

SURPRISE LAKE CAMP
SINCE 1961
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

RE-ECHOES

The official newsletter of the Surprise Lake Camp community

Summer 2021



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newsletter submissions
or notify us of any errors:
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Layout by [James Dinn](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Virtual Rosh Hashanah Services](#) – Tuesday, September 7

Virtual Alumni Day – Sunday, October 3

[Click here for more information and to register](#)

Hike Day – Sunday, October 24
more details to come

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.

Virtual Alumni Day 2021

Alumni Day at Surprise Lake comes around each year, with much anticipation! Sadly, we cannot gather in person, however, like in 2020, alumni and friends from around the country and the world will come together to gather again on Zoom. Please join us to see old friends, share memories, answer SLC trivia, see and hear highlights from summer 2021 as well as old and new pictures and videos, sing along with our Guitar Jamboree crew, hear from special guests and more! Please register [here](#) for this free event to be held October 3, at 11 a.m..

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



Hazel Bea, born to Liz Izower and Nick Lentini, in March



Graham Tuller, born to Josh & Ashley Tuller, on April 3



Noah Levi, born to Lauren (Haber) & Josh Caplan, on April 14. He's the grandson of Robin Ehrlich Krompfer and will be a third generation SLCer!



Lev Aaron Safeer Cohen, born to Rebecca Safeer Cohen and Jonathan Cohen, on April 18



Sadie James Shcolnik (Biederman), born to Andie Biederman and Ben Shcolnik, on May 2



Nessli Jaye Geller-Robkoff, born to Max Robkoff & Mikka Geller, on May 7



Ariella Violet Tenenhaus, born to Alli and Michael Tenenhaus, on May 25. She will be a 4th generation SLC'er on both sides, as both Alli's and Michael's grandpas attended SLC

Weddings, etc



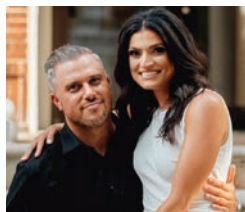
Rebecca Safeer Cohen and Jonathan Cohen on their January 6, 2019 wedding



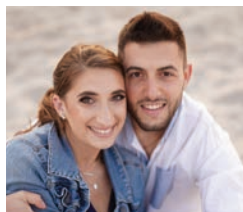
Eliza Reinhardt and Jason Estrella on their engagement



Mike Ganz and Caroline Flax on their engagement



Steve Zbar and Rachel Lepinsky on their engagement



Tyler Shatesky and Carly Salzman on their engagement



Keith Jacobs and Gina Castelvechi on their engagement

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

The Bialek Family on the passing of former Winter Camper, Jack Bialek

The Cohen, Safeer, and Wang Families on the passing of Eugene Wang, former camper and grandfather to Rebecca Safeer Cohen and Joshua Safeer

Daughter Rachel Eisenberg Baron and brother Steven Sails, on the passing of Loretta Eisenberg

June Levy & family on the passing of alum Gordon Levy

Alice Turner, on the passing of her husband, and founding 1902 Society member, Steve Turner

The Toback Family, on the passing of Martin Friedman and alum Morris Berman, father and uncle of Jennifer Friedman Toback

May their memories be a blessing

Executive Director's Message

A Miraculous Summer

In May of 2020, when we made the difficult decision not to open camp for the summer of 2020, we did not know that we were only at the beginning of the COVID pandemic.

In addition to missing camp last summer, our campers and staff endured a year of disruption, uncertainty, and a lack of normal social contacts.

All of these challenges made our work to open camp for the summer of 2021 all the more vital and all the more important. We knew how important it would be to provide our campers and staff with a chance to be back to together, to be outside, and to play in as normal and healthy an environment as possible.

We had challenges: ensuring that we would do everything we could to keep our entire community safe amidst changing pandemic guidelines was unprecedented. We also faced a severe staffing shortage due to a variety of impacts of COVID.

This meant that our outstanding year-round staff and our board needed to double down and then rely on our lean but amazing summer team to pull off nothing short of a true miracle.

On July 1 we welcomed 438 campers back to camp. Hearing and seeing campers playing, laughing, cheering, and singing all over our site was an emotional experience that we wish we could share.

I want you, all of the members of the SLC alumni community, to know that we could not have done this without all of your support. We think this note that Sheryl and I received recently from a 2021 parent does the best job of capturing the miracle you helped us share with our campers and staff this summer.

Dear Bradley and Sheryl,

I would like to thank you for giving my daughter what she described as - "the time of her life." She had the most wonderful experience at camp.

This past year was a challenge, as it was for so many. I saw my happy outgoing kid turn into a bit of a recluse. She spent way too much time in her room alone. COVID obviously was a factor, but it was also the change in some of her friends. At times, she has felt like an outcast. At her age, she still wants to be a kid - which I am so very grateful for. And, Surprise Lake gave her exactly what she needed.

She was reunited with old friends, made a ton of new ones, played sports, tried new things, had fun and smiled endlessly.

But, the highlight...she won the Herman Award. I cried when I saw that picture. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving that award to her. She was so proud. *(Jeff Herman was an SLC camper, athlete, and enthusiastic leader. His display of sportsmanship went unmatched, and the Jeff Herman Award recognizes outstanding athletic achievement and leadership. Jeff was a NYC Police Officer who was killed in the line of duty. His legacy lives on at SLC.)*

So, again, thanks for showing Alex exactly what camp and summer should be. I truly appreciate it.

