

SURPRISE LAKE CAMP
SINCE 1961
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

RE-ECHOES

The official newsletter of the Surprise Lake Camp community

Fall 2020



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SURPRISE LAKE CAMP
SINCE 1961
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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President Emeritus

*Deceased

Surprise Lake Camp
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Cold Spring, NY 10516
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alumni@surpriselake.org

Please email your
newsletter submissions
or notify us of any errors:
alumni@surpriselake.org

Layout by [James Dinn](#)

Do you know prospective SLC families?

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 jenn@surpriselake.org to recommend new families and 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 so you can stay up-to-date with all things SLC!

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 at any time to make a Tribute gift.

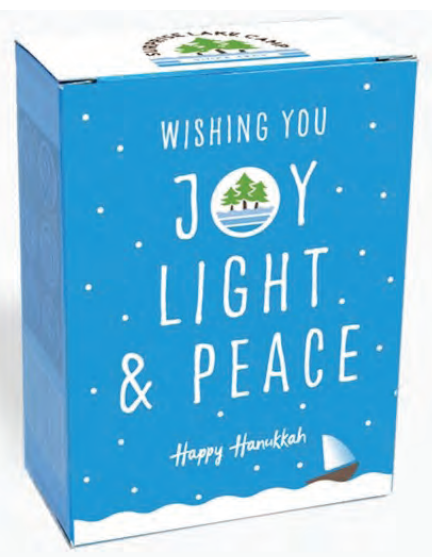
Hanukkah Candles

Hanukkah is fast approaching and we have the perfect gift for yourself, your camper(s), a friend or loved one. Each box has enough blue and white candles for all eight miraculous nights of Hanukkah! Each box comes with the blessings as well as special SLC matches and all proceeds support SLC!

We can also send these as presents along with a gift note, if you provide the recipients.

Shipping is included in the \$18 price.

To order, or for more information, please visit [candles](#).



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 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



Eliot Jacob Saad, born to Lana and David Saad, on August 8, 2020.



William Asher Wind, born to Jennifer (Weitz) and Benjamin Wind, on September 11, 2020. Big brothers Nathan, Spencer and Ezra are very excited!



Rina Malka, born to Chelsea (Lefland) and Baruch Rosenstein, on September 26, 2020.



Delilah Jeanne Lawrence, born to Steve and Michelle Lawrence, on October 14, 2020.



Esther Sarah Soloway, born to Baila and Ken Soloway, on October 26, 2020.

Weddings



Lana Hladush and Richie Zbar on their September 6, 2020 wedding



Igor Petlakh & Randi Paige Freedman on their November 8, 2020 wedding.

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

Jeffrey Bogan and family on the passing of alum, Edward Bogen.

Marilyn Bailis, and the Bailis and Mark families on the passing of former SLC Director, Jerry Mark.

Please see special tribute to Jerry Mark on page 7

Suzanne Moskowitz & Jordan Dale and family on the passing of Irwin Moskowitz, Suzanne's father.

The family has asked that donations in Irwin's memory be made to Surprise Lake Camp.

The Shirwindt Family on the passing of 1902 Society member, Roy Shirwindt

Caren Grossman and family and Marty Zalin and family, and on the passing of their mother, Roslyn Zalin.

May their memories be a blessing

Executive Director's Message

Now More Than Ever

As I write this, the entire year-round staff in partnership with SLC's Board of Directors, is working hard to plan an amazing summer of 2021. We are looking forward to welcoming our campers and staff home. We know so many people are dreaming about the drive up Lake Surprise Road, the awesome views around the lake and reconnecting with those who will undoubtedly become life-long friends. **Now more than ever**, SLC is in all of our hearts and minds.

This season of planning is unlike any other. The health and safety of our campers and staff comes before everything else. With such a changing landscape, we are developing different scenarios to make sure that we have every possibility covered.

Now more than ever our amazing alumni have been stepping up to volunteer, and ask how they can offer their time and their resources. Words cannot express how grateful Camp is for their continued love and commitment! If there was ever a time that we needed our alumni to consider supporting SLC financially, now is that time. Looking back, we are wrapping up a year in which we only had ONE source of income – philanthropy – and still had a great deal of expenses. Looking forward, we are deeply committed to opening Camp and at this early stage already know that we will have additional health and safety expenses that will exceed \$100,000. We know that SLC alumni will keep Camp strong. We need you **now more than ever**.

We have also heard from our campers and their families. During a time when so much of life has transitioned to virtual settings, our campers can't wait to be back, in person, at Camp. Our campers, their parents and our staff are telling us that they can't wait. They are eager to be outside, with their friends and counselors, in the water, on a hike, around a campfire and gathering together at the Eddie Cantor Theater as an SLC family. **Now more than ever** our campers and their families need SLC.

In 1902, SLC was founded by a committed group of volunteers who knew young people needed camp.

Now more than ever SLC needs your partnership so that together we make sure that the summer of 2021 is our best summer yet!

Thank you for all you have done, are doing and will do for SLC.

