

RE-ECHOES

The official newsletter of the Surprise Lake Camp community

Winter 2021



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SURPRISE LAKE CAMP

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Surprise Lake Camp 382 Lake Surprise Road Cold Spring, NY 10516 (845) 265-3616 alumni@surpriselake.org

Please email your newsletter submissions or notify us of any errors: alumni@surpriselake.org 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 <u>alumni@surpriselake.org</u> 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 <u>www.surpriselake.org/donate</u> at any time to make a Tribute gift.

Alumni Association Survey

At SLC, we are currently working to reconnect generations of alumni with Camp. Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey and help us strengthen our community. Let us know about your history with Camp and in what ways you would be most interested in reconnecting with SLC and your fellow alumni.

We always strive to continue to do a better job connecting alumni with not just Camp, but each other, providing an outlet to network...not just socially, but also to connect for business purposes. Think of us as LinkedIn for SLC alumni and that can only happen with your assistance.

Thank you again for completing this survey; SLC would not be the historic and magical place it is without our SLC Alumni Family and your support. Upon completing the survey, with our appreciation, you will receive a \$10 coupon for use with the SLC/AA online store.

Click here to complete survey.

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 <u>alumni@surpriselake.org</u> 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



Huxley Marcus. born to Joshua Marcus, on August 15. 2020



Lexie Rose Neuwirth, born to Macelle Neuwirth. on March 3

ditzvahs



Jesse Papernick and the entire Rubinstein Family. on his March 6 Bar Mitzvah



Sydney Ambrose and the entire Ambrose Family. on her March 13 Bat Mitzvah

Weddings, etc



Jenn (Davis) Nabholz and Henry Nabholz on their December 4 weddina



Emily Palmiotto and Neal Gowdy on their engagement



Zach Jacobs and Erica Schroen on their engagement



Yvonne Vuzzo and Ben Strom on their February 21 wedding



Brad Tarrash and Michelle Wu on their engagement



Elaine & Paul Suchow, who celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary, by being part of a Guinness Book of World Records yow renewal event on Today with Hoda & Jenna

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

The Benton Family, on the passing of Molly Benton, widow of former winter camper, Pat Benton

The Grosshandler Family on the passing of Hal Grosshandler, loving father of Matt, Alyson, Dave & Adam

The family of alum, Larry King, on his passing

Marie Landi, John Landi and family on the passing of Ronald Landi

Ted Liebowitz and family on the passing of patriarch Joseph Liebowitz

Roz & Jerry Meyer and family on the passing of Roz's mother. Irma Milstein

Heather & Jay Simon, Gail & Dan Rosner, and their families, on the passing of their father, Jacob Wexler

Robert Stein, Adam Stein, Seth Stein and family on the passing on Francine Stein

Julie Ann White, Ethan White and family on the passing of alumus, Jason White

Executive Director's Message Camp and Belonging

Jerry Meyer and Bradley Solmsen

As leaders of a Jewish summer camp, we hear every day about the wide range of anxieties, anticipation and questions that parents and prospective campers are confronting about the upcoming camp season. Parents are weighing how they can best support their children and whether camp is a safe and feasible option this year.

Camp embodies so much of what our children have missed out on over the past year- the kinds of social and developmental experiences that are fundamental to their long-term growth and well-being. With lockdowns, virtual schooling and social isolation leading to reduced emotional and intellectual growth, depression - and worse among our nation's youth, getting our children into the camp environment will be a powerful, readily

Main Bulling

Main Bulling

Contract of

accessible option to ensuring that they stay on track for bright futures.

The benefits of camp are vast and can ultimately be summed up in one word: *belonging*. It can happen instantaneously. A friendly and caring young-adult counselor approaches your child as they step out of their car or off the bus and welcomes them to camp. Even though that child may be anxious, they experience an immediate reduction of stress, comfort in that first interaction, and an immediate sense of belonging.

Camp builds on this initial belonging as campers become part of a group, living together in a cabin. They integrate into the larger camp ecosystem, try new things, take risks, make mistakes, and gain independence and self-confidence. Campers also learn to value getting along with others who are different from themselves. They learn to communicate

what is important to them and define and clarify their values through exploring a shared identity.

We know from research on child development – and our own experience – that time at camp provides young people with key developmental opportunities hard to find in other settings, especially during these times. Belonging to a bunk at camp is a fundamentally different experience from remote learning or Zoom sports practices. The powerful social immersion of attending a residential summer camp, living with peers, building friendships and social skills without parents, helps develop resiliency and confidence. These are essential for emotional growth and acquiring the skills needed to master life experiences, away from a screen through direct in person interactions.

At Surprise Lake Camp, we see, feel, and hear this belonging even more strongly through our shared Jewish identity and experiences. Whether through the Torah's descriptions of the shared interactions of the twelve tribes of Israel or the value of coming together to pray as a community, Judaism emphasizes belonging.





Each week at our song-filled Shabbat services, campers have a repeated, deepening sense that they are a part of something bigger than themselves. By leading services alongside our counselors, singing songs and sharing their take on spirituality or the weekly Torah portion, campers acquire a sense of tradition, safety, purpose, stability and joy.

We see that these positive, confidence-building experiences have lingering effects, as campers draw on the strength and security of belonging to a group to venture out on a challenging hike, jump from a height into the lake or take on the high ropes course.

