the last few years, it was clear that his health was in decline but he never complained and attended Board meetings on regular basis almost until the end. All the while he took Matt Grosshandler under his wing and trained him to be his successor as co-chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. I know that in the end, they became good friends even though there was a generation separating them.

I will miss him at Board meetings and in the other interactions I had with him. I know that the camp has lost a good and loyal friend. His memory will certainly be a blessing for all of us.



# SLC Generations

## A virtual chat between Whammy and Sammi Grosshandler



Our newest virtual program is entitled “Generations.” It pairs an “older” alumni/staffer with a ‘younger’ alumni/staffer/camper. Below, please find some highlights from our second edition, which featured self-proclaimed SLC Icon Joel “Whammy” Kaufman and Sammi Grosshandler. To see the full session, please visit [here](#). You can also visit other past sessions including our first with SLC Board Member Seth Stein together with camper Jamie Harmon [here](#).

Whammy: Sammi, how did you find Camp?

Sammi: I am a third-generation camper, as my great Uncle came to SLC, and then my father, who is on the SLC Board, and his siblings came to Camp.

S: Whammy, I know there are a lot of great places at Camp, but what is your favorite place and why?

W: One of my favorite places is Lakeside, when the sun sets, watching it go down, watching the bugs go across the lake, and watching the bats chase the bugs, and listening to the sounds get quieter. The sunset is just truly such a great closing moment for me each day in Camp.

Tune in at this point to see Sammi correctly identify an extinct hand-held object from “Spike” in the mid 70’s.

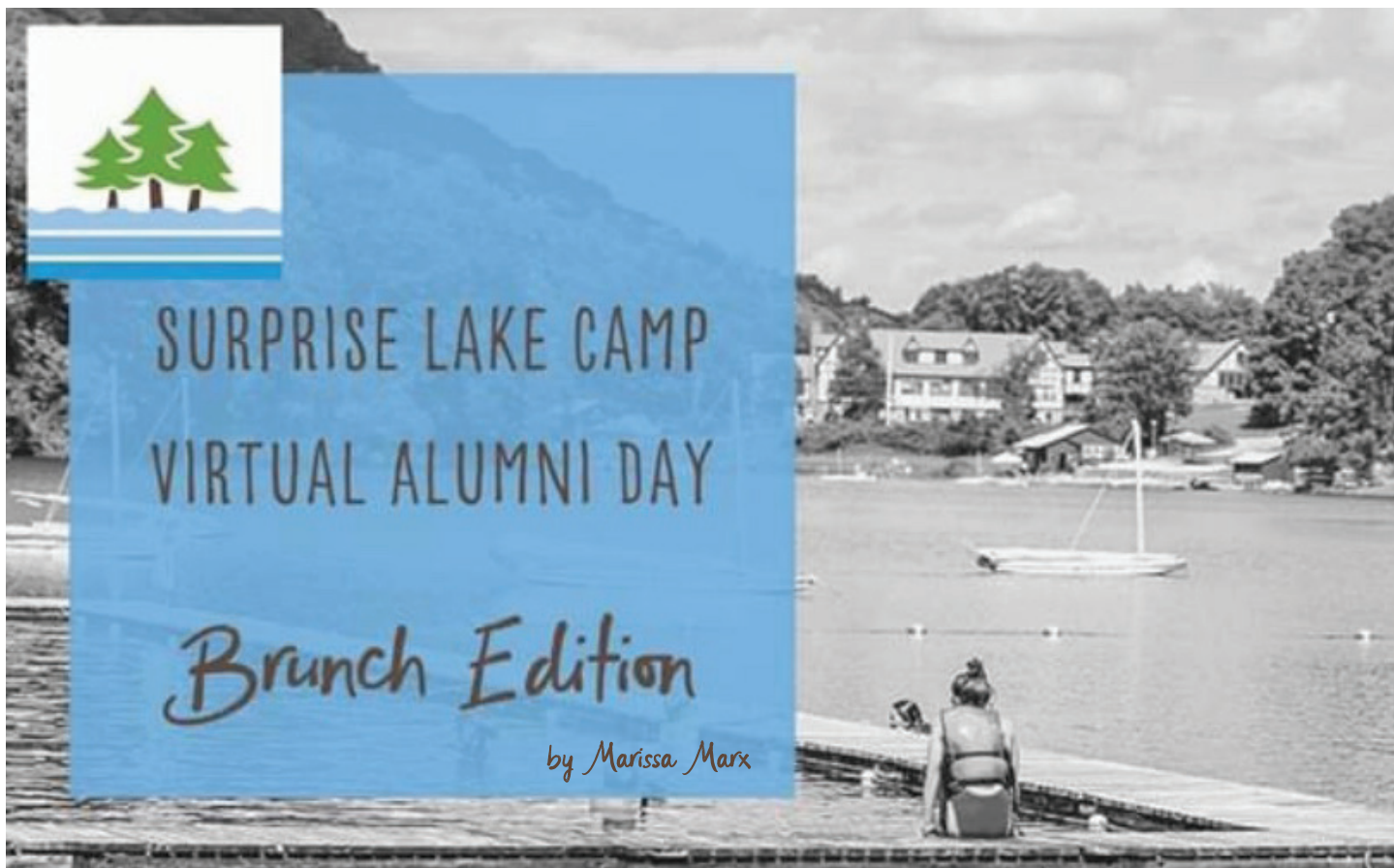
S: Do you have any camp nicknames, from when you were a camper or now?