Bradley Solmsen



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: 1919–1954 ▶ Asher Melzer: 1954–1973 ▶

▶ Jerry Mark: 1973–1984 ▶ Carol Seigel: 1985–1986 ▶ Jordan Dale: 1986–2016 ▶

President's Message

Welcome SLC Alumni, Family and Friends,

I hope you all are well... safe and healthy.

There is no doubt that 2020 was a tough year for Camp. SLC had to cancel its summer program. The Alumni Association was also forced to postpone a number of our events. But an organization does not exist for 118 years without facing some adversity along the way. As the year draws to an end and with some uncertainties still present, one constant remains... SLC will endure!!

The SLC staff is working hard to prepare for the summer of 2021! As planning for all the possible contingencies continues behind the scenes, we look to finish this tumultuous year on a positive note. This is where YOU, as proud SLC alumni and our extended family, can make a difference!



Our Annual Scholarship Drive never stops, and the need now is greater than ever, due to the financial crisis created by the pandemic. The goal of the 2020 Drive is at \$370,000. Please consider a gift today. All gifts directly fund the scholarships that Surprise Lake Camp distributes to children and families in need. It is the same historic scholarship program that many of us used as kids to be able to first attend SLC! We all have our own transformational stories and experiences of our own times at Camp. We are now in a position to pass along that wonderful gift of SLC to the next generation of children. Your generosity is greatly needed and very much appreciated!

Under normal circumstances, the SLCAA organizes and sponsors fundraising events throughout the year. This is how we are able to be among the top contributors to Camp's Annual Scholarship Drive. Last year, the SLCAA donated \$20,500 to the Drive. Our last big fundraiser of 2020 will be our Annual Big Raffle. The drawing will be December 20 and you can purchase raffle tickets [here](#). You may be owner of a winning ticket, but only if you buy it!!

I also want to remind everyone that Hanukkah is right around the corner!! Need a last-minute gift idea?? Visit the [SLC Alumni Store](#) to see what awesome Camp swag we have available. Show your SLC love year-round with custom Camp gear!!

People often ask how they can get involved in the Alumni Association and be a part of the meaningful work we accomplish. The first step is to [join the Association](#). The revenue from dues helps to offset costs of running the organization. Annual dues cost \$36 or you can become a Lifetime Member for \$250. One perk of membership is a 10% Alumni Store Discount!

Another powerful way to help out is to consider joining the Alumni Association Board of Directors. As a Director, you would be hands on in organizing our fundraising efforts and in nurturing alumni relationships, with Camp and with each other.

The SLC Alumni Association is always working on new events and if you have ideas, we would love to hear them. You have an open invitation to get involved. There is no better way to keep SLC strong and vital than to stay active in the Alumni Association.

Our SLC community has always been there to support Camp and I am confident that you all will rise to the occasion yet again! With your love and commitment, SLC will get through these most challenging times. We will once again be open for children to experience the wonders of summer camp and the magic of SLC!

Thank you all for your continued support and as always... See you at SLC!

Joe Goldberg
President, SLCAA
Member, SLC Board of Directors
goldnglich@aol.com

SLC is preparing for Summer 2021!

Looking for the next generation of SLC'ers

Our planning for Summer 2021 is well under way. While we continue to navigate these ever-changing times, we are excited to share that the staff and board members of SLC are putting all our resources, creativity, and energy into opening Camp in the safest, most fun way possible.

We can't wait to welcome all our new and returning campers home to SLC next summer. We all miss seeing the lake full of boats and swimmers, projects being made at Arts & Crafts, fields full of campers playing soccer, 9-Square, Volleyball, and all the Camp activities we love so much. Yet, what we maybe miss the most is watching friendship blossom and individuals grow.

We are thrilled to announce that campers will be enjoying new renovations and additions to our camp facility. Our Mainside dining room has been completely renovated - you won't even recognize it! Our Gaga pits on both sides of Camp are being replaced, we are adding tetherball and updating our 9-Square game. All the Mountainview cabins are being renovated, inside and out. Journey's Way cabins have been freshly painted and we are set to begin renovations on our Boulder Hill cabins to be ready to greet our campers this summer.

For more information of the improvement projects we are working on, in advance of Summer 2021, please click [here](#).

We will soon be introducing an interactive map on our website where new and current families can see all Camp has to offer.

Please reach out to Jenn Ambrose at jenn@surpriselake.org with any questions regarding registration and enrollment.

We can't wait to see the smiling faces of campers in the Eddie Cantor Theater singing, cheering, and nestling 'neath the shady trees in 2021!



A Remembrance of Jerry Mark

by Jordan Dale, Former E.D. and alumnus

In 1997, I wrote the following message in the Surprise Lake Camp calendar that was inspired by Jerry Mark.

Dear Surprise Lake Camp Family:

One of my mentors is former Surprise Lake Camp Director Jerry Mark. Jerry retired this past year, and our Board of Directors deservedly honored him for his outstanding service to our camp and field by establishing the Jerry Mark Teen Sports Facility.