Every family will make their own decision about whether to send their children to camp. Camps all across the country have learned from our colleagues who operated safely during the summer of 2020, as well as from how schools with in-person learning have operated throughout this year. This summer at Surprise Lake Camp, we will be implementing a number of health and safety strategies to simultaneously ensure the safety of our children while providing them with all of the hallmarks of a camp experience. We are working closely with a pediatrician with more than 20 years of experience as a camp doctor to develop our pre-camp and full-summer COVID procedures to keep our campers and staff as safe as possible.

For more than a year now, our world has been fragmented in so many ways. All of us in the world of Jewish camping are looking forward to returning to our second homes this coming summer, welcoming our campers and counselors, and once again feeling that all-important sense of belonging.

Jerry Meyer, MD, a former staff member of Surprise Lake Camp, is a psychiatrist and a current board member of Surprise Lake Camp.

Bradley Solmsen, a Jewish educator and life-long camp person, serves as Surprise Lake Camp's Executive Director.



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

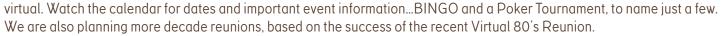
Hello SLC Alumni!

Well, it is now officially official. SLC will be back and open for the Summer of '21!

The staff is working exceptionally hard to create a wonderful program for our children. After missing out on all things camp last summer, there will once again be swimming in the lake and pool, arts and crafts, softball and all the rest of the wonderful activities that make camp, camp. Even though SLC will function under numerous sanctioned protocols, the campers and staff will still experience all the fun and "SLC'ness" that we have come to love. If any of our alumni families or their friends are still considering SLC for your children this summer, I suggest you call and speak with someone in the office about registration soon as spots are filling up!

Even though SLC will open, visitors will not be able to come to camp. As such, our annual Alumni Day will again be virtual. If you participated last summer, you know that this was a lot of fun nonetheless! Details will follow as we approach the summer.

The same holds true for the other Alumni Association sponsored events. Until we are allowed to meet safely, our fundraisers and events will remain



Summer program or not, SLC always needs your support. Are you a member of the <u>Alumni Association</u>? Membership does have its benefits!! Have you shopped at the <u>SLC Alumni Store</u>? We have a tremendous catalogue of awesome camp clothing and gear. All the proceeds go back to SLC! Have you considered a contribution to the <u>Annual Scholarship Fund</u>? SLC is participating in the 2021 Harold Grinspoon Foundation's All Together Now matching program, so every \$2 you donate gets matched \$1 from the Foundation!! That means your (restricted or unrestricted) gift is worth 50% more!

These are trying times for everyone. Surprise Lake Camp and its staff are doing everything they can to bring some normalcy to our camp family. Opening camp this summer is a huge step in that direction.

Thank you to all of you who have helped us do just that. Your participation in our events, as well as your financial support, have kept us going.

As always, I wish you all to be well and hopefully, sometime in the not too far off future, I will once again see you all at SLC!

Joe Goldberg President, SLCAA

Member, SLC Board of Directors

goldnglich@aol.com





After a summer without Camp, we can't wait to welcome camper's new and returning back home on July 1st!

We are offering four amazing options for families to choose from:

Mini Camp July 1st - July 11th

(for first-time campers who have completed 1st - 4th grade)

First Session:

Full Summer:

Get Your Feet Wet:

July 1st - July 25th

July 1st - August 22nd

August 25th - August 29th

(our five-day taste of Camp experience for first time campers who have completed kindergarten -4th grade)

Several of our units are already full for this summer. Please be in touch soon to talk about Camp for this summer.

We took the extra time we had over the past year to do a few major updates to important parts of Camp including:

- The Mainside Dining Room
- Mountainview Camper Cabins
- Journey's Way

- Boulder Hill and
- The Teen Health Center.

We are looking forward to some of our favorite camp activities such as Olympics, Carnival, SING, overnights, cookouts and so much more.

Throughout the spring we will be offering both in-person tours of Camp as well as Zoom meetings to answer any questions you may have and walk you through what a day at Camp looks like.

If you know anyone who may be interested in Camp, please have them reach out to Jenn Ambrose at <u>jenn@surpriselake.org</u> or 845-265-3616 with any questions regarding registration and enrollment.



WELCOME HOME to Surprise Lake Camp!

To alumni, SLC is a place you will always call home. And our community represents an extraordinary family because of the alumni who attended Camp over so many decades. Members of the historic Alumni Association, led by the AA Board of Directors, sustain the SLC spirit in so many ways, year after year. Alumni Day is always a highlight of the year, with hundreds of former campers and staff, and their families, spending a fun day in Camp. There are a plethora of events throughout the year which provide entertainment and bring lifelong friends together, while raising much-needed funds for Camp. We offer volunteer days, produce Re-Echoes, manage the Alumni Store, maintain our Camp museum, act as ambassadors sharing our enthusiasm with prospective families, and so much more! Some of our annual events may be on hold or conducted virtually for the time being and we look forward to when we can come together again as an SLC family.

Consider Becoming a Member!

The Surprise Lake Camp Alumni Association is very active and currently has over 500 members. The mission of the Association is to raise funds for scholarships, enrich & expand programing while continuing to strengthen the long-lasting relationship with our alumni. And with our return to Camp in 2021, your support this year is more critical than ever!

Think what was lost with no Camp in 2020...playing in the rain, side conversations during services, sharing stories with bunkmates, first kisses, and so much more! Your support will help ensure those memories continue to be made for any child who seeks a magical summer at SLC!

