

SURPRISE LAKE CAMP
SINCE 1961
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

RE-ECHOES

The official newsletter of the Surprise Lake Camp community

Spring 2023

*This issue is dedicated
to Harry Vogel...
and to everyone who
knew and loved him*



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

Layout by [James Dinn](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please join us at one or all of these upcoming events!

Volunteer Day: Sunday, April 30

Spring Alumni Overnight: Saturday, May 5-Sunday, May 6

Spring Hike Day: Sunday, May 6

Spring Shabbat: Saturday, May 20

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!

[Click here to check out these top reasons to join an Alumni Association!](#)



Have you asked your company if they will match your charitable donation to **Surprise Lake Camp?**

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



Luke Alan, born to Jessica (Wayman) & Phil Frandina and excited big brothers, Jack & Matthew, on Sept. 14, 2022.



Amelia Rose, born to Jenn (Davis) and Henry Nablohz on Nov. 26, 2022.



Chloe Leanne, born to Steve & Michelle Lawrence, and big sister Delilah on Feb 2. She looks forward to being an SLCer in the GYFW class of 2030.



Zara Eliana, born to Rachel and Steven Zbar on Feb. 14.



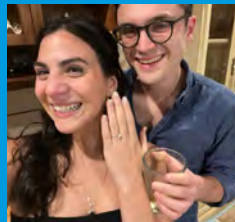
Elliana Grace, born to Jaime (Anemone) and Rosario Oliveri, and big brothers Carmelo and Nico, on Feb. 15.



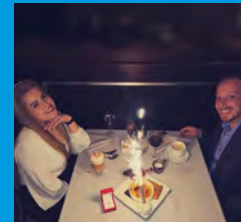
Ariella Maor, born to Shira (Goldstein) and Ivan Alkhwekhi on Mar. 6.



Ethan, born to Talia Schneider and Alfredo Sanchez on Mar. 20.



Skyler Dale on his engagement to Ruth Enriquez.



Andrew Schuster on his engagement to Alexa Olmedo.

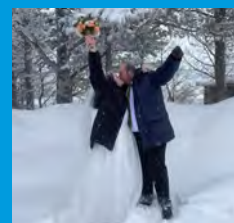
Weddings, etc



Miriam Tarrash and Matthew Stollerman on their December 3rd wedding.



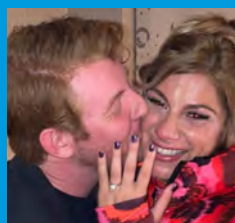
Steve Rosenbaum on his engagement to Holly.



Congratulations to Jake Berg and Liz Montenero on their April 4 marriage. They met as staff at SLC in 2018. Another couple for the camp wedding album!



Jackie Schneider on her engagement to Daniel Mendelsohn.



Jackie "JAX" Miskanic on her engagement to Braverijah Gregg.

We Extend Our Deepest Condolences To...

Janice Rubin, Darrell Rubin Weinberg, and their families on the loss of their Dad, Abraham Rubin.

Joe, Tobi, and Craig Goldberg, and their families, on the loss of their Dad, Sol Goldberg.

Elise Zbar and the Baranowski/Zbar family on the loss of Elise's mother, Janice.

Joel "Whammy" Kaufman and his family on the loss of his mother, Doris Kaufman.

Yvonne Vuzzo-Strum and the Vuzzo Family on the loss of her brother, Will.

Bobbi, Joanie, and Missy Vogel on the loss of Harry.

Joanne, Jeff, Eliza, and Hannah Reinhardt and their families on the loss of Michael.

Lori & Seth Fishman, Michael & Allison Heitzner, and their families on the loss of their mother, Michele Fahn Heitzner.

Loren Carpino, her family, and the Cold Spring community on the loss of Bob. Bob and Loren are the B&L of B&L Deli, a long-time favorite of generations of SLCers.

May their memories be a blessing.