In many ways Jerry represents what makes Surprise Lake Camp special. He worked for camp for 15 years, showing the kind of dedication and loyalty that is typical of our key staff and provides for exceptional continuity of leadership. He built new buildings and established new programs in keeping with our commitment to be an innovator and to constantly improve. He served on numerous camping associations, fulfilling our historic role as a leader in the camping field. He trained young talent, and I was fortunate to be included, epitomizing camp's commitment to the professional development of its staff. And after he left Surprise Lake Camp, he continued to remain involved like so many of the wonderful alumni whose generosity and love for camp help make it strong.

But the thing that Jerry seems to be best remembered for by campers and staff is something he said every year during intermission at the All Camp Show. With the whole camp assembled, he would stand before us and ask, "How many of you have made a friend?" It is such a simple question, but so profound. For Jerry knew that as much as anything else, Surprise Lake Camp is about friendships. Sure the activities are great, and of course the site is blessed with incredible beauty. But the thing that stands out for so many of us is the wonderful friendships we have made.

I have watched many campers and staff get their first look at this calendar over the years, and the first thing they always do is turn the pages to find their friends. Whether they think about it or not, they know what Jerry knew. The friends we make at camp are a treasure like no other.

That is why so many of our campers and staff return year after year. And that why I have dedicated this year's calendar message to Jerry Mark, my friend.



What the message above didn't say is that Jerry Mark retired because he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a disease which, at the time, was considered a death sentence.

With the support of his amazing wife Marilyn and the rest of his family, and equipped with an unbelievably positive attitude, Jerry defied all the odds and lived another 25 years! But when his dialysis stopped working, and there were no other alternatives, he made the decision to end the struggle.

Jerry served as camp's Assistant Director, and then was its Executive Director for 11 years. During that time, camp built Mountainview and the Shmerler Building. Jerry left camp with a healthy endowment, which is one of the biggest reasons for camp's enduring success.

After he retired, he continued to support camp, most notably by mentoring a young and inexperienced new director—me. As time passed and I no longer needed to call him as much for help, we would still get together, and he would pepper me with questions, eager to soak up every new development in the SLC story. Invariably he would share pearls of wisdom. And he projected a profound sense of support for me and love for camp.

I was a better camp director and I am a better man because of Jerry. And generations of SLCers are better human beings and are living fuller lives because of his legacy.

Rest in peace, dear friend.

Thanks to, and memories with...Robin Krompfer

In honor of Robin's retiring from being the Treasurer of the Surprise Lake Camp Alumni Association (SLCAA) for 14 years, we would like to offer our thanks and appreciation. Her dedication and commitment to SLC knows no bounds, and while we wish her all the best with her next chapter, Camp will miss her dearly! Please enjoy some SLC shout-outs!

I was at the SLCAA meeting when she volunteered wholeheartedly to take over this position from her predecessor, Shelly Ossinoff. Robin was tasked with the job of modernizing the records and did so with flying colors. I know that the phrase "there is no place like home" captures the way she feels about camp, and although she is retiring from her position on the SLCAA Board, she will always be involved in some way with the place that truly is her home.

Robin has been a camper, office staff, counselor, and SLCAA Treasurer and these jobs have encompassed most of her life. We originally met as campers on teen side and formed a life-long BFF friendship.

This is what I wrote to Robin on the back of my high school graduation picture, which she still has: Anything that is sharable with a friend we will always be there to share it and love it together. There is no one else that I have found so many things in common with and I love you for this and for you. I hope your graduation is as perfect as you made mine.

That paragraph has held true for the 50 years we have been friends. Thank you, Surprise Lake Camp, for giving me Robin...as I could not imagine life without her.

-Barbara Zbar, long-time friend and alumna



Wow, what a legacy of service to SLC Robin leaves behind! Simply amazing!

-Jordan Dale, Former SLC E.D., alumnus and long-time friend

Robin's love and devotion for SLC is second to none. Her service to the AA as treasurer has been unparalleled. When I worked with her as SLCAA Treasurer and Board President, it was one of the best camp-related relationships that I had. Thank you for your service!

I am sure that Robin will continue to be involved in SLC as Blue & White is in her soul.

All the best.

-Mike Zbar, SLCAA President, alumnus and long-time friend

Robin and I started working together when I assumed the role of SLC Alumni Association President in May of 2006.

She had just taken over as Treasurer from her predecessor, Shelly Osinoff, and had already revamped and modernized the Association's entire accounting system and process.

For the next 14 years, Robin kept our books pristine. As our fundraising endeavors and membership grew, she managed us through our financial journey with wisdom and respect for the organization's

mission. I, we, the SLCAA, would have been lost without her guidance.

Robin's love for Surprise Lake Camp is unmatched. She will be dearly missed. I wish her nothing but the best on her next adventure and take great personal comfort in knowing she is only a phone call away for when SLC needs her again...

-Joe Goldberg, SLCAA President, alumnus and long-time friend

Robin, thank you for your love and devotion to the SLC Alumni Association. I think you became treasurer just as I retired from alumni president a long time ago. I know how hard you worked at our events over the years included selling clothes on some very hot visiting days. I wish you lots of luck and fun in Florida. I'll be seeing you there in a few years, save me a place on the beach!