Current dues are \$36 per year or \$250 for a lifetime membership. As a member, you will receive a membership card, a 10% discount at the <u>Alumni Store</u>, and a discount to most alumni events. To join or renew, please visit https://surpriselake.org/donate and scroll down to Alumni Dues. If you prefer to print and mail a form, please click here. And the Alumni Association Board of Directors offer leadership opportunities to allow YOU to make a hands-on difference by donating your time, expertise and skills to our mission.

Thank you again for your continued support and hope to see you in Camp soon!

Alumni Poem – from 1969 Re-Echoes, author unknown
Are you an active member – the kind that would be missed
Or are you just contented that your name in on the list?
Do you attend the meetings, and mingle with the flock?
Or do you just stay home and criticize and knock?
Do you take an active part to help the work along?
Or are you satisfied to be the kind that just belongs?
Do you ever voluntarily help at the guiding stick,
Or leave the work to just a few and talk about the clique?
Come out to the meetings, and help with hand and heart,
Don't just be a member, but take an active part,
Think this over, member, you know right from wrong,
Are you an active member, or do you just belong?

Women Working on Mars - Why Camp is Kvelling!

We are so proud of SLC alumna Mallory Lefland and want to share some exciting news. Mallory is a system engineer on the Mars 2020 Perseverance Rover Project. On February 18, 2021, Mallory, one of the people in charge of the \$2.7 billion Perseverance rover project, was blessed to be a critical part of the mission's team for entry, descent and landing of the rover's seven-month, 300 million-mile journey to Mars.





We imagine many of you read the news stories and watched video content of this historic event unfold across the media. We hope you share our pride that a member of the SLC family was part of this enormous scientific accomplishment!

Please check out this <u>story</u> which discusses her role and the specific challenges of this mission being conducted during a global pandemic.

Additionally, we invite you to read Mallory's own article, "Becoming Friends with a Mars Rover," which speaks more about her specific experience over the years.

For all who may be interested in a career in aerospace engineering, look no further for a great role model... click <u>here</u> to see and hear from Mallory herself! Mallory encourages girls to pursue math and science and would love to see more women working in her field because they bring a much-needed perspective to the workplace. In the video, she shares more about her story, her career, and her advice.



For those that did not know Mallory from her time at SLC, Mallory was an SLC camper from 1998 to 2005, and staff from 2006 through 2008. Some of her fondest memories occurred while being 16-year-old staffer in the summer of 2006, and living in G6 with Alex, Catey and Hilary. She recalls it as two months spent laughing and growing up with two of her best friends! She also

remembers all of the shenanigans her and her friends were up to during Work Program in 2005.

Additionally, Mallory graduated from Georgia Institute of Technology with a B.S. in aerospace engineering. She started working at NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory soon after, becoming a member of the Curiosity rover engineering operations teams. Since 2014, she has worked on the Mars 2020 mission. She focused on cross-cutting areas like thermal, sequencing, and data management before joining the EDL team.



Ruth Messinger Queen of the Beacon NY Garbage Dump by David Rosner, SLC Development Director

At a recent meeting of the SLC Board of Directors, via Zoom of course, I thought I heard director Ruth Messinger mention something about being The Queen of the Beacon NY Garbage Dump. I quickly jotted that down, finding it an amusing and intriguing statement, something I wanted to learn more about.

We are blessed to have Ruth Messinger, former Manhattan Borough President, among our esteemed group of board members. Ruth, while not an alumna herself, comes from a long line of SLC board members and supporters. Ruth's grandfather, I. Edwin Goldwasser, was part of the group from the YMHA that walked the land and recommended its purchase for a winter/summer camp, later becoming the first chair of the SLC board. Her mother, Marjorie G. Wyler, subsequently joined the board and then became its first woman chair (the library in the main building was rededicated in her honor). Two of Ruth's children, Miriam and Adam, attended the camp as did one of her grandchildren, Amani Hayes-Messinger. Miriam briefly served on the board.

Ruth's activism started as a child, and she has been non-stop ever since. She once said, "I feel like I've been an activist my whole life. I was raised to care about social justice and to believe that problems existed, that change was possible and that we all had to do our part to help heal the world. My parents suggested that it was a fundamental Jewish obligation—and our main purpose for being on this earth."



Ruth herself has a most impressive resume, with a 20-year career in public service in New York City as a City Council member and Manhattan Borough President. She served as President of American Jewish World Service (AJWS) from 1998 to July of 2016 and is currently the organization's inaugural Global Ambassador. There's much more to learn about her fascinating career, but back to the topic at hand.

I recently reached out to Ruth to find out the back story on how she was dubbed the Queen of the Beacon NY Garbage Dump.

I learned that in 1955, Ruth began to grow her leadership and public service skills, at what was called the University Settlement House Work Camp. University Settlement House is a long-standing organization which provides educational and social services to immigrants and low-income families located on the Lower East Side of Manhattan

One of the most important gifts received by the University Settlement House in its earliest days was the donation of 100 acres of property at the foot of Mount Beacon. In 1902 the Settlement established its residential camp, which, much like Surprise Lake Camp, became a haven for generations of NYC children, where thousands had a brief respite from urban life and experienced nature for the first time. (The Camp was sold in 2007, when supporting it became untenable.) Part

of the camp's philosophy, again much like that of SLC, was to spread a message of tolerance, hope and community building.

The corps of workcampers that Ruth applied to and was accepted by in 1955 helped camp staff in the decades after World War II to participate in needed and valuable community service. (continues on next page) These work campers, 14- and 15-year-olds from New York City public and private high schools, were pushed to work hard, engaging in demanding activities such as painting three story structures and various construction jobs, doing the actual manual labor that allowed the camp to hire fewer people. According to Ruth, while being extremely strenuous, it was fun, and she loved it!