All the best,

S., 2021 Parent



Thank you for your support, and for all that you do to make SLC a home to so many people from so many places.

Bradley Solmsen

President's Message

Hello, SLC Friends & Family!

My name is Jessica Zalin, and I am the new president of the SLC Alumni Association. I'm thrilled to have the chance to serve camp in this role and look forward to connecting with all of you. Please join me in sending special thanks to Joe Goldberg, who excelled in this position for so many years, and who has now entrusted it to me.

For those of you who don't know me, I was a camper, counselor, and unit supervisor in the early 2000s, but my ties to camp began long ago. I am a third generation SLCer – my grandfather attended camp in the late 1930s, and my parents, aunt, and uncles were campers and staff in the 1970s. My parents (Mindy Sohn & Marty Zalin) and aunt and uncle (Caren Zalin & Scott Grossman) even met at camp! I loved being able to grow up at camp with my cousins and my sister Andrea (who is currently the Teenside head counselor), as well as all of my friends who have become family.

What a summer it's been! The Alumni Association is so appreciative of the hard work that the SLC staff have done to make sure that camp continues to be the magical place that we all remember, and to ensure that the campers continue to thrive during these unprecedented times.

The Alumni Association, too, has an important role to play in keeping camp's magic alive. As one of the largest contributors to the SLC Annual Scholarship Drive we raise money throughout the year to allow camp to maintain its generous tuition assistance program. We are also proud to support capital initiatives and, of course, provide ice cream at the All-Camp Shows! Typically, our fundraising efforts would include several in-person events throughout the year, but for everyone's safety, most events have been postponed or have migrated online.

Our current calendar for this fall includes Virtual Alumni Day and Hike Day this October, with more programming to be added in the coming months. Please visit the Calendar of Events (<https://surpriselake.org/events/>) for further information and to register. We have also continued working behind the scenes to operate the camp store (<https://surpriselake.org/summer-2021/shop/>). If you're looking for a way to show your SLC spirit or are looking for a way to welcome your campers home, please stop by!

Of course, the success of the Alumni Association depends on you! We are a network of camp alumni, from all around the world, who all share a powerful connection to SLC. SLC has a rich history, and I know I am not alone in wishing camp another 119 years to inspire future generations. If you have not done so already, please consider joining us as an Alumni Association member (<https://surpriselake.org/alumni/membership/>) and stop by a (virtual) Alumni Association Board meeting soon – we're always interested in fresh perspectives!

Please feel free to contact me at jessicazalin@surpriselake.org if you'd like to get involved with the SLCAA, have ideas for future programs, want to reminisce, or have alumni news to share – I'd love to hear from you.

I'm hopeful that we'll be able to reunite soon at camp. Until then, wishing you all the best!



Jessica Zalin
President, SLC Alumni Association
jessicazalin@surpriselake.org



Straight from the mouths of campers and staff!

We asked several campers and staffers to share their thoughts on missing camp last year and what a return to SLC meant to them. Thanks to Wyatt, Ben, Luis, Jacob and Mikah for sharing.

Wyatt Vogel – Camper

Last year, I was frustrated that camp was canceled. When SLC was closed, I went to a day camp, but I missed my friends at SLC. I was looking forward to making new friends and seeing old ones. It is fun here, but I miss my parents a lot. Some of my favorite activities are swimming, sports and adventure. This summer, I learned Jewish history, and some prayers. I am grateful for my friends and fun activities. I went on a hike to Cornish, and got to go on Teenside, which was fun! I don't really have a favorite meal, as all of the food is good.

Ben Lieblein – Advanced Leadership program

Before Covid-19 devastated my dream of being a 16-year-old staff member in TEVA, I was looking forward to a great year at camp. When it was official that camp 2020 was canceled, I did not know what to do with myself. Many of the days of summer 2020 were spent laying in my bed alternating between reality TV and napping. I clearly needed camp and something to do.

Coming back to camp was not the easiest choice. As the 16- & 17-year-old staff work program was canceled, I was having a hard time coming back as a camper in a new leadership program. I had gotten so comfortable lying in bed that joining Advanced Leadership was a daunting prospect.

Up until the first day of camp, I was nervous and truly did not want to go, but as soon as I met my group, I was reminded of why I came back. I was greeted with the warmest welcome and remembered how strong the sense of community is even after a gap year.

As I continued with the session, my fellow group members and I had a hard time with the program. We were working a lot and did not have time to be just campers. But one thing I love about SLC is if you speak up, things tend to change. I can confidently say my summer got increasingly better. I've learned how to talk to new people and solve issues, something camp has 100% helped with.

Q&A with counselor, Luis Cervantes

How did you feel last year when camp was canceled?

At first, I felt terrible, as I had been looking forward to it for an entire year so knowing it was not going to be possible was very heartbreaking. Then I realized camp is very resilient and strong and everything was going to be alright, I just needed to start a little longer countdown.

What was a summer without SLC like?

It really felt empty, I had been out of my house for the summer for three years prior so at first it was sad, I kept remembering camp activities and events all the time and that helped me when I was feeling down.

What did you miss most about camp in 2020?

Where to begin...the lake views every morning, being surrounded by nature and breathing fresh air, the kids coming into the dining room and singing the Birkat Hamazon (prayer after meals) so loud, just all that amazing energy.