OTHER ALUMNI NEWS

I have attached a picture of Zev Papernick, Larry Rubinstein and Blaze Weiss (left to right). Zev and Blaze are going to be aides at SLC this year after years of being campers. Larry was a camper and waterfront counselor from 1952 until 1959. He has been on the camp Board of Directors since 1990 and served as President from 1996-2002. He is a Lifetime Member of the SLC Alumni Association. His father was a camper and kitchen staff member from 1920-1929 and was a member of the SLC Board from the 1950's until he died in 2001. Larry's daughter and Zev's mother, Eve Papernick, was a camper and counselor in the 1970's and 80's, and is also now a member of the SLC Board and serves as chair of the Development Committee. Zev and Blaze were visiting Larry (who lives in Maine) to go skiing over winter break. The Rubinstein-Papernicks are four generation SLCers, and Blaze is 2nd generation - his father also went to SLC!
Larry Rubinstein



Long-time, full-time SLCer Avri Klemer is proud to share that his short fiction - A Crokinole Tale - is published alongside the writing of some of his favorite authors in the new Lawrence Block anthology, Playing Games. Available in eBook, paperback, and hardcover wherever you get your reading materials.



Congratulations to Jewelry Judge (and Winter Camper) Ben Gordon, 87, on receiving his third Pinnacle Award for Excellence from the Better Business Bureau of Greater Houston and South Texas. More about Ben and his 70+ years in the Jewelry business can be found [here](#).



Mazel Tov to Ella Sussman, who became a Bat Mitzvah during the summer of 2022 surrounded by her camp friends at her summer home, SLC. In November, her family continued the celebration with family and friends.



Congratulations to Spencer Gilbert on passing the bar exam.

Director's Message

Back in January of 2022, I returned to my home away from home after a 20-year hiatus. I would like to share the progress we have made since last summer, and some of the challenges we still face.

As everyone knows, the past few years have been unlike any we have ever experienced. For Surprise Lake Camp, it was an opportunity to re-focus on the things that make us unique.

One of our biggest successes this year has been building a dedicated team of both summer and year-round staff. This special group of leaders will help our campers grow and develop and while teaching and demonstrating SLC's values; the importance of living in a community, showing compassion towards others, having the courage to stand up for what's right, and expressing gratitude. These values define the relationships that we share, the results that we strive for, and how we move forward after each summer.

Progress on camp's site also continues successfully. Last summer, despite supply chain difficulties, we were able to complete the renovation of the Mainside Tennis courts and archery range in time for second session. This new facility is a big WOW! In the fall, we continued our roofing program by completing Merrylane cabins, lodge, and washhouse. Once the winter hit, our work shifted to indoor projects, where we focused on the renovating the interiors of the remaining two Teenside units, Lakeview and Merrylane. Campers arriving for the summer of 2023 who live in those cabins will be welcomed with new pine paneling, lighting, and freshly painted interiors!

In addition to these upgrades, we are also scheduled to replace both the Mainside and Teenside backstops and complete a host of other smaller physical plant upgrades. We are dedicated to making sure that our beautiful grounds are top-notch and ready for this summer's campers, and all future generations.

Enrollment for the 2023 summer is in full swing. We are already looking at waiting lists for certain grades and sessions. If you know someone who deserves a summer full of SLC memories, please tell them to act quickly and reach out to Abbe or Dena today!

Our Camp Director, Sheryl, and her team are busy planning an unforgettable summer. The staff hiring process is well under way, training for international staff has started, and the summer schedule is being filled with a variety of activities, both traditional and unique. Of course, we will have our specialist-led activities, but we'll also have our favorite special events like Carnival, Olympics, Sing, Israel Day, and more! And finally, we couldn't be called "Surprise Lake" without some special "surprise experiences" that our Program Director, Zoe, is keeping secret for now!

Answering to popular demand, our Alumni Association has returned to hosting in-person events. Thus far, they hosted a post-summer, in-camp Alumni Day that attracted hundreds of alumni, a Fall Hike Day, a Florida reunion, and a winter party in Manhattan. They are currently finalizing details about another trip to a Major League Baseball game, a Kickball Tournament, a spring Alumni Overnight, and a Spring Hike Day. Please keep checking your email about updates, and don't forget to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube.

Surprise Lake Camp is an incredibly special place, and I am truly fortunate to have been a part of it for many years. My greatest gifts have come from my association with camp, and I feel blessed for the opportunity to help future generations of campers and staff to have their own SLC meaningful experiences!

Sincerely,

Adam

Adam Bendeson, MSW
Executive Director



President's Message

Hello SLC Friends and Family!

I'd like to welcome you all to the Spring 2023 issue of Re-Echoes! As the days get longer, the temperatures rise, and the flowers start to bloom, I can't help but get excited about the possibilities that this season brings – and the fact that summer is just around the corner!