One job however was less glamorous. There was one camp truck driver who collected the daily garbage, loaded the truck each day and drove to the dump to unload the pounds of camp trash. The girls of the work camp protested, and actually lobbied the administration, believing this one assignment not appropriate for females; they thought it was too messy and should be reserved for the boys.

This was irritating to the camp's administration and even more so to the truck driver, whose pool of potential "helpers" now dropped by roughly 50%.

Can you see where this is going? If you know Ruth at all, you do!

Ruth was the only female to step up and volunteer to help the truck driver with the daily load of messy, leaking garbage bags and assist in daily runs to the dump. Not long after, she became well-known for this work since, without the usual rotation of tasks, she was the only girl and did the garbage run most days. Hence, she became known as the Queen of the Beacon NY Garbage Dump!

At Surprise Lake Camp, we take great pride in developing all kinds of essential life skills in our campers, including helping them with their own character development, learning to be of service to others, and acquiring leadership skills. Although Ruth herself did not attend SLC, we are very proud of her beginnings, her professional career, and all that she has done and continues to do, for Camp, our Camp community, and future generations of SLCers. Here's to the Queen of the Beacon NY Garage Dump!

To read more about Ruth's life and accomplishments, please visit https://ajws.org/stories/ruth-messingers-story/

DID YOU KNOW?



Did you know, back in the day, campers arrived by train at a station near Cold Spring and walked three and a half miles to Camp? Together with staff, the young boys carried with them much of the equipment needed for their camp experience. This picture is arrival day from the summer of 1929.

(This "Did You Know?" moment brought to you by 1902 Society member and alumnus Gary Spielvogel)

As Always, YOU Make a Difference at SLC NEW Matching Grant Now Available!

Last year, the COVID pandemic left so many without a summer SLC experience – which includes, among other things, fun and friendship, personal growth, and joyful Judaism, in a sacred setting.

Thanks to our amazing Camp community, who value SLC's role in the lives of our families, we were able to make it through the financial impact of 2020 and are hard at work planning an amazing summer of 2021! However, that planning includes meeting evolving COVID requirements to maintain our traditional Camp experience.

A couple of things we already know about Summer 2021:

- Families <u>need</u> camp this summer and are enthusiastic about our opening.
- Young people want to work at camp.
- Our world needs young people to have camp experiences to <u>lift them up and move them forward</u> after such a trying year.

What we also know:

- We must make significant new investments to meet COVID-related health requirements. These include new
 and retrofitted facilities and equipment as well as staffing, testing, and supplies to ensure the safety of every
 camper and staff member.
- Public health standards require us to plan for a reduction in the number of campers allowed.
- The families we are able to accommodate will need increased financial aid.

One more thing we know:

• <u>SLC needs YOU right now</u> to be sure we will have the resources we need, to deliver the extraordinary experiences of a lifetime that our families have always appreciated from SLC.

So for now, we need generous **friends like YOU** to ensure that SLC will have the necessary financial resources to meet the extraordinary demands for Summer 2021. Philanthropic support from the people who deeply value SLC remains essential in the wake of 2020. The increase in expenses noted above means that we must continue to depend on the generosity of people who love Camp and value our future. <u>People like YOU!</u>

Some Good News: A 50% Boost to Your Gift!

We are heartened that the Harold Grinspoon Foundation (HGF) has once again offered to invest in Surprise Lake Camp to help make 2021 a successful summer. To inspire you to act now, HGF is offering the 2021 All Together Now Matching Grant. HGF will add \$1 for every \$2 that you donate to Camp! AND, if we hit our match goal by July 1 when Camp begins, we get a \$10,000 bonus!

To contribute today, please visit <u>www.surpriselake.org/donate</u>, mail a <u>donation form</u> to Camp or call 845-265-3616. **THANK YOU!**

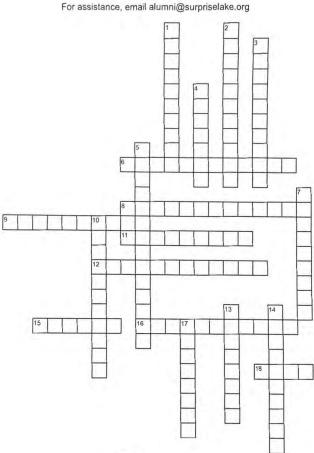


When you join SLC's monthly giving program and become a recurring donor, you will join a special group of donors who make a standing commitment to Camp's mission, enabling every child the opportunity to attend SLC, regardless of their family's financial status. You play a vital role in ensuring that we are there for a family in need at a moment's notice and that we ensure Camp's immediate needs are met. Please call David @845-265-3616 or email david@surpriselake.org to find out more.

Fast Fact:

Donating 60 Cents per day or \$18 per month sponsors a child in camp for one day this summer!