W: As a matter of fact, Harry Vogel calls me Whammer. Whammy however came from my ability to put the “whammy” on people, kind of like an evil spell. It was on a hike to Cornish, when people were jumping from rock to rock to cross a stream, each person I talked to fell into the water, and one person said “Stop putting a jinx on us.” And thank heavens Jordan Dale changed that to “Stop putting the Whammy on us.” And I’ve been Whammy ever since.

W: Who is a counselor who has made a difference in your life, (besides me)?

S: All of the counselors I’ve had were amazing, super caring and fun, but Gabby Roma was a really special part of my camp experience, especially when I was younger and very homesick. Gabby, together with others, surrounding me with love, had such a big impact. Thank you Gabby!

Tune in for more including what jobs Whammy has had (bet you don’t know them all), who made a difference in his life at Camp and how he got to SLC as a child, as well as Sammi’s memories of Whammy hikes, what job she’d like to have in the future and what she is looking forward to in Summer 2021!



Alumni Day at Surprise Lake comes around each year, with much anticipation! Guests drive and fly in from around the country, small gatherings happen the night before and it evokes nostalgic memories for those who haven't visited in years, sometimes decades! Alumni Day sparks connection and conversation between old friends and bunkmates, and so happiness. This year, while not able to physically be together lakeside, we were spiritually together, and it showed!



Round Up!



Jordan Dale

Virtual Alumni Day 2020 took place on August 9th. Navigating uncharted waters, the planning team put their heads together, meeting weekly, to make sure the event checked a lot of boxes and fulfilled the needs of our alumni and friends. In the days leading up to the event, over 185 people registered to attend and as soon as Bradley, SLC's Executive Director, welcomed everyone into the Zoom room, the feeling of warmth and nostalgia was clearly evident in the smiling faces which filled over five Zoom pages of thumbnail images.

Sheryl, SLC's Camp Director, then took us on a golf cart tour, making a pit-stop at the Eddie Cantor Theater for a socially distanced round-up version *If I had a Hammer*! Attendees were also treated to the original hit song *This Is My Home*, by SLC's Neil Diamond Music Specialist, Paul Suchow. Greetings from SLC icons followed, including Harry Vogel fresh from a lake swim, and former SLC E.D.'s Jerry Mark, Carol Seigel, and Jordan Dale. SLC Board Member Eve Rubinstein, shared the impact of Camp on her family (spanning 4 generations), and appealed for critical financial support for SLC, as did SLC Board President Mike Zbar, whose family connections to Camp are also significant. Alumni Association Board Member's Andrea Zalin and Jared Pollet showed off the renovated Mainside Dining Room and Teenside Health Center, and international staff member Joe Samuelson sang a song from his home in England that he wrote during his summer at SLC in 2015.

Attendees then split into generational breakout rooms for more intimate conversations and memory sharing. Jim Meyer, who began his time at SLC in 1954 and was a camper with Neil



Harry Vogel





Jerry Mark

Diamond, facilitated the 40's, 50's and 60's joint breakout room. Post event, Jim said that he loved sharing stories with old friends from his generation. He said that while his generational breakout room was small in size, they all loved looking at pictures. He recognized that no matter the generational, all pictures of our days at Camp share similarities...the smiles, the friendships, and of course the prominence of the Lake. It's true, campers come and go and things change, but what is captured in camp photos remain constant. Jim is still very involved at SLC, serving as a board member and helping facilitate the 1902 Society.

Joel Kaufman, AKA Whammy, known for so much but is always seen holding a snake, taking a hike or snapping photos, joined the 70's breakout room.

Whammy's first year at Camp was 1972. In his group, they shared stories and laughed together as if they were on lakeside. Whammy said, "I loved seeing people who haven't been able to make it to Camp in the last 20 years. It was special connecting virtually, and Alumni Day 2021 will be even more special!"



