



YEARS of SLC

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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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Take Me Out To The Ballgame! Thursday, June 23rd at 7:05 PM

Join the SLC Alumni Association to watch the New York Yankees take on the Houston Astros at Yankee Stadium for an evening of America's favorite pastime. Register here:
<https://surpriselake.org/event/take-me-out-to-the-ballgame/>



Save the Date for Post-Camp Alumni Day Sunday, September 4th

Fall Hike Day Sunday, October 16th

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.

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



Gabriel Gunter,
born to Rachel
Altschuler and
Garrison Gunter,
September 2021



Emmett Rhys,
born to Lori and
Jason Hoffman, on
January 7, 2022



Roslyn Margaret
Shapiro, born
to Megan and
Isaac Shapiro, on
February 8, 2022



Lennon Rose
Parker, born to
Charlotte Jay
Parker and Blake
Parker, February 17,
2022



Bohiti Oзера
Serrano, born to
Mia and David
Serrano, March 12,
2022



Rylee Drew
Kardish, born to
Jaymes and Jaimee
Kardish, March 25,
2022

Weddings, etc



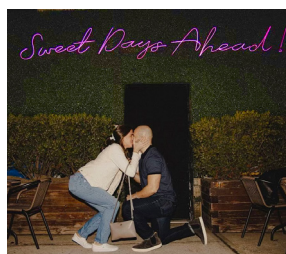
Ilana Atwater and
Matt Rucko
on their
engagement



Allegra Toback,
on her September
18th Bat Mitzvah



Jenna Sidor and
Tony Naclerio on
their engagement



Candice
Gurman and Joe
Piazza on their
engagement.



Nate Wolf and
Tayla on their
engagement

Condolences

The Friedman/Toback families on the passing of Martin Friedman

Nancy Johnson Horn and David Horn on the passing of their father, Steve

May their memories be a blessing

Director's Message

Campers laughing and playing...

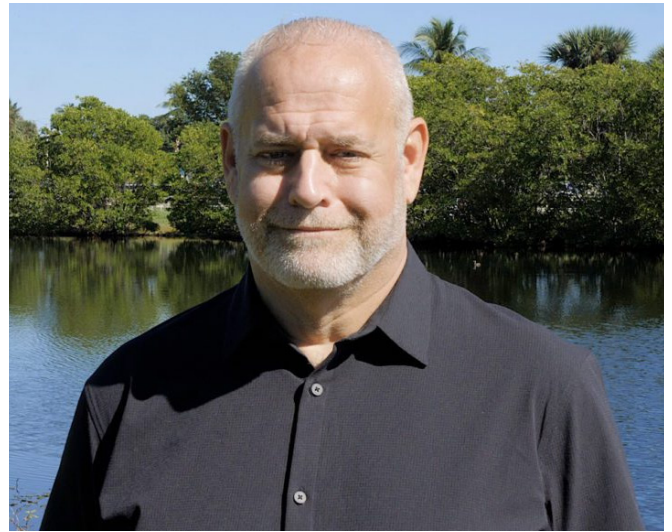
Staff coming together to grow as peers and lead...

The vibrant sun shining on our beautiful lake...

This summer, our 120th Anniversary, is going to be a special one.

I am honored and privileged to be back at Surprise Lake Camp after a 20-year hiatus. A place that has been a "home away from home" for my family throughout multiple generations and is very dear to my heart.

It feels like we could all use a little bit of SLC this year.



Over the past few months, I have watched camp emerge from hibernation. Lake Surprise is no longer covered with ice, the trees are budding, and the flowers are beginning to bloom. What a special opportunity I have been given to witness the magic of camp coming to life for another memorable summer.

I am excited to do my part in making this summer the most unforgettable and happiest camp experience for our entire camp community. From roundups, milk and cookies, arts and crafts, tennis, zip line, soccer, sailing, pool parties, hiking, Jewish culture, and performing arts, SLC has something for everyone.

We are stronger together than when we are separated. This summer, we will gather as a community to celebrate a camp milestone in true SLC fashion.

Every one of you reading this has impacted camp in some way and added your unique energy to this organism that is "Surprise Lake Camp".