-Howie Berk, alumnus and long-time friend

We go back a long way, all the way from being Joanie and Sharie's counselor. We will miss you as much as Surprise Lake Camp will. We Love you and wish you all the best.

- Harry Vogel and his Girls - Long-time staff and friend

People often ask me about the magic of SLC and where it comes from. That's easy, it comes from our families and our alumni and how much they do to support SLC in so many ways. Robin optimizes this commitment, care, and concern. Robin has done so much for SLC and the Alumni Association. Her investment will ensure that we will be strong for many generations to come - thank you Robin!

-Bradley Solmsen, SLC Executive Director

Thank you Robin for all of your time and energy over the years volunteering for Camp on the Alumni Board as treasurer as well as helping at so many events and always being a smiling face to greet shoppers seeking Camp swag on visiting day.

-Anne Zbar, alumna and long-time friend

So excited for you that your tremendous commitment, dedication, and love for Camp throughout the years is being recognized. We cannot think of anyone more deserving!!! Your volunteerism in the various Camp activities is amazing. We always picture you playing an active role in many alumni activities, which is a testament to your passion and giving.

Love and Mazel Tov!

-Nancy & Alan Hoffman, alumna and long-time friends

Robin's love for SLC was apparent, both in the happiness she glowed with all the years I remember her at Camp, and years after, as an alumna. She generously dedicated her time and her skill as SLCAA Treasurer. A special SLC woman!

See you for some fun times in Florida, Robin!

-Carol Seigel, Former SLC E.D., alumna and long-time friend

Robin's passion for Camp is exemplified by her unwavering support via time and expertise. Our "Ladies' Weekends" included lots of conversation about Camp plans and sustainability. Her commitment is inspiring!

-Vivian Blumenthal Elba, alumna and long-time friend

SLC has been a constant part of our mother's life since as early as we can remember. Some of our earliest memories and friends are associated with SLC. Camp has always offered our mother a sense of calm and joy and we know it will forever be her happy place. Congrats mom on a job well done. We love you!

-Lauren and Ben, Robin's children, alumni

How wonderful to pay tribute to Robin.

Robin is an amazingly generous person, giving her time and always being present for others.

I am so proud and fortunate to call her my friend.

With much love,

-Janice Kimmelman, alumna and long-time friend

I met Robin at SLC in the early 70s. SLC is a catalyst for close friendships that last decades and Robin is no exception. We have been close from the beginning.

Robin is someone you can comfortably confide in without being judged. Robin has a big heart and is loyal and trustworthy to her family and friends and of course SLC!

-Ralph Forgacs, alumnus and long-time friend

Robin is SLC! Thanks for all you have done, and will continue to do, for Camp.

Robin's been my friend since the late 60's. We were campers, kitchen staff and CIT's together.

We just recently got reunited along with Deb Bergen, Janice Kimmelman and Barbara Zbar.

We Zoom every weekend. It's been so wonderful. We have not seen each other for 45-50 years and here we are back again. It's like we were 15 again.. One of the girls said we were together at the most innocent time and here we are supporting each other in a pandemic.

I love Robin and these girls. They are my true sister's. I know because of my dear friend Robin we will continue to be in touch.

Love you Robin and our SLC girls XX

-Amy Schechter, alumna and long-time friend



SLC NEEDS YOUR LOVE AND SUPPORT!

The magic of camp is rooted in caring, courage, confidence, and community. Surprise Lake Camp is where generations of children have developed these vital qualities while enjoying magical summers and forging lifelong friendships.

SLC has been blessed with many special leaders since our founding in 1902. Joel “Whammy” Kaufman is one of those iconic figures who has changed, inspired, and improved the lives of thousands of children. Please take a few moments to read the following... Words of Wisdom from Whammy.

Loss of camper tuition in 2020 – our primary source of income – means that we must depend more than ever on the philanthropy of people who love Surprise Lake. Can we count on you to help us compensate for this difficult year AND set us up for an amazing 2021?

Global visionary, philanthropist and author Lynn Twist once said when talking about the soul of money, “Each financial choice you make is a powerful statement of who you are and what you care about.” She challenges us to “imbue your money with soul – your soul – and let it stand for who you are, your love, your heart, your words, and your humanity. When you let your money move to things that you care about, your life lights up. That’s really what money is for.”

We know SLC will come back stronger than ever with your support, assuring more of the life-changing summer experiences that generations of campers have treasured. The next time we nestle, swim in Lake Surprise, hike the glorious surrounding mountains, and sing and dance at the Eddie Cantor Theater, you will be right there with us – your arms linked with ours – because of your generous partnership.

If you have already made an annual donation, [please accept our heartfelt appreciation!](#) In this most challenging year, if you can stretch, please consider an additional gift to help SLC maximize the matching gift opportunity and prepare for summer 2021.

From our SLC Family to yours, THANK YOU for transforming lives!



