

SURPRISE LAKE CAMP
SINCE 1961
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

RE-ECHOES

The official newsletter of the Surprise Lake Camp community

Fall 2022



Inside this issue:

- ▶ Sending Our Children to Camp – pg 6
- ▶ Firetower Hike – pg 7
- ▶ SLC-The Place To Be – pg 12
- ▶ 2022 Appeal – pg 14

SURPRISE LAKE CAMP
SINCE 1961
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jessica Zalin, President
Jillian Rauer, VP of Membership
Jared Pollet, VP of Communications
Corey Zbar, Treasurer
Matt Stollerman, Vice Treasurer
Tess Hamberg, Secretary
Adam Benmoise
Tracie Basch
Howie Berk
Adam Cusner
Jenn Davis
Jon Dickie
Charlene Dubin
Rob Greenspan
Joe Goldberg
David Lebowitz
Roni Lerner
Jared Pollet
Ariel Ruck
Rob Rosenbaum
Ariel Ruck
Andrea Zalin
Jordana Zbar
Rich Zbar

PAST PRESIDENTS

Howard Berk
Henry A. Cohen*
Alvin L. Elkins
Herbert A. Fishman*
Irving Gilbert*
Joe Goldberg
Arthur Jakubowitz
Joel "Whammy" Kaufman
Phillip Levinowitz
Sam Peyer*

Joel "Whammy" Kaufman
President Emeritus

*Deceased

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

alumni@surpriselake.org

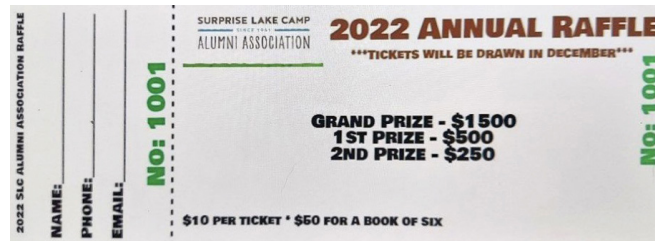
Please email your
newsletter submissions
or notify us of any errors:
alumni@surpriselake.org

Layout by [James Dinn](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

The SLCAA is hard at work planning our next opportunities to reconnect! Here's some of what's in store for the rest of the year and the start of 2023:

Help SLC and the Alumni Association send children to camp by participating in our annual Big Raffle, with proceeds to benefit the SLC Scholarship Fund! The raffle will be drawn on December 18, 2022. Buy your tickets today at <https://surpriselake.org/event/slc-alumni-association-affle-2022/>



Winter Alumni Party in NYC: January 2023 - stay tuned for more details!

Information about our annual Super Bowl Squares and March Madness Pool events will also be coming soon!

Contact Information and Membership Request

Calling all SLC Alumni!

We're updating our alumni database, and want to make sure that we have your up-to-date contact information. Please click [HERE](#) to send us your most recent information, and make sure you don't miss any future announcements from the SLCAA.

While you're at it, please consider [becoming a member of the SLCAA](#)! The Surprise Lake Camp Alumni Association is very active and currently has over 500 members. The mission of the SLCAA is to raise funds for camper scholarships, while continuing to strengthen our long-lasting relationships with our alumni.

As camp continues to recover from its shutdown in 2020, your support is more critical than ever! With your help, we can ensure that future generations of campers will continue to make magical memories during their summers at 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.

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



Benjamin Maverick Aronin, born to Lisa Fried Aronin and David Aronin on August 17



Liana Taylor Tenenhaus, born to Michael and Alli Tenenhaus on September 22



Jordan Levi Petlakh, born to Igor and Randi Petlakh on October 12



Evalina Retig, born to Andrew and Kelley Retig on October 21



Makenzie Sami Leavitt, born to Wendy Kleinman Leavitt and Matt Leavitt on November 3



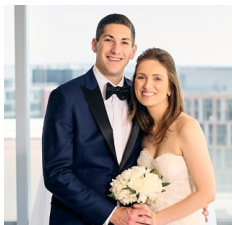
Philip Arthur Caban, born to Stephanie and Philip Caban (and godmother Jordana Zbar) on November 10

...and this just in: Bret Tenenhaus and Jenna Pfeffer welcomed their second child (baby boy) in Fall 2022