How did it feel to be back in camp?

It was awesome, from the moment I got out of the car and saw the lake, the people, it was so exciting, being able to not worry about the outside world, knowing that you're safe, around old and new friends, just great!

What did you look forward to most?

As it was my first year as I counselor, I was so excited to try that new experience, I had so many things prepared!

Tell us your favorite things you did this summer?

So many!! Olympics was one of the things I enjoyed the most, SLC Sing, being able to dance with my kids, and especially my camper Michael winning the M.A.C.H.O. award! It felt like it was my little brother accomplishing such a huge goal, I was so proud!

Other favorites?

Fire tower hike, it's so exciting and fun!!

BBQ and quesadillas!

Olympics, climbing tower, boating, and the All-Camp show.

What did you learn this summer?

I learned how to enjoy little things, how to live life to the fullest, and how to manage my frustration sometimes (frontier kids are not always easy lol).

What are you most grateful for?

The people, all those amazing kids I met, the incredible staff that works with me and all my supervisors that have always been there for me.

Q&A with counselor, Jacob Lerner

How did you feel last year when camp was canceled?

Very sad. I have been coming to SLC since 2011 and as someone with a summer birthday, I always loved skipping around the room and having a birthday here.

What did you miss most about camp in 2020?

I took a year off in 2019 and after not being there for a year, I was really looking forward to 2020 but with COVID happening, it made me 100 times more excited for this summer.

How did it feel to be back in camp?

It was so amazing to see people smiling and being children again.

What did you look forward to most?

The lake and seeing my old campers.

Tell us your favorite things you did this summer?

Being in the lake, playing basketball, hiking to Cornish, pizza, and Shabbat.

What did you learn this summer?

How much I cannot live without this place!

What are you most grateful for?

Friends and family

Mikah Schueller – Camper

When I received word that the 2020 camp year at SLC was canceled, I felt disheartened. With COVID-19 being a prevalent aspect of everyone's lives, I was looking forward to escaping the isolation and enjoying a fun summer with my friends at camp. Without this interaction and involvement at camp, I was very bored and lonely as I had no choice but to entertain myself for the two months that camp would have occupied.

When camp was canceled, I missed my friends most of all. Camp is a place to have fun and the activities can only take you so far. The real beauty of camp is the friends that you make while you are there and how they truly make your summer special. A soccer game is no fun if no one passes you the ball. A game of 9-square is pointless if you are the only one playing, and swimming in the lake is not allowed if you do not have a buddy to go in with. So, while camp is one of the most enjoyable places to be on Earth, the thing I missed the most was my friends that make camp such a great place to be.

Coming back to camp after a year off felt like the light at the end of the tunnel. COVID-19 was a dark time for everyone. For me personally, this includes being isolated for over a year and essentially watching the world go by without me. However, camp this year marked an end to this period of exclusion. Coming back to camp has been a relief of all these things and I have seen people who have been separated from me for about two years. I was able to have a fun summer with my friends and I escaped the growing tension in my family brought on by the quarantine. I feel involved, reinvigorated, and ready to put the past behind us and move on from this doom and gloom into what has truly become my best year of camp to date; and it felt incredible.

I have a new appreciation for many of the little things in camp that I was forced to live without during my gap year. I enjoy the view of the mountains, the refreshing chill of being plunged into the lake, the bond shared between bunkmates every year, and even the noisy chatter of the dining hall during the meals. All of these things remind me of camp and bring back pleasant memories every time. Also, when thinking of camp, a couple of my favorite things always come to mind, such as Firetower, my favorite hike, Shabbat, my favorite breakfast, 9-square and volleyball, my favorite activities, and Leadership, my favorite session of camp. If it wasn't for these things, camp would not have drawn me in the same way it has year after year.

This summer, I learned the value of multiple perspectives. While in Leadership, we were tasked with planning Club Surprise, creating a choreographed song for Sing, and other smaller projects around camp. In all these activities, we needed to listen to each other's ideas and opinions to come to a conclusion. And in all these activities, the resulting successes were because of the input of everyone in the group and the multiple points of view that were brought to the table. This lesson I learned in camp but will take with me wherever I go.

Throughout my time in camp, I am grateful for the experiences and memories I have built. I have been attending SLC for five years now and each summer has brought about something new. Every session adds new friends, new bunkmates, new scenery, new activities, and new things to try. Camp has allowed me the opportunity to be myself in a judgment-free environment and thrive in the enjoyable atmosphere that camp creates. Overall, every summer has been better than the last and I am elated to be a part of the wonderful SLC community.

Above-the-Line 2021 Charitable Giving Deduction and the Qualified Charitable Distribution

by Jim Meyer, SLC Alum and Board Member

Take advantage of the special charitable-giving deduction that Congress authorized in response to the pandemic! The CARES Act (2020) allows the taxpayer to deduct up to \$300 for their cash donation to a qualified philanthropy, if the taxpayer does not itemize deductions. And for 2021, this above-the-line deduction is increased to \$600 for married couples filing jointly!

This is \$300 for singles (or \$600 for married) you won't have to pay taxes on, if you don't itemize!