SLC Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 6 ALUM WHO PLAYED GEORGE CONSTANZA'S FATHER
- 8 AREA OF NYC WHERE SLC'S 1ST CAMPERS CAME FROM
- 9 THE SONG THAT CONCLUDES SLC PROGRAMS
 11 SLC'S MOST CHALLENGING HIKE
- 12 OFFICAL NAME OF CAMP ROAD
- 15 AKA JOEL KAUFMAN
- 16 THEATER NAME OR OUR 1ST ALUMNI CELEBRITY ENTERTAINER
- 18 SINGER OR ISRAELI DODGEBALL

Down

- 1 FOLK SINGER WHO LIVED NEAR CAMP AND ENTERTAINED GENERATIONS OF SLC'ERS
- 2 A MAINSTAY OF THE SLC MISSION SINCE 1902
- 3 BUILDING ON MS WATERFRONT ERECTED IN 1971
- 4 NAME OF ESTATE/RUINS NEAR CAMP
- 5 SLC PROGRAM FOR YOUNGEST CAMPERS
- 7 NAME OF SLC HEAD CARETAKER OR FAMOUS TAP DANCER
- 10 ALUM WHO SINGS SWEET CAROLINE
- 13 REST TIME OR PAUSE IN HEBREW
- 14 SLC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FROM 1986-2016
- 17 ALL-CAMP SHOW TREAT







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 surp	riselake.org/donate
Your Name	Name(s) as yo	ou'd like to appear in donor list
Address		
Preferred phone	Date of Birth	Email
Our Gift		
\$ Wherever my gi	ft is needed most.	
Have a different gift in mind? Pleas	se contact David Rosner at (845) 265-	3616.
If paying by check, please re Contact me about joining the families who have chosen to So that SLC can apply my entire Cover the credit card comparts are paper & postage: Pleas I'd like to make: Full gift now Monthly gifts of \$ each	include Surprise Lake Camp in thei	like to consider joining the hundreds of ir estate plans. to my gift. r.
I'll pay by: ☐ Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ ☐ Enclosed check: Payable to S	Disc. Card #: Surprise Lake Camp. Mail to 382 La	Exp. Date: / uke Surprise Road, Cold Spring, NY 10516

Why I joined the SLC 1902 Society

by Amy Goldberg, SLC Board Member

Sleep away camp was one of the most important parts of my childhood. I never asked how much it cost or how my parents paid for it. I realized years later that they rarely took big vacations and I believe that sending my brother and me to sleep away camp was one of the reasons.

My mom had been a music counselor and head counselor at a Grand Street Settlement House camp called Camp Moodna. It was located near where Storm King Art Center is today. In fact, when you drive there, you cross Moodna Lake which is a trickle of water these days.

My parents knew sleep away camp was a great thing to give us. They chose a wonderful camp for us, Onibar - Geneva, a brother sister camp near Honesdale, PA. I stayed 10 years and had hopes of being head counselor one day. In 1969, the camp was sold. The miracle is that many of my friendships still exist and over the years we have had organized reunions and private get togethers. In fact, since the pandemic, I have been part of a 5-person committee to create fun Zoom

reunions. In July we had 100 women gather from all over the country and many different age groups.

When it was suggested to me to join the Surprise Lake Camp Board, I was very excited for a number of reasons. I love camp and I missed going. I know what camp offers to everyone who attends; experiences and friendships that last. The granddaughter of my late husband Ernie Michel had been chosen from among a group of Israeli scouts when she was about 12 to spend a summer at SLC. We went on visiting day and that began regular visits for Ernie to tell the story of his life during WWII and in the Nazi concentration camps. I got to know SLC on those visits.

He also told the campers how UJA-Federation helped fund SLC. Many campers didn't know SLC provides some



Amy, front row, second from right

scholarship money for as many as half the campers each year. Offering children an opportunity to be at sleep away camp is the greatest gift to a child. I will not enumerate the benefits of a summer at SLC; if you are reading this you are connected to SLC. I love SLC for its Jewish content and the open warm feeling shown to all who attend and work there.

So, when I was asked to think about including SLC in my will, it was easy to decide. I am delighted to donate every year to SLC and to be part of the 1902 Society. I believe in Jewish summer camp, I believe in SLC and therefore I want it to continue long after I am alive. The 1902 Society is the vehicle for ensuring Jewish children can attend camp in a vibrant safe environment for the future.

I hope you will consider joining me as a member of the 1902 Society! The 1902 Society will secure the future of SLC for future generations.

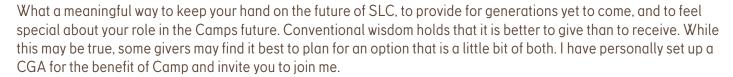
A Gift to Surprise Lake Camp (SLC) that includes an Income Stream The Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA)

by Jim Meyer, SLC Alum and Board Member

Whenever I write a fundraising piece, I think of humorous stories associated with fundraising. So, a couple is shipwrecked in the South Pacific on an abandoned island. The wife is incredibly worried that they will never be found. The husband says to her, "did you ever send the endowment gift to SLC" and she replies, "no." He then says, "don't worry they will find us."

The basics: A charitable gift annuity is a contract between a donor and a qualified charity (such as SLC) in which the donor makes a gift to the charity. In exchange, the charity assumes a legal obligation to provide you, the donor, with a fixed amount of monthly income that continues until the last beneficiary dies.

- · Did you know that the CGA will pay a fixed income for life?
- You can fund the CGA with cash or an appreciated asset i.e., stocks, mutual funds, bonds, etc., and you avoid paying the upfront Capital Gains Tax.
- You receive a tax deduction for a portion of the gift you made to establish the CGA.
- A portion of the income you receive will be tax free for a number of years and the income is higher than most safe fixed products.
- By opening a CGA you will become a member of the SLC 1902 Society, a wonderful way to leave a legacy to Camp.
- On your death SLC receives whatever is left in the CGA account, approximately one half of the original deposit.
- · You may have the income stream on one life or two.