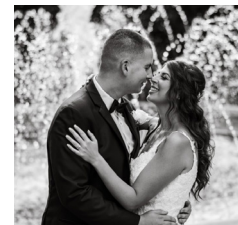
Weddings, etc



Brad Tarrash & Michelle Wu on their May 7 wedding



Mike Ganz & Caroline Flax on their June 25 wedding



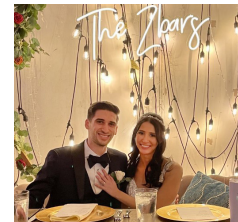
Alex & Sara Goodson on their July 17 wedding



Dylan & Alyssa (Lebowitz) Rothstein on their August 6 wedding



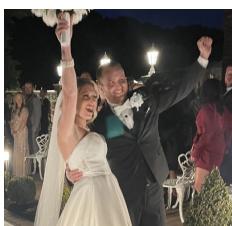
Keith Jacobs & Gina Castelvechi on their October 1 wedding



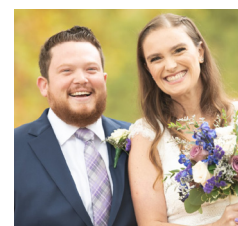
Alec & Amanda Zbar on their October 8 wedding



Eliza Reinhardt & Jason Estrella on their October 21 wedding



Keith & Ashley (Cohen) Kerwin on their October 22 wedding



Matt & Ilana (Atwater) Rucko on their October 23 wedding



Tyler Hamberg & Kayla Squicciarini on their October 23 engagement

Condolences

Darrell Rubin Weinberg and Janice Rubin on the passing of their father, alumnus Al Rubin.

Bryan Salz and Nicki Santariga on the passing of Nicki's mother, Lois Santariga

May their memories be a blessing

Director's Message

As I write this, our entire year-round team is working with the SLC Board of Directors in planning the most amazing summer for 2023! We have reviewed surveys, are speaking to potential staff members, brainstorming special events and evaluating potential camp projects. We cannot wait to welcome our campers and staff home again!

This summer was truly more impactful than ever. With our kids being back together again in our welcoming camp community, we were able to foster these special relationships while navigating through the challenges of daily camp life.

We are also focusing on wrapping up our 2022 Annual Scholarship Drive. Seeing how many families we were able to help this summer confirmed how valuable our scholarships are. Words cannot express how grateful Camp is for our alumni and friends for their continued love and support. The more we raise, the more families we can assist! If there was ever a time when we needed a little extra help, this is the time.

For 120 years, Surprise Lake Camp has been providing children with experiences, friendships and bonds that have stood the test of time. Whether it be driving up the camp road, the lake, a bunk, a friendship, or the amazing views from a hike, SLC has given us all amazing memories to cherish.

Now we need your help and support to make the summer of 2023 another one for the books and show other children the magic of SLC.

Thank you all for everything you have done, do, and will do for the children at SLC!

Sincerely,

Adam

Adam Bendeson, MSW
Executive Director



President's Message

Hello SLC Friends and Family, and welcome to the Fall 2022 issue of ReEchoes!

Since we last spoke, it seems that our community has been thriving – just take a look at all the wonderful news our alumni have shared in this issue! We have also begun to reconnect with one another in person, which is an irreplaceable experience.

This June, we visited Yankee Stadium for our first annual Take Me Out To The Ballgame event, and we watched the Yankees beat the Astros in spectacular fashion! We had so much fun that we'll definitely be doing this again in 2023, but don't worry, Mets fans – we're planning to visit Citi Field this time.

The SLCAA is thrilled to have hosted so many of you at camp in September for our first in-person Alumni Day in 2 years. Over 200 SLC alumni and their families showed up for a fantastic day of activities and socializing. We played softball, tie-dyed t-shirts, swam at the pool, and had a roundup at the Eddie Cantor Theater, all while reminiscing about times spent at our home away from home, SLC. Can't wait to do it again next year!

We also gathered in camp for Friends and Family Hike Day in October, and got to experience the beauty of SLC in the fall. We couldn't have done it without our fantastic hike leaders – thank you to each and every one of you for making the day a great success!

We've also kept some of our virtual programming going, with Bingo Night earlier this month, and our annual Big Raffle coming up in December! All proceeds from these, and other Alumni Association programs, help us make our yearly contribution to the SLC Scholarship Fund and allow camp to maintain its generous tuition assistance program.