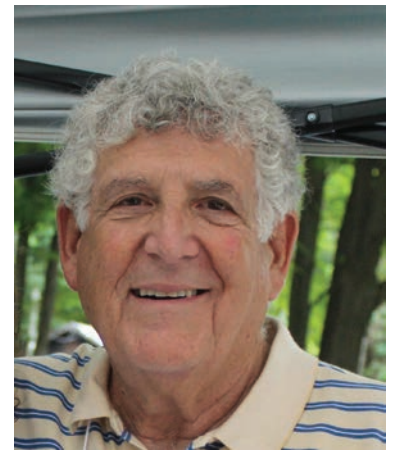
As in 2020, this deduction applies only to qualified cash contributions and does not apply to cash contributions made to private foundations, donor advised funds, or to split interest trusts like charitable remainder and lead trusts. It also does not apply to carry-over contributions. In plain English, if you donate up to \$300 for singles/\$600 for married in cash to a qualified organization, your adjusted gross income (AGI) will be reduced by up to \$300/\$600—and you can still claim the standard deduction.

If you DO itemize deductions, the AGI limit for cash contributions to qualifying public philanthropies remains increased for individual donors. For cash contributions made in 2021, you can elect to deduct up to 100 percent of your AGI (formerly 60 percent prior to the CARES Act).

If you've reached the age where you need to take required minimum distributions (RMDs) from your traditional IRAs, you can avoid paying taxes on them by donating that money to a qualified organization like SLC. You just have to be sure to follow the rules carefully. And it won't affect your \$300/\$600 deduction. The CARES Act did not change the rules around Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD's), which allows individuals over 70½ years old to donate up to \$100,000 in IRA assets directly to an organization annually, without taking the distribution into taxable income.

Please note that the above applies to federal taxes only; state law may vary. For more information about how the extension of the 2020 CARES Act provisions may impact your specific financial situation, please consult with your tax, legal, or financial advisor(s). Or please contact David Rosner, Development Director, at (845) 265-3616 / david@surpriselake.org or contact me at (516) 993-4364 / jemeyer32@optonline.net.

As always, thank you for your support of Surprise Lake Camp and our historic mission!



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 that 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!

The M.A.C.H.O. Foundation and Surprise Lake Camp

by David Rosner, Development Director

When I think of the word Macho, I think back to my childhood days as a WWF wrestling fan and the outrageous “Macho Man” Randy Savage. But as an SLC alum and full-time staff member, M.A.C.H.O. means something entirely different at Camp, and across the communities and camps that partner with the M.A.C.H.O. Foundation.

When I came back to SLC as an employee (after being a camper in the '80s), I met Jay Greenbaum, whose five daughters, yes five, all came to SLC, as campers and staffers. Over the years, I got to know and admire him, for what he has accomplished and overcome in his life so far, including being a six-time Iron Man. Jay is one of the most Macho humans I know, a true Mensch, proud father and grandfather, and someone who lives, and loves, to give back! He introduced Camp to M.A.C.H.O. in 2014 and since then, the mission and concept of the M.A.C.H.O. Foundation has permeated deep into Surprise Lake Camp, our culture and our campers. One concept M.A.C.H.O. speaks about is being your “authentic self”, and I find Jay to epitomize authenticity. As Jay has said before, and I think we'd all agree, SLC is such a perfect place and inviting environment to be your authentic self!

M.A.C.H.O. stands for My Actions Can Help Others and has morphed also into My Action Can Help Ourselves. The M.A.C.H.O. Foundation aims to inspire people to think with their hearts.

The organization believes empathy and compassion are core values that should be at the forefront of our society, and it is their contention that every one of us possesses what we call “M.A.C.H.O. Power.” This is the power we are all born with that allows each of us to be somebody's real life superhero: the power that makes it possible for even the smallest gestures of goodwill or positivity to have a dramatic effect on the people and the world around us.

We couldn't be happier to have Jay as such an active part of the SLC family. He is promoting humanitarianism and creating an awareness that every little action, or lack thereof, counts far more than may be realized. He accomplishes this at SLC by speaking with our staff during orientation, and with our campers during the summer. And it all culminates with the M.A.C.H.O. awards. You see, the Foundation was started by the family of Scott Epstein, as a way to honor his legacy. Scott was widely known and beloved as a character called “MACHO” that he created to entertain kids while wrestling in Jello at a summer camp in New York. He was a mentor, role model and hero to thousands and invented the acronym for M.A.C.H.O. So each session at SLC, the M.A.C.H.O. program ends with two campers who embody the spirit of the Foundation and live the M.A.C.H.O. lifestyle, being chosen for the very special M.A.C.H.O. awards. The presenting



of the awards has become a highlight and favorite tradition at Camp. To win is a BIG deal. And to see your friend(s) win is also the same BIG deal. When the names are announced, the sheer joy and exultation from everyone in attendance is profound. The excitement the campers and staff have for the winners is truly powerful and beyond words.

Jay has been an inspiration to me, in both my personal and professional life. I hope, and expect, he has been an inspiration to you if you've met him and I know he has positively impacted the lives of countless children at SLC, not only through his words, but his fundraising. And I expect him to continue doing so for years to come. Jay is just one of so many people who make Surprise Lake Camp extra special, truly unique and the historic place we are all so proud consider a second and/or summer home.

Jay likes to cite Maya Angelou when he presents on M.A.C.H.O. He quotes a saying that I have pinned to my wall at my desk, which reads..."I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

I recently asked Jay a few questions including how he got became involved in serving on the boards of multiple non-profit organizations, giving back to his community and SLC, as well as his devotion to health as he has completed over 50 combined triathlons and marathons, which as mentioned above includes six 140.6-mile Ironman events.