It is an amazing thing being able to watch something you love evolve and transform over the years. And this next stage for SLC will be about togetherness.

Sincerely,

Adam

Adam Bendeson, MSW
Executive Director

President's Message

Hello SLC Alumni, and welcome to the Spring 2022 issue of Re-Echoes!

As many of you know, this year marks Surprise Lake Camp's 120th anniversary. I am personally thankful for all that SLC has offered my three-generation SLC family and honored to be a member of the SLC community and able to celebrate camp's rich history and traditions with all of you.

As camp's staff continue their hard work in preparing for the summer of 2022, the Alumni Association has continued their efforts to support the SLC Scholarship Fund. Earlier this year, the Alumni Association hosted a Super Bowl box pool, a March Madness tournament, and a "Banding" musical bingo extravaganza – thank you to Matt Stollerman, Joe Goldberg, and Corey Zbar for helping to put these events together, and to all of you for participating!

I am personally thrilled that the weather is getting warmer, and we are able to get see each other in person again. In April, a number of dedicated SLC alumni gathered at camp for Volunteer Day. We spent the day gardening at the entrance to camp, preparing the farm for another camp season, cleaning up around the units, and adding markers to camp's hiking trails – and of course, getting to spend some time near our favorite lake!

This May, SLC hosted a spring Shabbat service, with festivities in honor of Harry Vogel. SLC has decided to endow the Mainside Waterfront Director position in Harry's name, which will ensure that his legacy lives on in camp for generations to come! Please consider making a donation in Harry's honor as a contribution to this endowment – you can do so [here](#).

In June, the Alumni Association will be taking a trip to Yankee Stadium to watch the New York Yankees take on the Houston Astros. Proceeds from this event will go to the Annual Scholarship Drive and allow camp to maintain its generous tuition assistance program. We hope you'll be able to join us – [click here](#) to reserve your ticket(s) today!

And finally, I am pleased to report that this September, we will once again be hosting Alumni Day in the place we all know and love, Surprise Lake Camp! Save the date – Sunday, September 4th – and stay tuned for further details!

Until then, please feel free to [contact me](#) to get involved with the SLCAA. I'd love to hear from all of you, to hear your ideas for future events and fundraisers, reminisce about time spent in camp, and listen to news from the alumni community!

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

Why I Joined the 1902 Society

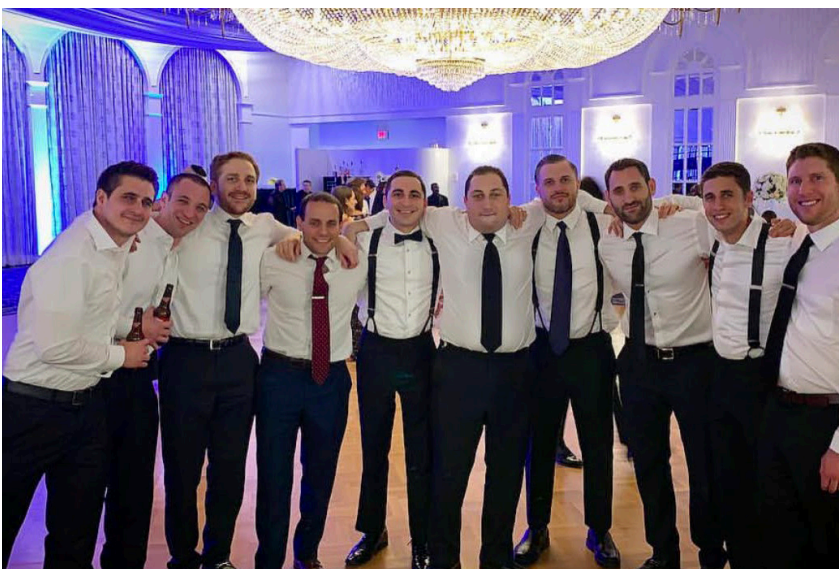
By Michael Gurman

As an attorney, I know that estate planning is an important part of life and allows an individual to manifest their wishes and plan for the disbursement of their life's wealth. But that's just the tip of the iceberg. The 1902 Society isn't just about the money. While the financial support provided through estate planning is the surface level of the 1902 Society, it doesn't express the depth of what it means to me.