As you can see, SLC and the Alumni Association have been hard at work to support the place we all know and love – now it's your turn to help! As we approach the holiday season, we hope that you'll consider [making a contribution to SLC](#), to help support the SLC Scholarship Fund to provide life-changing experiences for the next generation of SLC campers.

You can also consider holiday gifting from the [camp store](#) – this is a great time of year for a cozy new sweatshirt to keep warm, or some flannel pajama pants to channel that summer warmth as we think about our summer home.

As always, please feel free to [contact me](#) if you'd like to get involved with the SLCAA and its future event planning and fundraising efforts or want to share camp memories and alumni news.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy holiday season, and I hope to see you in 2023!



Jessica Zalin

President, SLC Alumni Association

jessicazalin@surpriselake.org



Sending our Children to Camp: Reflections from Two SLC Couples

By Lauren Hoffman (with Mark Benmoise)

In 2006, it was my first summer as staff and I was at orientation when I met Mark and knew instantly there was something special about him. Our summer fling turned into distance over the years, and coming back together for the summer at our favorite place and first home together, SLC. SLC was the perfect setting for our engagement, and our wedding was spent surrounded by our best friends from camp. We always knew our kids would one day be campers at SLC too, but driving up the camp road this past summer to drop Tyler off for his first summer as a camper was surreal. The dirt lifting off the ground as we made our way past the canteen, the sun blazing down, the hot summer air, the butterflies in our stomachs, and the amazing staff greeting us with smiles and cheer.

Tyler most looked forward to spending the summer with the camp friends he has known since he was born, and finally be able to experience the joy and fun he had heard so much about and got a taste of at GYFW last year.

We were certain dropping him off would be one of the most special feelings we would experience. Each and every time pictures were uploaded and we saw his smile we knew he was having the best summer of his life, we knew that camp magic was still alive. Picking him up, hearing him BEG to stay longer and tell us how excited he was to return next summer, THAT was an even better feeling.

Being part of the SLC community has always been so important and to us and a part of who we are. We are so excited for Tyler's future and can't wait for his little sister, Lake, to join him in a few years. Her name is after the place we hold dearest to our hearts, and know she too will be forever connected to Surprise Lake Camp.

By LG and Amy Grinberg

Sending our 8 year old, Jake, to Surprise Lake Camp where his mom and dad first met in the summer of 2008 was something that is quite difficult to put into words. This is something that we had been waiting to do for some time and when the time finally came, Jake was more excited than ever to experience his first summer at SLC. Seeing pictures of him playing, swimming, hiking, being independent and making life long connections is an experience we remember well and are so incredibly grateful to SLC for to provide that for our children. Jake is counting down the days until summer of 2023, when he'll be going for 8 weeks.

Do you have a child approaching camp age? Please contact us to discuss the options for your child's first summer at SLC!

A Hike to Firetower

By David Leibowitz



I often talk about all of the wonderful skills and abilities I gained and honed at SLC that helped make me the person I am today. But one of the most notable things I gained was an absolute LOVE of hiking -- so much so that I sometimes come back to SLC (with friends/alums) to relive those hikes. In addition, I also have hiked in some of the most beautiful places in the world. So, once the SLC Alumni Association began organizing autumn Hiking Days, I was thrilled. And needless to say, I have participated in MANY of them over the years. And this year was no exception.

Now for me, Hiking Day actually begins on the 90-minute car ride up to camp. As I continue to travel north, I begin to notice the change in foliage color -- from mostly green to an incredible mix of reds, yellows and oranges. By the time I get close to camp, the mountains almost appear to be on fire. It takes my breath away.



I had signed up to do the Firetower Hike -- probably my all-time FAVORITE hike in the hills surrounding SLC and one I have gone on (and even LED) many times before. This time, it was going to be led by one Barry Vegter (nicknamed 'Ranger Barry' by yours truly so many years ago). Now I haven't seen RB in quite a while and was looking forward to reconnecting with him a bit in addition to just completing this specific hike. So, on this particular morning, I was lucky enough to enter camp right in front of Barry (and his wife, Marlene), giving us a chance to catch up a bit as we walked towards the Main Building before the hike.