"Without having any specific plan, I guess it has always been in my nature to help others and make a difference wherever I could. I always kept my eyes, ears, and mind open to life's possibilities and one thing led to another. Regarding the athletic challenges I embraced only around 15 years ago when I was almost 50 years old, up to that point I never swam laps in a pool or in open water other than splashing around at the beach, I didn't even own a bike and I had never run a mile in my life. But again, without having any specific plan, I was open to all possibilities and allowed myself to follow a path that led to unimaginable accomplishments. I also found that I could raise money for the not-for-profit organizations I cared deeply about by using many of those endurance events as a fundraising platform. I truly believe people give to people and I am proud of the hundreds of thousands of dollars I have raised over the years. In addition, I often say that Ironman triathlons are a metaphor for our lives. Life can be overwhelmingly difficult and sometimes we feel like we can't go on. But just as in Ironman or in a marathon when the simple task of taking another step can be painful and seemingly impossible, we plod on and put one foot in front of the other. And in life we face those tough moments and get through them, ultimately stronger and prouder of our efforts and courage."

In honor of Jay and all our past SLC M.A.C.H.O. award winners, I hope you find the time today to do something that helps someone else!



For more information on the M.A.C.H.O Foundation, please visit <https://www.themachofoundation.org/>

The History of American Jewish Summer Camps

Every summer, millions of young Americans pack their bags and go to sleep-away camp for weeks or months at a time, including of course, Surprise Lake Camp. Among them are hundreds of thousands of Jewish campers and counselors.

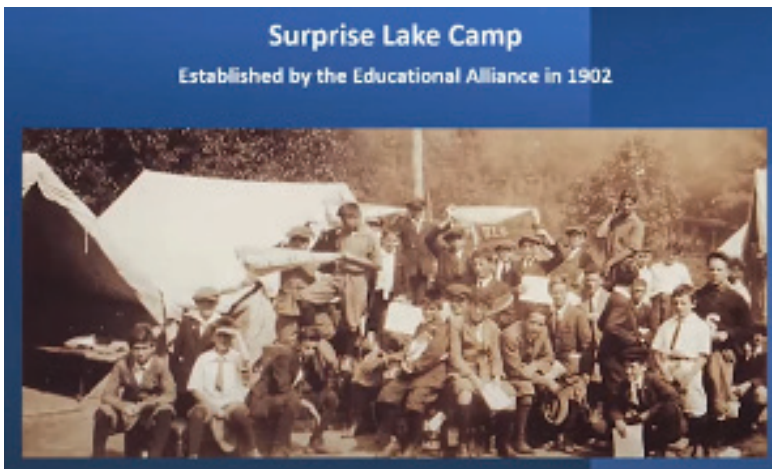
Whether they know it or not, they are participating in a 100-plus-year-old American Jewish tradition, following in the footsteps of the pioneers who first embraced camping in the early 20th century as a way of escaping the city, preserving tradition, and forging a Jewish identity.

To view a wonderful program that explores the fascinating history of Jewish summer camps, moderated by Rabbi Rick Jacobs, president of the Union for Reform Judaism, please visit <https://mjhny.org/blog/the-history-of-american-jewish-summer-camps/>

Rabbi Jacobs is joined by Dr. Gary P. Zola, the Executive Director of The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives and editor of the 2006 anthology [A Place of Our Own: The Rise of Reform Jewish Camping. For even more history of SLC...](#)

Check out Jack Holman's 1972 book about camp's first 70 years, which is on our website. [Click here to read the history.](#)

Or browse historic photos and documents, thanks to the gracious interest of the Milstein Online Archives of the New York Jewish Community. [Click here to explore historic photos and documents.](#) Below are two photos from the program.





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!

Members of the 1902 Society

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

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Anonymous (6) | Nancy Chanin Collins | Rob Greenspan |
| Estelle & Herbert Adler | Larry Cooperstein | Aurora Luna Griggs |
| Paola & Ronnie Adragna/Gilbert | Anita Cruso | Brenda & Matthew Grosshandler |
| Michele Albo | Jane Hershey Cuzzo | Andrea & Arthur Gruber |
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| Alyse Kunkin Murabito | Laurie Feldman-Shepherd | Elise & Corey Zbar |
| Roni & Jason Nadell | Joanne Sherain | Jordana Zbar |
| Stephen Nitkin | Peter Sheridan | Richie Zbar |
| Joey Novick | Roy Shirwindt* | Steven Zbar |
| Paul Novick | Cindy Shmerler | Arthur Zilz |
| Shelli & Larry Olinsky | Jenna Sidor | Jaime Zuckerberg |

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



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

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

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

LETTER OF INTENT

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

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

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

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

(check all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <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

Alumni 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.

We wanted to share some of the wonderful comments left by alumni who have already taken the survey, which confirms what we already know...SLC has a lifelong and significant impact on anyone who has had the pleasure of being an SLC camper and/or staffer. When asked about favorite memories, here is a sampling of some of the response to date.