My life has been shaped by many choices and experiences. Some I made myself and others were gifted to me. Surprise Lake Camp is unique and special because it is a place that represents both privilege and choice. In the late 1990's, I was fortunate that my parents enrolled me for a session at Surprise Lake Camp because they believed that it was important for me to be part of an environment that incorporated sports, outdoors, Jewish values and a rich history of great people forming strong bonds. That one session changed my life in ways that can't fully be described on one page. Since that first summer, I have chosen to take that gift and turn it into my life. To this day, my best friends are from camp. I have fostered relationships with generations older and younger based on the bond of being a proud SLC alum. My memories of camp (as both a staff member and camper) remind me of how great environments foster good people.



Some may wonder why two months out of a whole year represented such a big part of my life. My response is simple. Anyone who attended Surprise Lake Camp knows that time moved differently while you were there. To the outside world it was two months but, for those of us at camp, those two months felt like a lifetime. Camp was its own world where we felt safe to grow. It was a place to gain confidence in sports, relationships (romantic and platonic) and who you wanted to be. It showed me that I had support when I was at my best and worst. Whether it was walking into the Eddie Cantor Theater and hearing hundreds of people scream "Gurman for Herman" or the camaraderie of teammates after losing in the finals of the Monroe Cup or feeling the support of the best staff and friends after a loved one passed away, Surprise Lake Camp always found a way to be exactly what I needed.



It is because of my experiences at Surprise Lake Camp that I want to help bring this special world to more people. I see my annual charitable giving and the 1902 Society as a way to add to Surprise Lake Camp and help fulfill its mission of shaping the lives of everyone who goes there, regardless of financial challenges. But being part of the 1902 Society isn't just about the donation of money. It is choosing Surprise Lake Camp as having meaning to my life and making a statement to others about how much I value Surprise Lake Camp and the people associated with it. Just like I was gifted the opportunity to be a part of this extraordinary community, I choose to give back because I want the next generation to find a home in a place that has impacted my life for the better.

If you haven't yet joined the 1902 Society, I hope you will take the time to join me and make the statement about your passion for Surprise Lake Camp and all the great it does and will continue to do.

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

Wendy Kleinman	Emily Palmiotto	Nancy & Lee Sidor
Andrew Kominik	Stacey & Rob Panepinto	Harvey Sills*
Andrew Korn	Jerry Person	Rebecca Solomon
Marc Krigsman	Esther Pessin	Steve Sommer
Robin & Gordon* Krompier	Nicole Pilevsky & Joseph Osheroff	Susan Namm Spencer
Ellen & Jeff Lambert	Johanna Pinzler & Avri Klemer	Randi Sperber
Karen & Stewart Lantner	Julia Pisetsky	Jeff Spiegel
Maureen & Howard Lantner	Serge Podolski	Gary Spielvogel
Moran & Murray Lantner	Jared Pollet	Seth Stein
Dena & Elly Levine	Sheila* & Ken Pollet	Charles Stendig
Galit & Alan Levine	Lee Posniack	Adele & Henry Stern
Mark Levine	Jillian & Brian Rauer	Brittany Sternberg
Michele Mark Levine	Marc Rentzer	Denis Sternberg
Fred Levy	Andrew "AJ" Retig	Matthew Stollerman
Randi & Scott Lieberman	Shari Riechelson	Elaine & Paul Suchow
Ted Liebowitz	Michael Rieger	Joshua Suchow
Laura & Carter Mansbach	David Rimmer	Jennifer Sussell
Dylan Marcus	Max Damon Robkoff	Ilana (Lambert) & Michael Sussman
Jamie Marcus	F. Peter Rose*	Audrey & Mark Tenenhaus
Judy & Michael* Margulies	Robert Rosenbaum	Bret Tenenhaus
Lisa Mark	Gail & Dan Rosner	Lisa Tenenhaus
Linda Markowitz	Michele & David Rosner	Mike Tenenhaus
Marissa Marx	Eve Rubinstein	Alice & Steve Terner*
Caryl & Mike Melasky	Mara Rubinstein	Jennifer Anne Toback
Paul Mermelstein	Robin & Larry Rubinstein	Allison Tratner
Miriam Messinger & Felicia Hayes	Rebecca Safeer	Susan & Matthew Tratner
Ruth Messinger	Judy Freiser Sails & Steven Sails	Jared Tyler
Emilie & Andrew Meyer	Alan Saltz	Marlene & "Ranger" Barry Vegter
Estelle Meyer*	Bryan Salz	Jordan Waldman
Jerry Meyer	Carolyn & Dave* Samuels	Charles D. Wasserman
Roberta & Jim Meyer	Joshua Sarkozi	Wendy & Stu Waxman
Jodie Meyer & Steven Tuber	Robert Schechter	Lisa & Steve Weinberg
Lee Meyer	Talia Schneider	Diane* & Allen Weiner
Jonathan Miller	Meri & Paul Schoenblum	David Weintraub
Susan Feldman-Miller	Dan Schulman	Julie & Neil Weintraub
Barb & Steve Mink	Andrew Schuster	Tommy Wills
Jill (Simon) & John Miskanic	Gayle Schwartz	Jennifer & Benjamin Wind
Karen & Jim Morrison	Maria & Ken* Seligson	Abbe Wittenberg & Rob Schneider
Suzanne & Steven Moses	Julia & Michael Seltzer	Cheryl & David Wolff
Elizabeth Moskow & Ari Kaufman	Eliot Senor	Anne & Joel Zbar
Suzanne Moskowitz	Isaac Shapiro	Barbara & Michael Zbar
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: development@surpriselake.org