After catching up with other longtime camp friends, we were all told to gather near the flagpole for a brief, general Hike Day Orientation -- given by the one-and-only Whammy. Then we split up into our separate hiking groups.

Ranger Barry met with us near Mainside Arts & Crafts to discuss the particulars of the Firetower Hike. The challenging portions of the hike were emphasized. Then it came time to choose a 'Sweep' -- a person whose job it was to remain in the rear of the group and make sure no one falls behind and possibly gets



separated from the rest, increasing the chances that he or she will get (GASP!) lost. Having been on the hike so many times before, I volunteered and was so chosen. With this important requirement in place, we set out on the hike proper.

We walked through the ballfield, into the woods and past First Outpost. We then picked up a path, fittingly nicknamed (with ACTUAL signs) 'The Ranger Barry Trail'. We continued hiking, periodically stopping at certain 'intersections' to flip a coin and decide which way we would proceed. As I mentioned above, the foliage was absolutely BEAUTIFUL in its varying colors. We continued to hike uphill, occasionally passing certain viewpoints, where we could see incredible scenes through the trees and into the distance.

Then at one point, Barry stopped us again to 'prepare' us for a steep, rocky incline, charmingly nicknamed 'Devil's Ladder'. The steepness was so great that he advised us to use hand-over-hand climbing as we made our way forward (and upward) -- and so we did. And while this portion of the hike was rather challenging, you couldn't help but appreciate the amazing views -- views of the mountains all around us, views of the Hudson River, and even faint views of the New York City Skyline (!) in the far distance.

Barry also let us know that the actual Firetower would be invisible until we get to the very top of Devil's Ladder -- and then suddenly appear out of nowhere. And so it happened.

Once we reached the Firetower, the group broke up into smaller subgroups to eat lunch -- and for many -- for climbs up the actual Firetower. Now, when I worked at camp, the no-longer used Firetower fell into disrepair. Wooden platforms on the way up the tower were often rotted or missing completely. However, since then, the Tower has been declared something of a 'landmark' and renovated. Those old, rotted wooden platforms have been replaced by intact metal ones -- making the climb up a MUCH safer endeavor.

Also of interest were the sheer number of non-SLC hikers visiting the tower that day, eating lunch and enjoying the incredible views. Perhaps even more interesting were the number of DOGS (!) people chose to bring along on their hike.

After a bit, Barry called out to the group to prepare for the hike back to camp. Now while SOME non-SLC hikers chose to walk DOWN Devil's Ladder, we wisely chose the Red Dot trail. Not that it didn't have its own share of steep-ish downhill, but it was far less treacherous than Devil's Ladder in reverse. Again, the hike back allowed us to marvel at the incredible foliage and the occasional terrific views through the trees.

After a while, we ended up on the camp road, just before Caretaker Gene's house. We completed this last leg of the hike, with various hikers now proceeding at their own pace. Again, I had a chance to reconnect a bit with Ranger Barry and we each thanked each other for the roles we played on the hike. And as I approached the Main Building once again, I couldn't help but think about this, my favorite hike. And how I couldn't wait until I get a chance to do it once again.

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

SLC–The Place To Be

by Alexa Solomon

The morning of June 28, 2022, I felt a mix of emotions. I was incredibly excited about going to my sleepaway camp (Surprise Lake). However, I was sad that my years in elementary school were over. I LOVED P.S. 203 with all my heart; I never wanted to graduate and leave all of my friends, teachers, and principal.

I sighed. “Well, life goes on.” I muttered, pulling myself away from my bed. I dragged myself to the bathroom and brushed my teeth. I tried to only focus on going to camp. As long as it wasn’t September eighth, I was a-ok.

Before I knew it, my rapid covid test came back negative and I drove up to a tent.

“Bye Dad,” I hugged my father. “I will write to you.”

“I love you,” My dad replied.

I walked towards the tent.

“Bye!” Me and my Dad yelled to each other simultaneously.

“Hi Dalia!!!” I yelled running up to her. She was one of my best friends at Surprise Lake Camp, and I missed her a lot.

“Hi!” Dalia replied enthusiastically.

Moments later, a person with very fluffy hair came over to me and Dalia.