You may have many more questions regarding charitable gift annuities and your personal situation. Feel free to call David at the office at 845-265-3616. For your information, Surprise Lake Camp as a beneficiary agency of UJA-Federation of N.Y., works in partnership with UJA-Federation's Planned Giving & Endowment Department to administer CGA's and other planned giving vehicles.

Should YOU be a 1902 Society Member?

- Are you proud to be an SLC Alum or friend of Camp?
- Does SLC have special meaning to you?
- Have you and/or your family been positively impacted by SLC?
- Would you enjoy this satisfaction in knowing your legacy can make a difference for future generations of SLC campers?
- Did you know belonging to the 1902 Society costs you NOTHING during your lifetime?
- Do you trust Camp and believe they use philanthropic support wisely?

We invite you to simply have a conversation about if and why you should become a 1902 Member. For more information, please contact Camp for a no obligation discussion about the extraordinary impact 1902 Members can and will have on the future of Surprise Lake Camp!



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)

Estelle & Herbert Adler

Paola & Ronnie Adragna/Gilbert

Michele Albo

Jacob Albrecht

Marcia & Bob Altabet

Jennifer & Marc Ambrose

Walter Arnstein*

Margery Arsham

Maraie & Bob Atwater

Celia Baczkowski

Sylvaine Baczkowski

Jason Bailis & Jeff Henderson

Marilyn Bailis & Jerry Mark*

Tracie & Mark Basch

Peter D. Baum

Pearl & Harry Belkowitz

Janeen Bellafiore Levine &

Brian Levine

Jennifer Herman Benalt &

Adam Benalt

Karen* & Adam Bendeson

Lauren & Mark Benmoise

Molly Benton*

Jake Bera

Evie & Jon Berger

Blanche Berk

Howie Berk

Jeff Berk

Jennifer & Matthew Berk

Michael Berk

Andie Biederman

Jake Biederman

Brian Blaufeux

Robbie & Steven Bloom

Martin Blum

Nelson Braff

Amy Bram

Elyse Braun

Jill Breder

Mitchell Brenner

Ezra Cahn

Justin K. Cantor

Meridee Simon Cole

Nancy Chanin Collins

Larry Cooperstein

Anita Cruso

Jane Hershey Cuozzo

Dave Dale*

Jordan Dale

Kate & David Danino

Mia Desmedt

Wendy Cruso Dinn & James Dinn

Michele Mars DiRuggiero

Laurie Dobkin-Helm

Jenna Dorfman-Tandlich

Matt Dorter

Jill Dosik

Mandy Efrati

Amie Ettinger

Michael Fandal

Lori Heitzner Fishman

Seth Fishman

David Fleischner

Paulette Ann Forgacs

Ralph Forgacs

Beulah Fox*

Gregory Fox

Robert French

Glen Frick

Marissa Garfinkel

Rose & Harris Ghersin

Scott Gilden

Allie (Ball) and Jordan Golan

Amy Goldberg

Dr. Joseph Goldberg

Rabbi Claire Ginsburg Goldstein

Michelle Goldstein

Shira Goldstein

Linda & Ben Gordon

Melissa Gordon

Stephen Gordon

Karen Gorsky & Vicky Eggleton

Jaclyn Greenbaum

Pam & Jav Greenbaum

Suzy Greenberg

Shira & Evan Greenblatt

Rob Greenspan

Aurora Luna Griggs

Brenda & Matthew Grosshandler

Andrea & Arthur Gruber

Michael Gurman

Gwen & Larry Hamberg

Julia Handel

Irving Harris*

Dayle Henshel

Jov Henshel

Patti Henshel

Andrew Hess

Barbara & Stanley* Hirsch

Roberta & Peter Hirsch

Thelma & Sanford Hochbera

Jennifer Hochstadt

Margot Hodes & David Rosenstrauch

Gavle Hoffman

Jason A. Hoffman

Nancy & Alan Hoffman

Carol Robin Horowitz

Rachel Israel

Sevmour Israel

Sharon & Jeff Jacobs

Suzanne Jacobs & Jeff Borkan

Zach Jacobs

Amy & Bruce Jaffe

Chuck Jainchill

Susie Jainchill & Tsahi Gelardin

Danielle Johnson

Erez Jontef

Stan Josephson

Michael Kall

Linda Kane

Irwin Karp

Erica Karron

Heidi & Bruce Katz

Karri & Joel "Whammy" Kaufman

Faith Altschuler Kirkpatrick

Sheryl Kirschenbaum

Alan Kleiman

Barbra & Ty Klein

Ele Klein

Wendy Kleinman

Andrew Kominik

Andrew Korn Marc Krigsman

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Mark Levine

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Fred Levy

Randi & Scott Lieberman

Ted Liebowitz

Laura & Carter Mansbach

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Miriam Messinger & Felicia Hayes

Ruth Messinger Emilie & Andrew Meyer

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Sheila* & Ken Pollet

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Max Damon Robkoff

F. Peter Rose*
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Gail & Dan Rosner Michele & David Rosner

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Robin & Larry Rubinstein

Rebecca Safeer

Judy Freiser Sails & Steven Sails

Alan Saltz Bryan Salz

Carolyn & Dave* Samuels

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Eliot Senor Isaac Shapiro

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Joanne Sherain
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Roy Shirwindt*
Cindy Shmerler
Jenna Sidor

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Harvey Sills*
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Steve Sommer

Susan Namm Spencer

Randi Sperber
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Gary Spielvogel
Seth Stein
Charles Stendig
Adele & Henry Stern
Brittany Sternberg
Denis Sternberg
Matthew Stollerman
Elaine & Paul Suchow
Joshua Suchow