Words of Wisdom from Whammy

My mother was a young widow, a mother of five, and somehow figured out how to get me and my four siblings to SLC in 1972. Though hesitant to leave my friends, the thing that caught my eye in the Camp brochure was, "Nestled in a valley surrounded by mountains." While I may have been somewhat apprehensive that first summer, I was excited to give SLC a try. And how fortunate for my mother that she was able to secure scholarships from SLC that enabled us to attend. Only later on did I find out that the generous scholarship program that got me to SLC has been one of Camp's founding principles since 1902, and without it, there would be no "Whammy!"

As you may know, for me, it was anything but one and done!

Camp started providing for me in the early 70's and has never stopped! It gave this quiet boy from Brooklyn much needed confidence to grow, mountains to hike, more friends than I can count and an extremely full life and heart. Like many SLC alums, I too met my spouse at Camp, my bride Karri who was an SLC counselor and supervisor. Skip a few years and Karri and I were able to share the magic of SLC with our four children. Like it did for us, it gave our children their best friends, provided fun, unforgettable summers and helped develop their Jewish identity.

Grateful for everything SLC has given us, and so many people we love, we support Camp each year to ensure that SLC is there for future generations. With this year being disrupted by the pandemic, we felt we had to stretch in 2020 and tripled our support, because Camp needs us more than ever!

I hope you share my appreciation for SLC, because Camp has been a second home for so many since 1902. However, it can only remain this special place with the ongoing generosity of the SLC extended family, which includes YOU. And with your help today, Camp will return stronger than ever in 2021.

Somewhere in Camp next summer, because of YOU, there will be a camper smiling while boating on Lake Surprise, or seated in the Eddie Cantor Theater, or even standing on Firetower, exclaiming... "This is incredible!" You can help make that happen with your financial support!

From our family to yours, THANK YOU!

Whammy & Karri, Sam, Max, Leora, and Aviva Kaufman

#SLCSTRONG





Donation Form

We are so grateful that you have chosen to partner with us in providing life-changing summer experiences for young people.

Use this form or give online at 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!

Dedicated to our 2019 Supporters

The following pages are dedicated to the many alumni and friends who supported Surprise Lake Camp in 2019. Camp is blessed to have so many special people who care about its mission and we are extremely grateful for your generosity.

What's the difference between an Annual Campaign and a Capital Campaign?

Annual Campaigns, such as the Annual Scholarship Drive and the Board Campaign, are designed to provide scholarships for current year campers. Capital Campaigns are conducted periodically to provide significant funds for major expenses such as the renovation and ongoing maintenance of the Main Building, Health Center or Lodges, as well as increase our scholarship endowment. The Annual Campaign helps us live, and the capital and endowment funds help us grow.

OUR 2019 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP DRIVE SUPPORTERS

The donors listed below made gifts between January 1 and December 31, 2019. This listing includes alumni and friends who made contributions to our Annual Scholarship Drive as well as member of the SLC Board of Directors who made gifts to the Annual Board Campaign, combined totaling over \$343,000!

We remain extraordinarily grateful to the SLC community for your continued love and generosity.

Full Summer at Camp: **\$10,000 and up**

SLC Alumni Association
Victor Barnett
Lee Kaplan
NM Morris Foundation
Judith & Michael Margulies
Roz & Jerry Meyer
Lisa & Adam Stulberger

One Session at Camp: **\$5,600 - \$9,999**

Marlene & Stanley Besen
Neil Diamond
Roberta & Peter Hirsch

Two Weeks at Camp: **\$2,800 - \$5,599**

Keith Cohen
David Fleischner
Andrea and Arthur Gruber
Barbara Hirsch
Stanley Josephson

Alan Kleiman
Amanda & Richard Lansky
Ruth Messinger
Stephanie & Anthony Montano
Morris A. Hazan Family Foundation
Suzanne & Steven Moses
Robin & Danny Muskin
David Perecman
Cindy Shmerler
Jenna & Bret Tenenhaus
Judy Weinberg

One Week at Camp: **\$1,400 - \$2,799**

Bob Altabet
Margery Arsham
David Berkowitz
Carolyn & John Canova
Suzanne Moskowitz & Jordan Dale
Bernard & Leslie Friedman
Michael Gargano
Amy Goldberg
Joe Goldberg
Brenda & Matthew Grosshandler
Michael Gurman
Bruce Haber
Harold Grinspoon Foundation
Dayle Henshel
Joy Henshel
Patti Henshel
Michael Herson
Nancy & Alan Hoffman
Andrew Kominik
Linda Markowitz
Shuying Wang & Paul Mermelstein

Melissa & Jeff Moskowitz
Roni & Jason Nadell
Ira Pianko
Anna & Carl Reisner
Patricia Gloria Ross Weiss
Ellen Sternberg
Susan & Matthew Tratner
Barbara & Mike Zbar

Four Days at Camp: **\$800 - \$1,399**

Tracie & Mark Basch
Evelyn & Nick Beilenson
Emily & Jeff Berk
Howie Berk
Elly Cohen
Gayle Doyle
Ira Goldfarb
Stephen Gordon
Chuck Jainchill
Mel Kalichman
Tom Karger
The Rosalie Katz Family Foundation
Ele Klein
Simone & Joseph Kleinert
Fredda & Michael Klopfer
Mark Levine
Allison Olinksy
Jessica Pollner
Stuart Rachlin
Gloria & Martin Rubin
Bruce Rubinger
Robin & Laurence Rubinstein
Carol & Larry Seigel
Eliot Senor
Sobel Affiliates
Josh & Sheri Sussman
Michael Witman

Anne & Joel Zbar

Two Days at Camp: **\$400 - \$799**

Susan & Stanley Alintoff
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Swim-a-thon

Thank you to the 11 swimmers below and the 230 donors, who helped raise over \$13,000 for scholarship endowment.