Teaching Our Children About Philanthropy

by David Rosner, SLC alum

One of the most rewarding things we can do is support causes that make us feel fulfilled and like we are making an impact on the world around us. To quote global visionary Lynn Twist, "When you let go of trying to get more of what you don't really need, it frees up oceans of energy to make a difference." Giving is an altruistic act that teaches us generosity and caring for the well-being of others. Each of us plays an important role in the lives of others, and our collective contributions can make a lasting impression in our communities and beyond.

Everyone has something to give. Everyone has something unique to share. If you want to raise philanthropic children, the key is teaching them to be not only aware of others' needs, but also in tune with their own unique abilities to give and share.

Late in 2021, camp received a gift that inspired this article. Encouraged to give for Chanukah, and of course by her parents, who many of us know, Parker (age 6) wrote, 'I'm giving my mony to you because I care and share.'

She went on to say, "I picked Surprise Lake Camp because I spent my whole life there. It is a good camp, with good people and I have fun with my friends in the bunk." She also added, "It also has awesome food..... the grilled cheese and tomato soup!"

Clearly, this made my day, maybe my week and I very much enjoyed sending her a custom thank you card/letter, which also expressed my love too for SLC's grilled cheese and tomato soup.

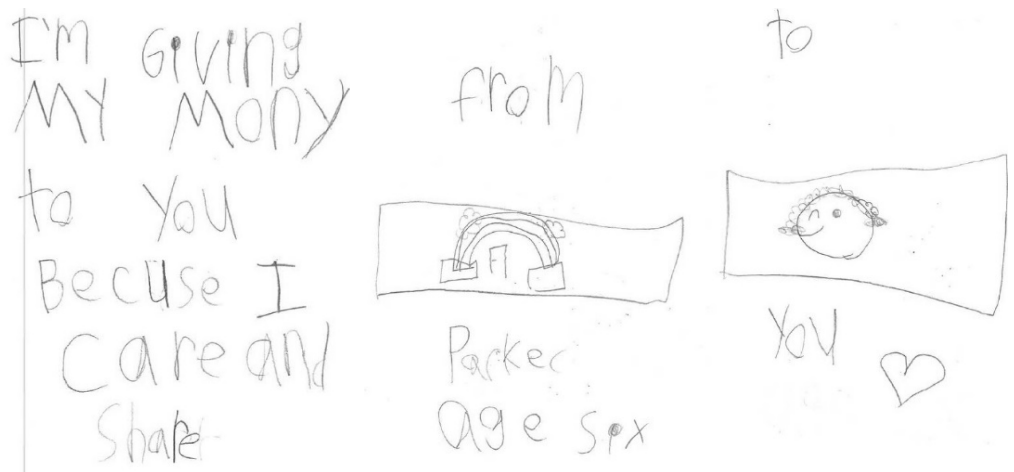
Over the years, there of course have been others gift made by minors to Camp. A few come to mind including the Weintruab boys, Alex and Ryan, as well as Zev Papernick, who each donated money to Camp from their Bar-Mitzvahs.