Ilana (Lambert) & Michael Sussman

Audrey & Mark Tenenhaus

Bret Tenenhaus Lisa Tenenhaus Mike Tenenhaus Alice & Steve Terner Jennifer Anne Toback

Allison Tratner

Jennifer Sussell

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 Zhar

Barbara & Michael Zbar

Elise & Corey Zbar Jordana Zbar Richie Zbar Steven Zbar Arthur Zilz

Jaime Zuckerbera

^{*} 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 Sur There is no minimum planned gift amount to become a mem- with this signed and returned form. You may decide at a late	ber. Your membership will be completed
☐ 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 (check all that apply)	ng planned/deferred gift(s) to SLC:
 □ Bequest in a Will □ Charitable Gift And □ Life Insurance Policy □ Charitable Lead Tolerance □ Other: 	rust 🗖 Charitable Remainder Trust
(Optional) The amount of my/our planned gift is \$OR Attorney/Trustee Name & Contact information: Custodian Name & contact information:	
☐ Preferred name(s) for display/publication <u>OR</u> wr	
	commitment to Surprise Lake Camp. I/we understand ied by me/us at any time.
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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

Camp's Effect on Our Lives

by alumnus and 1902 Society member, Bruce Katz

Bruce Katz wrote the following piece as he reflected on the recent passing of former Camp Director Jerry Mark, and the difference he made in the lives of so many members of the SLC community.

Surprise Lake Camp holds a special place in the hearts of many. In some cases, the link is from the experience of

performing on the Eddie Cantor Theater stage, establishing life-long friendships, connecting to our Jewish heritage, and meeting and wooing our future spouse. These experiences can shape the values of a lifetime. With the exception of performing on the Eddie Cantor Theater stage, (I am no Eddie Cantor, certainly not a Neil Diamond, Jerry Stiller, or Guitar Mike Zbar), Camp has given me life-long friends, a sense of community via Jewish traditions, a loving and supportive wife, but for the purpose of this piece I would like to focus on – "the shaping of values."

Surprise Lake Camp has long championed the promise and values of equality, empathy, and an ongoing belief in children. Chief among Camp's values is the belief in equality. Camp has always equally served ALL children, regardless of their ability to pay. Camp believes in and has expectations that ALL children can and will positively contribute to society. Our country needs proponents of these values if the values are to be reflected in its policies and instilled in our way of life.



Nearly fifty years ago, as an eighteen-year-old staff member, I had a Camp experience that assisted in shaping my values and the kind of person I wished to become. Then Executive Director Jerry Mark called me into the office, handed me \$25 dollars (which was a good deal of money at the time) and asked me to buy a young Junior Camper a pair of shoes. I cannot accurately describe the impact this had on me. This simple act reinforced within me the superseding importance of "caring, giving, and community."

None of the children knew or ever would know this child received shoes from Camp. I can only imagine how many times Camp engages in this kind of behavior. During my year as a division head, I remember asking that counselors observe as children unpacked to see if any child needed clothing or supplies. Where there were needs, Camp quietly provided.

Often, it is the simplest of things that create the greatest impression. This act was only one of the hundreds of decisions that Jerry Mark made on that day... and it impacted me for a lifetime.

SLC Forever on my Mind

I want to thank everyone who has touched my life during my tenure at SLC and those of you who wrote such beautiful tributes in the last Re-Echoes. I was proud to be the Surprise Lake Camp Alumni Association's treasurer for over 13 years. As a grateful SLC alumna, I felt it was my obligation to give back in a meaningful way to my most favorite place in the world. That role and serving on the SCLAA Board of Directors, enabled me to make a significant difference, as the

Alumni Association has been supporting Camp for decades, through capital projects and scholarships, maintaining Camp traditions and friendships, and with the establishment of the Camp museum.

I started at SLC as an 8-year-old on "girls side" which is now Teenside. I was lucky enough to live in Lakeview (who remembers the "Flower Power" bunk), Merrylane (who remembers "no man's land" and ultimately Sherwood). I became a C.I.T. and then worked in the Camp office and the New York City office for three years. At that time, the office in Cold Spring had an old-fashioned switchboard.



We actually had to use cords to answer phone calls, use another cord to send it to the extension it needed to go to and then hit a lever to make a ringing noise for the recipient to pick up. What fun we had with that! All 16-year-old workers lived in what was then called Unit F. I then became a counselor on Mainside working in Unit E (who remembers "E" dome, Unit H and Unit I). After these units, I finally become a counselor on Teenside! The friends that I made during my time at Camp have become life-long friends. If you are an SLC alum, I think you will agree that the friendships you make at Surprise Lake do indeed last forever. There is never a time that you can't catch up with a Camp friend. Having just moved from New York to Florida, I am so happy that so many fellow SLC'ers live down here. It's like a permanent reunion and is so comforting to know there is always a great friend around.

If there is any silver lining from all this computer facetime and isolation, it's that I have recently reconnected with Camp friends from the 70's and we Zoom each week. We love reminiscing about our days on Teenside and our early years of working at various Camp jobs. These ladies... Barbara (Rubert) Zbar, Janice (Lieberman) Kimmelman, Debra (Bergen Koster) and Amy (Dorfman) Schechter mean so very much to me!

To all of you that are lucky enough to be part of the SLC family, I hope you consider yourself blessed.

Try your hand at our SLC Word Search on the next page!



CAN YOU FIND THE NAMES

OF 11 DIFFERENT UNITS AT SLC?