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From all of us at Camp,

THANK YOU to our everyday ESSENTIAL WORKERS, including SLC Alumni!

Our world needs you and we appreciate you!

Have you ever thought about making a Planned Gift

BUT – Thought it was only for the ultra-wealthy?

Thought you were too young, or even too old?

Didn't know where to start?

by Jim Meyer, Board Member and alumnus

Several years ago, I was asked to do a video for UJA-Federation about my Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) to benefit SLC. The relationship between SLC and UJA-Federation is a long and trusted one and I was happy to help this most valued partner of SLC. You can find a link to the short video below.

The CGA is a life income gift meaning simply that my wife and/or I receive income each year and upon the death of my wife and me the remaindermen in the account is given to SLC. As you might expect and desire, there are tax benefits to the program – there is some **tax free income**, it qualifies as a **legacy gift** for the [SLC 1902 Society](#), there can be a **tax deduction** for the funds used to establish the CGA, there are **no upfront capital gains taxes** if you use appreciated stock held for over one year, and most interestingly the **rates paid are usually higher** than any commercial rates without taking risk.

Now is the time to think about a Planned Gift, which includes the CGA, as they can be valuable tools for everyone!

- It is not a technique for only the ultra-wealthy
- You may develop a Planned Gift at any age
- You have all the help you need to get started right here at SLC

In addition to CGA's, there is a wide variety of gifts that might meet your needs. The simplest is to just leave funds from your estate by will or trust, which qualifies you for the [1902 Society](#). You may leave a fixed amount, all, or a percentage of your estate – and the gift does not have to be funded while you are alive, plus you can change your mind. Similarly, you may leave funds from your retirement plan – and again it may be a percentage of your retirement plan, a fixed amount or all if you do not need it.

For a brief video introduction to Planned Giving, which includes how Surprise Lake Camp benefits from being a UJA-Federation agency with a dedicated Planned Giving and Endowments department that can help you in your gift planning, please click [here](#) for the two minute video. For more information, please contact Jim Meyer (Surprise Lake Camp Board Member and Alum) at (516) 993-4364 or David Rosner (SLC Development Director) at (845) 265-3616.

Fun Jim Meyer Story

Each summer, the SLC Board of Directors holds a meeting at Camp, after which they interact with campers, and enjoy watching and participating in programs. While dining with campers on mainside, Jim proceeded to teach campers to play the Cat's Cradle string game.

Weeks later, during a camper Bar Mitzvah at the Eddie Cantor Theater, the same group came running over to Jim, and his wife Roberta, to show Jim they had mastered the technique! If you ever come across Jim at Camp, say hi and ask him to tell you a story...he has tons of them!

Interesting fact about Jim: He was a camper with Neil Diamond!



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!

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List current as of November, 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.

Why I Joined the 1902 Society

by Irwin Karp, Alumnus

Surprise Lake Camp introduced me to the outdoors. I grew up in Brooklyn on a street with few trees, where the view from my bedroom window was of another apartment house across the alley. Outdoors at that time was Prospect Park.

My parents stretched their budget to send me to Surprise Lake Camp in the mid-1950s when I was about 9 years old. This opened my eyes to a whole new world of hiking, camping and outdoors skills. It changed my life. My memory fades a bit on the exact number of years, but I recall that I was a camper for maybe four summers and then a counselor for two or three when I was in college. I used to tell friends that my summers at camp were the best of my life. SLC was knocked from that top spot by an 18-day private raft trip on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. But hey, second place, where it still remains after all these years is still pretty amazing given the competition.

Why so important? They were formative years, and I can trace a direct line from my early days as a camper to a lifelong love of the outdoors (including camping, hiking and whitewater rafting on rivers around the western US). I will be forever grateful to SLC for my introduction to the beauty of nature and my love for the outdoors. I've been a member of the Alumni Association for a while and read about the 1902 Society, but that was about it. Having lived in California for nearly 50 years, I only had the opportunity to return once (about 30 years ago) when a friend's daughter was a camper and they asked me to join them on a parental visiting day. I jumped at the opportunity and it was great to wander the camp. All my wonderful experiences as both a camper and counselor came flooding back as I wandered the road past the Eddie Cantor playhouse from one side of camp to the other.

I've often thought about the beauty of everyone dressed in white walking down from their cabins for Erev Shabbat dinner. Departing from the spiritual memories, I learned to folk dance with Moshiko from Inbal at the Eddie Cantor playhouse. I experienced swimming, lifesaving, camping, moonlight hikes and hatchet skills (which needed some improvement), and even made a lanyard or two. Still not sure why that was ever a thing.