Meeting new kids my same age. Loved the prayers and songs before we walked into the mess hall, sung in different ways, incorporating even the Adams Family theme song as we snapped our fingers . And some of our cheers...Unit 1 is RED hot R E D hot, once we start we can't be stopped! – Joanne

Meeting my husband at camp is the highlight of my life. We have continued many friendships with our fellow campers and staff. Attending SLC was the best thing Evan and I ever did! – Jodi

Making life long friendships. We just reconnected with some camp friends, after 45 years! It has been wonderful Zooming with them every week for the past year. I told my parents sending me to SLC was the best thing they ever did for me. – Amy

These are my top three memories...

First, being in Mountainview and having milk and cookies in our pj's with Dave playing the guitar and nestling before bed. Second, would be Shabbat Walk. And lastly, making that turn onto Lake Surprise Road and then seeing all the luggage and getting excited to see old friends. – Jon

So many memories, but one was as a member of the youngest group in Tent Hill, Ricky Saunders let me pitch in the softball championship game and it was so great to win and have the older Tent Hill boys cheer me on! Also during my last year as camper, they named an event after me... the Arthur Zilz Memorial Fruit Suck! And as a staff member, I treasure the honor of becoming a GLICH and a Maggot. Looking back, SLC has probably been the most influential place of my life. Without knowing it, I was mentored by some great people. – Artie

Camp was a blessing for me. I enjoyed all of it. The hiking, overnights, lake, Eddie Cantor shows, and Slim Sterling square dancing. – Robert

Loved the natural beauty, the lake, mountains, air.... all of it! – Suzanne

In no particular order:

Getting my five-year camper sweatshirt • Really enjoyed being a counselor for Mountainview Girls, I ended up being a 2nd grade teacher for a few years right out of college • Seeing my family on visiting days • The year I swam the 50 laps (I think) and was able to take a kayak out • Playing tennis • The Cornish "hike" • Recalling a post card I sent to my great aunt during my first summer, which she received in Florida six months later!!! – Cara

The greatest memory I have as a camper was meeting my best friend Peter Newman in 1972 on what was senior side. Almost fifty years later, we are still best friends because of SLC. – Steven

I only wish I could do it all over again. I have heard the expression you drank the Kool Aid and it's amazing how many people ask, "What is it about this camp?" And then they attend and say I must have drank the same Kool Aid. I met my wife, Jill, at SLC. Jill was never a camper nor a staff member, but on Alumni Day in 1996, I was at Camp and she went up with her friend. Why? Well, her friend never stopped speaking of SLC Camp when they hung out. So, Jill would make fun

of her saying, "Camp, camp, camp, that's all you talk about, I have to see this place." That friend was Nancy Johnson-Horn. Without that SLC Alumni Day, I may never have met Jill and we would not have our two sons, Tyler and Jonathan. I must also thank my parents for sending me to SLC. – Charlie

The connections with fellow staff, roundups, hikes, helping the campers adjust and making sure they have an unforgettable experience. And, as a supervisor, helping my staff develop their skills in working with children – David

The friendships, Shabbat evenings and mornings, the simplicity of it all. There is just something magical about Camp. – Stephanie

I loved being in the natural setting and I realize that I loved the simple routine of Camp. I had great friends that I made at Camp--both among campers and counselors. I loved having the ability to be myself, in a different way than at home. One memory I loved that exemplifies the community (I was on teen side) was about a kid from the Bronx who was very small for his age. He didn't know how to swim at all, which was rare for someone who was 13 or 14 at Camp. They worked with him every day and then one day, he took a swim test that demonstrated he could swim. Everyone there applauded him, and he felt really good about his achievement. The fact that Camp could give this kid a chance to feel that way was pretty special – Laura

As a camper:

Capture the flag, Tent Hill (sports specialty) vs. Merry Lane (Waterfront specialty) as the evening activity.

Going to Cornish on Mud Hikes.

The people I met and spent 6 or 9 weeks with each summer became more than just bunk mates, they became lifelong friends.

As staff member:

Working in the kitchen was a blast. I began the summer as a kitchen boy and became second cook a few weeks in.

As a counselor, I was able to teach my campers, first in Pre-Teens and then on Teenside, sports and about life lessons.

I still have very fond memories of many of these times. – Steve

As a camper:

Olympics • Mud-sliding • Sports Specialty • LARPing • Camp trips (Lake Compounce, Washington DC, Roller Skating etc.) • Overnights • July 4th carnival, fireworks etc.

As a staff member:

In addition to everything I mentioned above, becoming role models for campers, teaching them how to become independent and watching them grow into contributing members of society. – Adam

Do you know prospective SLC families?

Future SLC Alumni?

Traditionally, during the offseason, 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. Please email sheryl@surpriselake.org to recommend new families and discuss further or call 845-265-3616. Thank you for helping to keep these traditions alive!

The Guitar Jamboree

by David Leibowitz, SLC Alum

The year was 2016. Jordan Dale had just retired from a LONG career working at SLC, including the last 30(!) as Executive Director. So he did what anyone in his position would do – he went on a cross country trip to put it all in perspective and plan his next moves. And one of those ‘moves’ was to assemble a ‘Guitar Club’ of SLC friends and have them meet every third Friday while his wife, Suzanne, was at her book club meeting. But who to invite to participate?

Well, that was the easy part. As you may know, there is a deep connection between musical performance and SLC. And there probably is none deeper than the Roundup tradition. For those not in the know, Roundups were (and are) pre-meal gatherings held by division. And the activities that ensue during these Roundups (if any ensue at all) differ according to the ages of those who happened to be in that particular division.