Carol Seigel

The 80's generational breakout group was the largest, reaching nearly 40 people! Dena Stevenson, whose first year as a camper was in 1981, said, "For me, Alumni Day is always about reconnecting with friends I haven't seen in a year or more. It's the one day of the summer I look forward to the most.



Mike Zbar

The anticipation of who might be coming up to camp that day, and the screams of excitement when you get to hug a longtime friend. This year was obviously different, but I still had that same excitement for who would show up. I loved being able to see faces of friends who live across the country and haven't been able to attend Alumni Day... it truly made the event extra special. In our breakout room, conversation happened so organically on its own that the time just flew by, filled with lots of story sharing and laughter. We honestly could've gone on for hours. It was great to see so many people show up to support our "home."

Seth Fishman facilitated the 90's generational breakout room from his home in North Carolina. Although his first year as a camper was in 1986, he worked at Camp from 1993 to 1997 and made a return in 2013 for several years. His favorite part from the breakout was the shared feelings that everyone has about Camp. Seth says, "Collectively, we were brought back in our minds to a wonderful time in our lives. It was so great to share and relive that time with each other."

Adam Cusner led the conversation in the 10's breakout room. He said, "while the memories feel so recent, reminiscing about Camp during a time where we can't be there feels extra special." We all feel an ache during this time, and perhaps some emptiness. But being together despite the circumstances euphoric.

In closing out the program, Alumni Association President, Joe Goldberg said, "my heart is so full right now."

We are so lucky that in these trying times, SLC has received two generous matching grants from both the UJA-Federation and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. For the remainder of 2020, for every dollar we raise, gifts will be matched an additional two dollars. Just from Virtual Alumni Day 2020 alone, we have raised \$18,400 from 141 gifts, which will bring in an additional \$36,800 in matching gifts for SLC! We are grateful to everyone who attended and donated. What an amazing community! Special shout out to our extraordinary volunteer captains, who helped us publicize this event, recruit attendees, and fundraise! They are: Evie Berger, Howie Berk, Adam Cusner, Joe Goldberg, Seth Fishman, Joel "Whammy" Kaufman, Zoe Kingston, David Leibowitz, Mark Levine, Marissa Marx, Jim Meyer, Karen Morrison, Jared Pollet, Gabby Roma, Eve Rubinstein, Ariel Ruck, Tyler Shatesky, Dena Stevenson, Nate Wolf, and Andrea Zalin.



Whammy

With this event, we are setting the stage for Summer 2021 and beyond, because we have many, many more magical summers to come! Drawing on core lessons of Camp, rooted in caring, courage, confidence, and community, your support helps ensure a bright future for our campers and staff. Thank you.

To view a recording of Virtual Alumni Day, please visit [VAD](#).



# First-Time SLC Campers

SLC offers lots of ways for first-time campers to join in and feel at home! Families, we're always glad to chat with you by video, phone, or in-person about camp, your child, your priorities, and any questions you have about our approach, tuition assistance, and more. Options include Rookie Day, Get Your Feet Wet, Mini-Camp and more. For more information or to register, please visit <https://surpriselake.org/future-families/first-time-campers/>

## Got SLC? Want to show your SLC pride?

Get some camp swag from our online store- <https://surpriselake.org/shop/>. We have something for everyone, including branded T-Shirts, Sweatshirts, Pajama & Sweatpants, Beanies, Hats & Visors, Bibs & Onesies, Beach Towels, Blankets, Jewelry and more!

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## Are you a Facebook Fundraiser?

Like so many others reading this story, you have a love for Camp. It's something that binds us all together. Have you ever thought about helping to raise vital funds for Camp? If so, we invite you to partner with Camp, tell your story, and inspire others to make a difference and transform lives.



Peer-to-Peer fundraising is a method of philanthropy to help make this happen. We're sure you have all seen, and probably even supported, a friend's campaign on Facebook. Camp now has its own Peer-to-Peer fundraising platform! You can host a fundraiser in celebration of your birthday, in loving memory of a friend or family member, for a special event and more! And Camp will thank your donors personally and promptly for their contribution.

If you feel passionately about this, we strongly encourage you to be in touch with us. While Facebook provides a similar method to fundraise, using our platform has significant benefits for Camp, that Facebook doesn't provide. AND, you can still of course share your personalized campaign on Facebook, Instagram and other social media and via email.

To find out more about setting up your own personalized page, please contact David at [david@surpriselake.org](mailto:david@surpriselake.org) or 646-582-0144.

To see a sample fundraising page, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/y5szkpfm> for Jay Greenbaum's fundraising page from the 2019 Alumni Day Swim-a-thon.

It's easy, fun and will help provide magical summers at SLC for future generations!

It's the gift that keeps on giving! Thank you!

# We are bringing back the SLC Community Corner!

Thanks to our Summer Advertisers.



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