This past summer, while trolling around the SLC website, I came across the video of the virtual alumni event held at camp. Once again memories came flooding back and I called David Rosner to inquire about committing to the 1902 Society in my estate plan. We shared stories, especially of my time as a counselor, and a number of those can't really be repeated in the Re-Echoes.

I attended SLC in a more rustic time. The bunks were pretty basic, the camping equipment was army surplus, and I remember spending summers in the tent cabins with the wooden floors and heavy roll up canvas flaps. There was no swimming pool, ropes course, zip line or full-sized gym. It's great to see all the improvements made at camp keep up with the times.

I made a commitment to include SLC in my estate plan so other city kids can continue to be introduced to the life-changing joys of nature and the outdoors, and enjoy magical, memorable summers regardless of their ability to pay. I hope you will join me.





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)

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bequest in a Will | <input type="checkbox"/> Charitable Gift Annuity | <input type="checkbox"/> Retirement Plan/IRA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Insurance Policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Charitable Lead Trust | <input type="checkbox"/> Charitable Remainder Trust |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | |

(Optional)

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

Attorney/Trustee Name & Contact information: _____

Custodian Name & contact information: _____

☐ **Preferred name(s) for display/publication OR write Anonymous:**

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.

Full Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

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

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: () _____ Email Address: _____

Signature: _____ Date _____

Spouse's Signature (where applicable): _____ Date _____

Please complete and return this form to:

Surprise Lake Camp, 382 Lake Surprise Road, Cold Spring, NY 10516
Phone: (845) 265-3616 - Fax: 646-582-0138 - Email: david@surpriselake.org

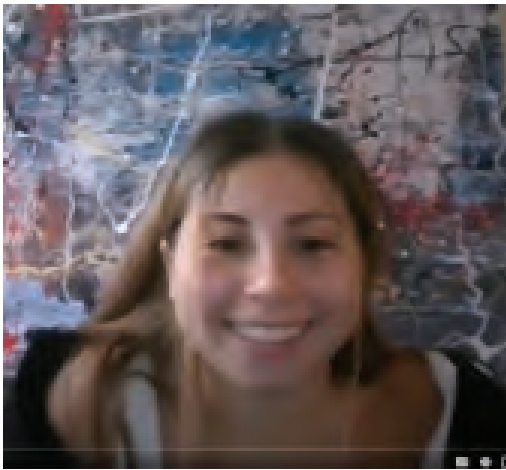
SLC Generations

A virtual chat between Avery David and Sheryl Kirschenbaum

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 Generations which featured SLC Director Sheryl Kirschenbaum and 8-year camper Avery David.

Avery: Sheryl, what is a life lesson you have taken away from Camp?

Sheryl: I never got the opportunity to go to sleepaway camp as a child, but a life lesson I got from being a camper at the Sam Field Y is that you can do anything you want to and that you should try lots of things. I found this connection to being Jewish and the Jewish Community, and Camp saved my life, so another lesson is that you can sell what you can buy and I bought into camp wholeheartedly, as it made me who I am today.



Sheryl: Avery, what is your favorite place in Camp?

A: Definity the Eddie Cantor Theater. I just feel like it brings everyone together and so many good things happen there, including celebrating Shabbat.

A: What celebrity would you want to send to Camp or bring for a tour?

S: It's a toss-up between Brad Pitt, Robert Downey Jr. or Bruce Springsteen, but I'll say Bruce. I'd take him to your favorite place, and I would like to get on stage and perform something. It would be perfect if it was just for me, but even better if he would perform a benefit concert for all of Camp. That would be incredible!

A: Follow up question...what song would you want to hear?

S: If he sang just to me, Growing Up, because it defines my life. But if for everyone, which is more likely, I'd want him to do a song everyone knew, so probably Born to Run or Thunder Road.

S: What is a life lesson you've learned at Camp?

A: To treat everyone with kindness. At Camp, you meet so many different people from so many different backgrounds, and everyone deserves kindness. Even if they are not the same as you, you should treat everyone nicely.

A: What is your favorite part of the summer?

S: Arrival Day! I love when the pre-campers start to arrive, right before orientation, and we go from 4 people, to 12 people, to 25 people, to 260 people and then the morning the campers arrive, I stand in the dining room and we give

this little pep talk about people coming from all over, and then the big moment....the buses pull in! Arrival day is such a special time when we get to make that critical first impression and meaningful first connection. The joy when they see their friends is the most incredible experience there is! It makes all the work that our team puts into planning the summer worth it!

S: What is your favorite part of the summer?

A: Arrival day, definitely. Seeing your friends for the first time in a year, moving into your bunks, having orientations, it's such a great way to start the summer!

A & Wendy (Avery's mom): What is the most peaceful place for you at Camp?