If you are looking for ways to get your kids invovled and interested in giving back, here are some suggestions to get you started...

Think about one group or organization with which you are currently involved. Is it a sports team? Synagogue youth group? Student council? Theater or arts group? Do you play in a band? Or SLC of course! With that group or organization in mind, think of one activity you and your friends could accomplish together that would be considered philanthropic.

One of the easiest ways to teach your child about giving is by donating extra items around your home. Spend an afternoon with your child going through old toys and clothes that they no longer wish to keep and find a charity who may love to receive them.

During the school year, many teachers need additional school supplies and you and your child can also contribute to school fundraisers or participate in food drives. Not only will these philanthropic acts make your child feel like a hero, but they will also learn to cherish the space they are in, the activities they join and not to take daily items for granted.



Philanthropic efforts serve as the heartbeat of an organization. Help them identify categories with meaning for them, such as helping people/children, animals, or the environment. Surprise Lake Camp relies on individual giving to support many programs and services. So another way to teach your child about philanthropy is to create a donation (Tzedakah) box in your home dedicated to you and your child's charity of choice. Children will feel special being needed and being a part of something that makes a difference.

And of course, you and/or your child can "donate" your birthday to Surprise Lake Camp through Camp's Peer-to-Peer program. So when your/their special day comes along, why not celebrate by giving back? Camp can easily help you set up a personal fundraising page for their birthday and it's a fun, festive way to raise funds for your favorite charity, including SLC!

There are numerous ways to contribute to SLC's historic mission and Camp is here to help you find the best way(s) to get your kids involved. Some additional opportunities include making SLC your charity of choice with Amazon Smile, which funds Camp while you shop, and our Annual Scholarship Drive. Feel free to reach out with any questions!

Teaching your children about the act of giving will show them how to live life with abundance. Through philanthropy, their hearts will become rich, and they will develop deeper empathy, organizational skills, collaboration, and leadership. Our children are the future leaders of their world, and they will become amazing ambassadors to cultivate change when we provide them with the platforms!



Charity begins at home, but also shouldn't end there!

The Soul of SLC

For children, camp is just plain fun, but Jewish summer camp is also much more than that – it's camp with a soul. At Surprise Lake Camp, since 1902, children have been discovering who they are – and who they want to become – in a breathtaking setting that allows them to experience community, tradition, culture and values. For those of you who are alumni, or those who have children at camp, you know firsthand how SLC creates not only lifelong friendships and memories, but provides a nurturing camp experience in which young people learn essential life skills by being immersed in nature, development relationships, and exploring Jewish values.

For 120 years, SLC has been at the forefront of providing magical summers to campers and staff. In Judaism, 120 years is a meaningful number. The Torah tells us Moses was 120 when he died, and it marks a full lifetime. During that 1st lifetime, SLC has been relying on the generosity of the community to continue our historic mission.

The importance of fundraising, with scholarship assistance at the forefront, has been the core value for SLC. We can only continue our historic mission with the support of the SLC family and community. That means YOU!



YOU have the ability to transform the lives of our campers today. By making a critical investment in Surprise Lake Camp, YOU can have an immediate impact – allowing SLC to provide the magic of camp to every child, regardless of their ability to pay, and ensuring the continued investment in our lake, grounds and facilities for generations to come.

Together, WE are shaping tomorrow's leaders! WE are enriching the hearts and souls of every camper in profound ways!

Mother Theresa once said, "To keep a lamp burning, we have to keep putting oil in it." Please help SLC re-fuel and thrive as we begin entering our next 120 years... our 2nd lifetime.