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If you need help, email <u>alumni@surpriselake.org</u>

Virtual 80's Reunion

On January 10th, over 40 alumni, former campers and staff from the 1980's, gathered on Zoom for a virtual reunion. The event was a follow up to the successful August 2020 summer virtual Alumni Day, which saw over 125 alumni gather online, for what is usually an alumni highlight of the summer each year at the Lake.

Graciously planned and hosted by two witty, fun spirited and dedicated alumni, Dena (Schlackman) Stevenson and David Leibowitz, this online event started with every attendee providing a brief snapshot of their lives, followed by a wonderful slideshow of sentimental and comical pictures, a videotaped and social distanced Round-Up of Love Potion #9 from the Eddie Cantor Theater, an update on significant capital improvements



undertaken over the last two years at Camp, a "Marge Moment" featuring stories shared by Laura Devito (and others) of SLC icon Marge Devito, information on the Alumni Association and of course, a pitch for annual support and the SLC 1902 Society. There was also plenty of time for free chat and catching up. Not surprisingly, the 80's decade is already planning their next virtual reunion, while we all hope for a reunion at 10516 as soon as safely possible!

SLC believes most of us can relate to these words below, shared by two reunion attendees, both former campers and staff members:



1902 Society Member Brain Blaufeux: It was great seeing everyone on the Zoom reunion! Of all my alumni communities, including high school and college, SLC's is the most personal. It's because of all the great memories made there. So many come to mind, but here are a few of my favorites from my time as a camper: boating, lazy breakfasts in the lodge, Capture the Flag, Gaga, and Olympics. But hiking was a specific interest for me... Hinterlands, Hudson Overlook, you name it. I remarked trails, upgraded outposts, and once did a nonstop Bull Hill-Breakneck-Fire Tower hike. To me, being at Camp wasn't complete without the satisfaction of seeing great views from the top of those peaks and completing the trip. Camp is a connection to my past, and I know others feel the same, so it's very special.

Alum Ivan Shore: I have nothing but fond memories from my time at SLC. So many coming of age experiences, great friendships and camaraderie. Camp was a stabilizing force in my life, and I'm thrilled knowing Camp remains that for alumni and current campers and staff, who continue to be touched by this magical place. A friend who missed the reunion asked me how it was, and while I only knew about 25% of the people on the Zoom, as the call progressed and videos and pictures were shared and stories were told, I got that warm SLC family feeling that we all know so well. So in the end, I felt like I knew everyone! I'm so grateful SLC was, and is, a critical part of my life. And I am glad and proud that my dad and my 2 sons experienced SLC as well!

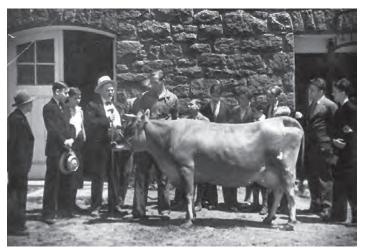
We invite you to enjoy more pictures from the best decade at Camp, at the end of this issue.

Please visit our events page to register for the next 80's reunion, scheduled for April 25th!

Cornish and SLC!

If you attended SLC, you undoubtedly have memories of hikes to Cornish, maybe even midnight hikes accompanied by ghost stories! Well, the Friends of Fahenstock Hudson Highlands State Park has received a grant to design and install historic signs at the Cornish ruins site. This site also known as Northgate has a history almost as long as the Surprise Lake Camp. In fact, it was once closely connected to SLC as the original owner, Sigmund Stern, was on the SLC board.

They have reached out to SLC and we are reaching out to our alumni for material that they can use for the signs that will be at the farm site. What they are looking for are old photographs of the site and short tales about the site that former campers and staff would share. Some images that would be of interest would be: the dam, farm house, barns, and trails. This photograph shows Mr. Cornish with 4H children in the 1930's, as a few more of the estate, pre-ruins, and current.





So we ask you to look through your old Camp pictures to see if you have an image or story that would help tell about the site.

Please share anything you find with Thom Johnson, Board member of Friends of Fahnestock Hudson Highlands State Park, by emailing thomjohnson1@verizon.net. Feel free to copy us as well, at alumni@surpriselake.org. Thank you!





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!









Did you know?

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. SO, next time, and every time you shop Amazon, please sign in to smile.



amazon.com, go to Your Account from the navigation at the top of any page, and then select the option to Change your Charity or Select SLC as a new charitable organization to support.

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 <u>david@surpriselake.org</u> 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!

Thanks to our Winter Advertisers.

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QUARTER PAGE	\$100	\$100	\$200	\$300		

Your advertising dollars helps us defray the cost of publishing Re-Echoes, allowing us to put more money towards camper scholarships and other SLC funding priorities. Thank you!



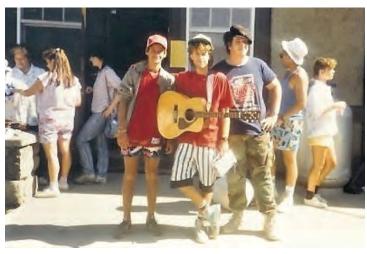


















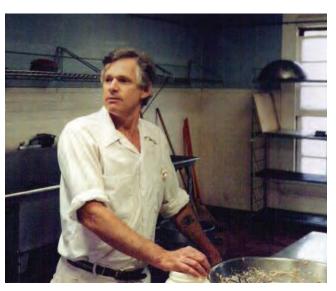




















Click here see even more pictures from the 80's!