And when it came to the youngest division of campers (formerly ‘Junior Side’; later, ‘Mainside’), those Roundups had a strong musical component. Legend has it, then Unit C counselor, Mike Zbar, led the first musical, guitar-fueled Roundups. Now, Mike took an interesting (and some would say, GENIUS) approach to this activity. Instead of focusing on directly engaging the campers with the vast library of children’s songs available, Mike would engage the STAFF with a cadre of pop and rock and roll tunes that he himself liked, with the idea that if the STAFF was having fun singing them, the kids would simply follow along. And man, was he RIGHT. Of course, he had to make the tunes kid-friendly, reducing each song’s length to about a minute-plus and emphasizing (or downright ADDING) wacky audience participation portions – all to keep those with limited attention spans (campers AND staff) fully engaged.

And these Roundups were SO much fun for ALL involved that the tradition continued for many, many years. Two of Mike’s counselors, Ken Pollet and the aforementioned Jordan Dale took up the reins when Mike finally traded in his SLC t-shirt for an accountant’s shirt and tie. And during THAT time, a new counselor in Unit C (yours truly) became hooked. So when Ken and Jordan moved onto other things, I continued the tradition. And during THAT time, a few staff members who worked for ME (Mark Levine, Andy Meyer, Joe Goldberg, Jeff Spiegel) took it upon themselves to join, continue and expand upon it.

So let’s get back to Jordan’s idea of a ‘Guitar Club’.

There never really was a mystery of whom to invite. Jordan would simply mine this deep musical tradition at SLC – many of whom also happened to be good friends of his. So, over time, Mike Zbar, Ken Pollet, myself, Mark Levine, Joe Goldberg, Andy Meyer and Matt Tratner (veteran of many an all-camp show) were all incorporated into the group. At one point, Andy brought in his wife, Emilie. And while Emilie never worked at or attended SLC, her classically trained voice and solid guitar playing made her an invaluable asset.



Pictured from l to r: Dave Leibowitz, Mark Levine, Mike Zbar, Emilie and Andy Meyer, and Jordan Dale. Not pictured: Joe Goldberg, Ken Pollet, Jeff Spiegel, Matt Tratner

And we met – initially on the third Friday night of each month at Jordan's house. Some of the members (including ME) had to travel quite a distance through rush hour traffic in order to get there. But it was always worth it. And the songs? They came from our own, existing music collections or we would find transcriptions of favorite tunes online and share them with the group. I kept all the music sheets from the sessions and they filled a large binder, which I brought with me each month along with my guitar.

And things continued in this vein for about three years. And then COVID-19 hit.

Once the pandemic happened, we could no longer gather in-person to play. So, like with most other gatherings, we made it 'virtual'. But it wasn't easy – especially at first. You see, one of the biggest limitations of services like Zoom, Microsoft Teams and so forth is that only one person can make noise at a time or they would 'cancel' each other out. And this made our collaborative music-making impossible. So, over time, our Guitar Jamborees (my term) morphed from ensemble playing to round-robin SOLO performances. Each member (or the Andy-Emilie Team) would prepare four or five songs to perform FOR the group each month. And it was a challenge, particularly for those who weren't comfortable with performing alone – but even more so for someone like Matt, who didn't play an instrument and, therefore, had to perform all his songs A CAPPELLA.

But it also had some positives. We could support and enjoy and be surprised by the individual performances of our good friends. We could bring in new members who lived far away and, therefore, weren't able to come in-person. That's how Jeff Spiegel (who lives in Denver, Colorado) began to participate. And one week, Jeff invited his aunt on the West coast to join us. She is a dulcimer (a flat, stringed instrument in the bluegrass tradition) builder and player who is actually well known to MANY famous musical performers.

And so it continued in this vein for some 16 months. We even expanded on the format by incorporating verse-swapping 'duet' and 'group' performances and the Request Round, in which a member would be asked to perform a tune from a previous Jamboree with no foreknowledge or rehearsal. Needless to say, this could be rather anxiety-inducing – especially for someone like me whose memory and performance of a given song deteriorates rapidly since the time of my last rehearsal of the tune (my hands are beginning to sweat just WRITING about it).

Then the vaccines came. And once we all became fully vaccinated, the Jamborees became in-person gatherings again.

But as it had in the past, the gatherings morphed into something slightly new. Instead of just being a collaborative musical performance, it became a full-blown social event – with collaborative musical performances built in. Spouses came along. Mutual friends were invited. There were children and grandchildren present at times. And food. LOTS of food.

However, it is still about the music. Old favorites are played. New songs are introduced, with some possibly becoming 'standards' in our repertoire. And it's also about connection, friendship and camaraderie. And actually CREATING something wholly positive in a sometimes scary and negative world. And more than anything else, it's something I thoroughly look forward to each and every month.

CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE GUITAR JAMBOREE:

Jordan Dale (founder) - age 63; former camper, worked in camp (librarian, counselor, Unit Supervisor, Division Head, Support Supervisor, Executive Director) 1970 - 2016

Mike Zbar - age 66; former camper, worked in camp (Dining Room Supervisor, counselor, Unit Supervisor, SLC Board Member and current President) 1965 - present

Dave Leibowitz - age 58 (ok, I'll be 59 next month); worked in camp (counselor, Unit Supervisor, Division Head, Program Director) 1980 - 1990

Ken Pollet - age 64; worked in camp (counselor, Unit Supervisor, Division Head + occasional lifeguard) 1975 - c. 1984

Mark Levine - age 54; former camper, worked in camp (counselor aide, counselor, Music Specialist, Unit Supervisor, SLC Board Member) 1980 - present

Joe Goldberg - age 55; former camper, worked in camp (counselor aide, counselor, Unit Supervisor, SLC Alumni Association Board Member and former President, SLC Board Member) 1977 - present

Matt Tratner - age 48; former camper, worked in camp (counselor aide, canteen boy) 1982 - 1989

Andy Meyer - age 54; former camper, worked in camp (infirmary boy, counselor aide, counselor, Jewish Programming Specialist, Unit Supervisor) 1979 - 1988

Emilie Meyer - age 53

Jeff Spiegel (Virtual Jamborees only) - age 54; former camper, worked in camp (kitchen, counselor, lifeguard, Waterfront Director, Unit Supervisor) 1974 - c. 1989

The Jerry Mark Chess Pavilion

To quote Jordan Dale in his tribute to Jerry Mark from the Fall 2020 Re-Echoes, "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."



As a most fitting tribute to an SLC icon, the Mark and Bailis families spearheaded this meaningful project shortly before the beginning of the return to camp this summer.

As you might have known, Jerry really enjoyed chess and in particular loved teaching his children, grandchildren and children of family and friends how to play. He famously offered any of his children and grandchildren \$50 for the first time they beat him which was a fun, much-talked-about and even somewhat competitive family tradition.

When his family was thinking about establishing an enduring memorial at Surprise Lake Camp, they decided on a facility where Jerry's legacy would include bringing chess to children for years to come. The Jerry Mark Chess

Pavilion will be a large open-air structure with a roof and lights for rainy days and evening play. It will house four large permanent chess boards on the ground with large 2' chess pieces so a typical bunk of eight campers or more can play at the same time. It will be surrounded by seating for those not playing to rest and others to watch. We are piloting the program this summer in the Mountain Gazebo and the campers love it. This fall, we will evaluate the feedback and make final plans with a formal naming and dedication for the Pavilion planned for the summer of 2022.

If you would like to donate to this project, you may give in one of three ways:

- 1) Simply include a note with a check or write Jerry Mark in the memo section of the check.
Mail to: Surprise Lake Camp, 382 Lake Surprise Road, Cold Spring, NY 10516
- 2) Call David Rosner and donate over the phone with a credit card at 646-582-0144
- 3) To give online, visit www.surpriselake.org/donate
Scroll down until you see "Jerry Mark Chess Pavilion". Enter amount and follow direction that follow.

Part of the funds raised will be put into an endowment which will cover the upkeep costs of the structure, playing pieces, storage, etc., in addition to monies endowed to provide funding for annual tournaments and prizes in coming years. Funds also will be used towards Camp's Building Maintenance Initiative, which will enhance and modernize our existing facilities, maintain the traditional feel of camp, and continue to provide transformative experiences that only happen at camp.

The Mark/Bailis family have provided \$27,000 to initiate this effort. If you were fond of Jerry and would like to see his legacy continue at Camp by sharing his love of chess with future generations of campers, we invite you to contribute as well.

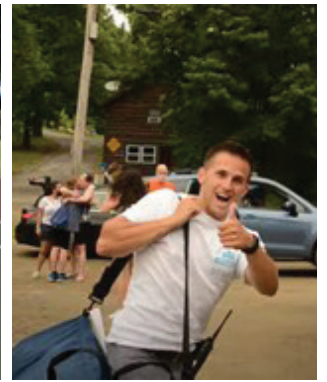
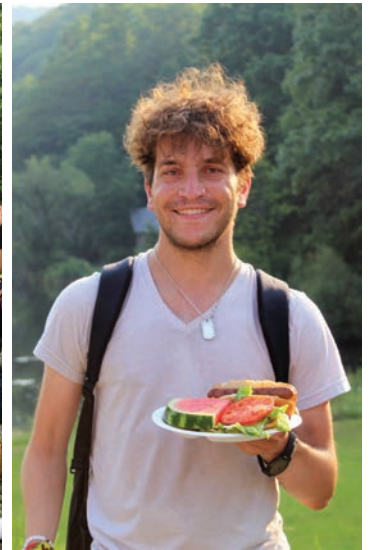
We greatly appreciate your supporting this meaningful project, in loving memory of Jerry. Please note, that together with the Bailis and Mark families, we request any gift to the Jerry Mark Chess Pavilion be above and beyond your annual gift to Camp.

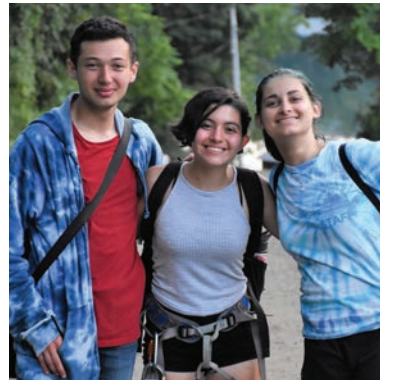
Annual unrestricted gifts continue to be of paramount importance in continuing Camp's historic mission of enabling any child who wants to attend Camp to do so, regardless of the family's financial status.



Enjoy some photos of Summer 2021!







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.



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!



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!

Thanks to our Winter Advertisers.

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