Behind every gift is a child's future. As summer 2022 approaches, we ask you to join the SLC family of donors in continuing this wonderful SLC tradition of Tzedakah. Tzedakah, or charity, is the greatest Mitzvah you can do, and at SLC, that translates to putting the FUN in FUNdraising. As a non-profit 501 (c) (3) charitable organization, Surprise Lake Camp is eternally grateful for the generosity of our donors.



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 specific fund in mind? Please contact us 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. ☐ AMEX Card #: _____

Exp. Date: ____ / ____ Credit Card Security Code: _____

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

Thank you for your Generosity!

SLCers Take Comedy to a New Stage

By Tess Hamberg

Over the past year, a unique partnership formed between Surprise Lake Camp alums, Brent Birnbaum and Dan Leibel. They combined their talents in comedic stand-up and creative production to host a recurring local comedy show, [The Pregame](#), in a new, expressive art space in Brooklyn, New York.

Brent Birnbaum, who attended SLC from 2003 to 2008 as a camper and 2009 as a canteen connoisseur, has been performing stand-up comedy since 2016. Brent's interest in comedic performance started watching his dad perform stand-up when he was a kid. After performing in many theaters growing up, including all-camp shows at the Eddie Cantor Theater, Brent knew stand-up was something he wanted to pursue. Brent has performed stand-up in clubs and festivals throughout the country, and can be regularly seen at The Broadway Comedy Club in New York City. In June 2021, he launched The Pregame comedy show with his Co-Producer and Co-Host, Spencer Wright, as a rooftop series in New York City. This talented duo brought comedians and audience viewers together in COVID-friendly outdoor venues to provide an evening of laughs and socializing with friends.

After a successful series of rooftop shows during the summer, Brent Birnbaum partnered with Dan Leibel's [Giant Ledge Production Co.](#) for a run of Pregame Comedy shows held at 17 Frost Gallery in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

Dan Leibel, camper from 2003 to 2008 and famed SLC librarian in 2009, founded the full service creative production company, Giant Ledge Productions, in the midst of the pandemic last year. Dan's vision for Giant Ledge stemmed from his passion for music, art, and creative expression. He credits Paul Suchow with igniting his interest in guitar at SLC, a passion which ultimately led to collaboration with top NYC jazz guitarists and other musicians. Dan has years of experience working with artists, such as photographers, painters, touring musicians, recording musicians, poets and more. Now, Giant Ledge's mission is to bring art, music, and storytelling together in an accessible way to cultivate top-tier art experiences for audiences and vast platforms for artists.

The Pregame show has been called a "top ten thing to do in NYC this weekend" and "one of the best comedy shows in NYC this month" by Time Out New York, and a "comedy show to see right now" by [coolstuff.nyc](#). It is also featured regularly in Nonsense NYC and Broadway World.



Lineups have included Mary Beth Barone (The Tonight Show, Comedy Central), Ian Lara (HBO, The Tonight Show), Harrison Greenbaum (Conan), Ashley Gavin (Hulu, SiriusXM), Jaye McBride (Netflix, Comedy Cellar), Drew Dunn (Just For Laughs), Matt Wayne (Comedy Central), Vannessa Jackson (SNL), and Maddie Wiener (Comedy Central).

You can follow The Pregame's Comedy's Instagram page, [@thepregamecomedy](#) for upcoming shows and lineup details, as well as Giant Ledge's page [@giant.ledge](#).

Home Away From Home

by Roni Z Lerner

Home away from home

The beating sun reflects the blue-green lake as it
glistens with glee

There is no place I would rather be
Blue and White I wear with pride

My outbursts of cheers and spirit cannot be denied
Black team forever that is just the way it will be
I found my home away from home within the trees that
watch over me

The laughter of children and their stories fill my heart

I long for the days I return back to the start
To see everyone gather together in Shabbos white
Overlooking the mountains what a beautiful sight
Yearning to sit on the benches joining in song

To standing in aisles clapping along

Day is done

Gone the sun

Right over left, arm in arm swaying is my serenity

Here friendship is my only amenity

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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.

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The SLC Community Corner!

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