“Hi!” She smiled and waved at us. “I’m Lara, your new unit supervisor.” She wore a crown and a pink Idyllwood shirt, along with all of the Idyllwood counselors. Idyllwood was the name of our new unit, apparently the best one, according to Lara. That reminded me of how my class was the best class in the fifth grade. I tried to block the negative thoughts coming out of my mind. The last thing I needed was to cry on the first day of camp.

“Idyllwood has been the best unit since 1902,” she claimed, bringing me back to the real world, and away from my pessimistic thoughts. “Idyllwood campers always pay attention and actively participate in camp activities. I am so proud to be the Idyllwood supervisor.”

Lara seemed overly excited, but who am I to care? At least she was looking forward to meeting her new campers.

“Oh, one more thing,” Lara said. “There is an Idyllwood cheer. It’s like this: Idyll-w-double-o-d!” She clapped two times and the counselors joined in. We repeated it, each time louder than the one before. Then me and Dalia joined in. The cheer seemed very fun.

Lara explained the activities we were going to do: boating, hiking, sports, and swimming. *If you swim a mile, you get your name on a plaque.* I thought. *I am definitely going to swim a mile. I need to do it the first chance I get! I will also swim ten laps to be able to go on special boats.* Since I was on a swim team, I knew I could do it.

My classmates that were in my class just yesterday were always supportive of my swimming, I thought. I tried to think of a really catchy song to think of instead of my fifth grade class.

Eventually, me and Dalia were guided to our new cabin. There, we saw a lot of our friends we met at camp the year before. They were all gathered on the porch.

“Liv!” I shouted at my friend Olivia. I ran up to her and hugged her. Liv lives in Georgia, and I hadn’t seen her since last year. Then, I said hello to all of my other friends; Sloane, Maddy, Leah, Bella, Kinley, and Ella. Ella is Olivia’s twin sister. These were all

of my best friends, and it was an amazing surprise to have them in my group.

After reuniting with my friends, I saw two 19-year old girls. They started walking towards me.

"Hello!" One of them smiled. "My name is Livvy. I'm your new counselor. My cabin is right next to yours if you need anything."

"Hi!" I replied. I noticed that she had a British accent.

"Hi! My name is Ivonne. I'm also your counselor." The other one said in an American accent.

"Nice to meet you." I said. They both seemed nice. I was glad that they were my counselors.

As I marched up the scratched wooden stairs to my cabin, I thought of how Livvy and Ivonne reminded me of my teachers, Ms. Popovits and Ms. Farrell. They were all so kind and welcoming. The memories going through my mind gave me a lump in my throat. I swallowed it back. I couldn't be thinking this way on the first day of camp.

In my cabin, I saw Dalia and Ella unpacking their things. I realized I needed to get my luggage from the Idyllwood lodge. I walked down the steep and rocky hill and strolled into the lodge.

There were lifeguards inside, helping everyone carry their belongings up the hill.

"Hi Alexa," I heard a lifeguard say. I turned around and saw Ally. I met her the year before.

"Do you need help moving your luggage?" She asked.

"I definitely need help!" I sighed after attempting to drag my luggage alone.

After finally moving and unpacking, we went to the dining hall for lunch. I sat next to Dalia and Ivonne. Neil, the division head of Mountainview (another unit) put up the peace sign, signaling everyone to be quiet.

"SSSHHHH," He said to Mountainview. Everyone became quiet.

"I am so excited for camp to begin," He smiled. "I have been waiting for this day to come since last year. Who else is excited?"

Everyone screamed, cheered, and whistled. Neil waited until everyone was silent again.

After lots of shushing and shouts of "Be quiet!" Neil finally shouted over quiet mutters "Please join me in the Motzi!" (The Motzi is a Jewish prayer said before a meal.) Everyone sang the Motzi very loudly, and we started to eat.

I went to the special diets section to get the gluten free option. I took a bite. It was a lot better than last year's food, and also a lot hotter. I burned my tongue.

Me and my friends talked about what we did during the school year, and we told funny stories and laughed. I finally got my mind off of the school year. It was like I was breaking free from the stress of leaving P.S. 203.

I was only going to focus on the exciting summer ahead of me. We left the dining hall and I took a deep breath of fresh air and looked over at the lake. Tomorrow I would be swimming in it, doing my 10 laps for boating.