S: I like to sit in front of C House looking out onto the Lake, which is very relaxing, and when Harry sees when I'm having a down moment, he says, like no one else does, "Hey Kid," and we get in his jeep and go to the Dam at Foundry Road, and watch the water and reconnect with nature before after returning to Camp. The water makes all the difference and I'm sad if we get to the dam and no water is flowing.

Q. from Bradley: As an 8-week camper, when visiting day arrives, what do you most want, knowing your parents are coming and bringing you lunch, and so much more?

A: Well I always like my Starbucks, or my Dunkin', but steak, sushi, and fried chicken...all together, as we're feasting. I enjoyed it more though when I was on Mainside when we couldn't have food, so I had them bring so much more.

B: So Sheryl, what do you look forward to?

S: Well I love when parents bring me Gatorade and coffee in the morning though Whammy gets more than anyone else, but he shares of course! I love walking around on Lakeside, saying hello to everyone. I usually regret all the eating by the end of the day because I eat with families, but also like to eat with the staff who don't have any visitors. I probably lost a couple of pounds when we went from two visiting days to one!

B: What are you both looking forward to for Summer 2021?

S: I am counting the days! Everyone should know how hard the staff is working to make it incredible. I cannot wait for arrival day. I want to see people running to each other. I want to hug people. I want to be at Camp with everyone! So everyone stay safe and careful so we can make it happen!

A: I want that feeling of being around the people I love and having them back in my life. I don't like being home all year round. I love the sense of security at Camp and not worrying about anything!

Click [here](#) to see and hear the whole interview, including Avery's answer to the question "What job, if you could be anything, would you want at Camp?" and for Sheryl, "What all-camp event is your favorite?" And find out if they each prefer the Lake or the Pool...and they don't give the same answer!

"L'dor V'dor" **Passing on SLC traditions** **from Generation to Generation**

FAMILY HIKE DAY 2020

By Barbara Zbar & Dave Rosner



What can a family do right now that is safe, active, outdoors and adventurous? The Surprise Lake Camp Alumni Association, with the assistance of Camp staff, made a thoughtful decision to proceed with the 2020 Family Hike Day, not fully realizing just how many people would be interested. Well, it turns out a lot of people were craving not just the chance to get out safely, but the desire to be in Camp and the surrounding mountains hiking with friends and family! While observing pandemic protocols, we managed a way to offer six different hike sessions with limited capacity and staggered times. On October 18, 119 hikers came to Camp and collectively raised \$3,250, to assist Camp recover from the current financial crisis caused by the pandemic and help ready SLC for a tremendous return in summer 2021!

The staggered starts, separate meeting places, and the absence of the usual energetic dining room breakfast were certainly disappointing, however, fair sacrifices to make to be able to visit Camp, participate in the hikes and raise urgently needed funds!

It was a fantastic day! Fall foliage was in peak season, every step along the way painted uniquely stunning views of colorful leaves and hills, the sun peeking out through the trees onto the trails, and of course, many different views of beautiful Lake Surprise, nestled so majestically in the valley.

On behalf of all our participants, we want to thank our hike leaders, who volunteered their time and talents to guide everyone to, and most importantly back from their respective destinations. This day could not have happened if it were not for the following people:

- Joel “Whammy” Kaufman who led our 10 a.m. hike to Breakneck Overlook, with bonus locations including Hudson Overlook and Baldspot! This extended 4.5 hour hike treated hikers to words of wisdom and history from Whammy. This was an abbreviated version of one of the country’s most popular peaks.
- Ranger Barry Vegter led the 10 a.m. Firetower hike. The Mt. Beacon Firetower was restored in 2013 and has a range of view of approximate 75 Miles in clear weather, including seeing the NYC skyline! It has been a treasured hiking destination for SLC’ers for years.



- Jeff Berk led the 10 a.m. hike to Cornish, accompanied by many of his family and friends. This hauntingly beautiful collection of ruins of the Cornish Estate has been a popular hike for campers and staff, with many different accounts of the “true” story of the (debatably haunted) grounds.
- Gayle Hoffman Doyle and Seth Stein led a second 11:30 a.m. Cornish hike as the first one filled up so quickly!
- Mike Tenenhaus led the 10 a.m. Bull Hill hike, joined in part by his family and friends. Bull Hill is a good old-fashioned climb with several fantastic views and points of interest along the way.
- Murray Lantner and Brad Tarrash led the 11:30 a.m. Breakneck Overlook hike, by way of Hudson Overlook, saying they felt refreshed and cozy in the woods surrounding Camp.
- Special thanks to Missy Vogel for welcoming and admitting attendees.

Thank you to Bradley and all the staff behind the scenes for organizing this annual event in such trying times. One last shout out to those volunteers who played a key role serving as backups for each group, trailing at the end of the hike line, watching the gaps and making sure no one got left behind!



A day in the mountains where everyone gets home safe, where all were able to hit the summit, and the day ends in smiles all around is a blessing.

We leave every Camp event feeling such an overwhelming warmth, appreciation and gratitude for the SLC community. This event was no exception. Thank you again for your donations, climbs and blisters. We had a fantastic time and hope you all did too!

Until next time!







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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 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!

The SLC Community Corner!

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