While I lay in bed, I was reminded of the camp song-SLC-The Place to Be. I had it stuck in my head. The song didn't lie. There was nowhere else I wanted to be in the entire world. SLC truly is the place to be.



surpriselake.org / P 845.265.3616 / F 646.582.0138 / info@surpriselake.org



SINCE 1902

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Zbar, *President*
Peter Hirsch, *Immediate Past President*
Matthew Grosshandler, *Vice President*
Eve Rubinstein, *Vice President*
Cindy Shmerler, *Vice President*
Seth Stein, *Vice President*
Gayle (Hoffman) Doyle, *Treasurer*
Charles Jainchill, *Secretary*
Robert Altabet
Margery Arsham
Peter Baum
Howard Berk
Joseph Goldberg
Dayle Henshel
Joy Henshel
Patti Henshel
Alan Hoffman
Stanley Josephson
Thomas S. Karger
Blair Klaff
Alan Kleiman
Linda Markowitz
Ruth Messinger
James Meyer
Jerry Meyer
Laurence H. Rubinstein
Eliot Senor
Jordana Zbar

Jordan Dale, *Special Advisor*
Moe Bordwin, *Honorary*
Michael Herson, *Honorary*
Barbara Hirsch, *Honorary*

Adam Bendeson, MSW
Executive Director
Sheryl Kirschenbaum
Camp Director

YEAR-ROUND

382 Lake Surprise Road
Cold Spring, NY 10516

December, 2022

SLC has always been a magical place, a home away from home during the summer to laugh, play, sing, swim and so much more!

But what happens to families who can't afford to send their child to camp?

Sadly, these children often stay home for the summer and miss out on the magic of sleepaway camp. But thanks to the generosity of people like you, families can call Surprise Lake Camp, request scholarship assistance, and offer the world to their child!

Since 1902, this has been a proud Surprise Lake Camp tradition. This year, in honor of our 120th Anniversary, we have challenged ourselves with raising an additional 120 one-week scholarships. This can only be achieved with the help of our alumni, friends and families.

Our annual Scholarship Drive is extremely important because it offers a way in for families with limited financial resources. This past summer was no exception. But that is only sustainable with your help!

Your donation today will help make an immediate impact on a child's life!

The Fun... The Friendships... The Memories... The Magic that lasts a lifetime!
We hope you will consider supporting our 120th Anniversary Scholarship Drive.

Shalom,

Adam

Adam Bendeson, MSW
Executive Director

Mike

Michael Zbar
President





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: \$50 ☐ Lifetime: \$360

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!

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.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

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 Adam at adam@surpriselake.org or 845-265-3616.

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.

Michael Zbar, CPA
Jordana Zbar, CPA
Corey Zbar, CPA



MICHAEL ZBAR AND PETER M. LEUNG, LLP
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
225 NORTH ROUTE 303, SUITE 201
CONGERS, NEW YORK, 10920
E-MAIL: info@zbarleungcpa.com
www.zbarleungcpa.com

Phone: (845) 639-3100
(212) 398-9111
Fax: (845) 639-3180

Office Hours Monday thru Saturday and Evenings

Stewart Lantner, D.D.S.
Joeseeph S. Goldberg, D.D.S.

General, Cosmetic & Laser Dentistry
Dental Sleep Medicine

(212) 399-8888
Dentist@DrLantner.com
www.DrLantner.com

Suite 800
200 West 57th Street
New York, NY 10019



Jonathan M. Tarrash M.D.
Board Certified in Pain Medicine
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

561-295-3900
Office: 561-939-2033
Fax: 561-939-2037
By Appointment Only

7015 Beracasa Way, Suite 102
Boca Raton, FL. 33433

CHAPTER 1 PHOTOGRAPHY

SPECIALIZING IN FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHY

914-263-2778 · wwhammy@aol.com
www.chapter1photography.com

If you would like to advertise in an upcoming issue of Re-Echoes,
please be in touch with us at alumni@surpriselake.org.

The rates for advertising rates are as follows:

RE-ECHOES 2023 AD RATES	LATE WINTER/ EARLY SPRING (DIGITAL)	SUMMER (DIGITAL)	FALL (PRINT/DIGITAL VERSION)	ALL THREE
BUSINESS CARD SIZE	\$50	\$50	\$100	\$150
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!