Since our last issue, the SLC Alumni Association has provided several opportunities for our alumni to connect with one another. This winter alone, we hosted an alumni reunion in Florida and a night out in NYC – our first since 2019! At each event, we were thrilled to reconnect with old friends, and to bond with new ones about our shared experiences at SLC. We've also encouraged some healthy competition with our annual Super Bowl Squares and March Madness fundraisers. As always, thank you to the dedicated group of SLCAA Board Members for volunteering to make these events happen, and to everyone who participates!

For those of you who haven't been able to join us at an in-person event this winter, I hope you'll consider a visit to SLC this spring! On April 30th, SLC campers, staff, and alumni will come together for [Volunteer Day](#). We'll spend the day on the grounds of SLC cleaning, painting, gardening, and otherwise helping to beautify camp to get it ready for the summer season.

The following Sunday, May 7th, we will be hosting a spring Friends and Family Hike Day, and will be able to experience the natural beauty of camp and its surrounding areas at this time of year. Finally, on May 20th, we'll be gathering for Spring Shabbat at SLC, where the SLC community will share a beautiful Saturday morning service, with a backdrop of sunshine over Surprise Lake.

After all of that, the SLCAA will be keeping the good times rolling with a kickball tournament in NYC in June, and a trip to Citi Field to see the Mets play the Nationals this July – more information about these events will be released soon. Please join us for some or all of these experiences!

We recently sent out an email asking you to [join or renew your membership to the SLC Alumni Association](#), and I'm pleased that so many of you have responded to this message! Joining the Alumni Association is one of the easiest ways to show your support for SLC, and your Annual or Lifetime dues go a long way toward helping us reach our fundraising goals. Each year, with your assistance, the SLC Alumni Association is able to make a significant contribution to camp's Annual Scholarship Drive, allowing us to share the gift of a summer at SLC with the next generation of campers. SLC has created so many special memories for each of us, and it's a privilege that we're able to pass the magic on for others to experience.

As always, please do not hesitate to [reach out](#) to share your news, reminisce about camp, or discuss how to get more involved with the Alumni Association. We'd love to hear from you, and hope to see you at an event soon!



Jessica

Jessica Zalin

President, SLC Alumni Association

jessicazalin@surpriselake.org

In Memory of Harry Simon Vogel

October 7, 1935 – December 21, 2022

It was with profound sadness that Surprise Lake Camp announced the passing of Harry Vogel on December 21, 2022. SLC and the Vogel Family received unprecedented outpourings of condolences, support, and love. Some of these tributes can still be read on the [Surprise Lake Camp Facebook page](#) and on the [Dignity Memorial Website](#).

The following are words spoken by some of Harry's family and friends at his funeral on December 26.



Words from Bobbi- We are here to celebrate a life well lived. Harry thought of himself as a very simple man; a man of the earth, a man of nature... a simple man. He always said "I'm just Harry. I'm just Harry." And we all know that "just Harry" was a disguise for Superman. Harry's legacy lives on in each and every one of us that's here today. If you're here, you have been touched by the energy, the enthusiasm, and the love of Harry Vogel, and that makes you a better person. Harry had a lot of achievements. He brushed them all off, but he said his finest achievements were his two girls, Joan and Missy. And he was right. They are very special women. They carry his legacy. His legacy was one of helping, of caring, and of love. He made everybody that he came into contact with feel better. He brought out the best in people. And that's what the girls do. They've learned well. They are good teachers. They are amazing women. They give their love whenever they can, and he is so proud of them. He is super proud, even now. Harry didn't talk very much about being a Holocaust survivor. But sometimes when we were alone in bed, he'd say to me "Bob, I wasn't saved from Hitler's ovens for no reason. I need to make something of my life. And I'm going to do that by having fun, by showing everybody that life is worthwhile, and by teaching and learning." Yes, we are celebrating Harry. And I hope you'll all celebrate, too. We have had, in the past few days, so many outpourings of love and affection and wonderment, that I was really surprised. People were saying things... He never talked much about his achievements, except, of course, his achievement of his two fabulous daughters, but you all know, and I hope that you'll all come and share with us. We want to hear the stories that you have about Harry. We don't have a lot of time here, but we invite you all to come back to our house – let the party continue. This is a celebration. And yes, it's our 63rd wedding anniversary! And you know what? Harry is right here, he wants to hear what everybody has to say, too. So, I leave you with the words of Harry Vogel. "Love one another. It'll make me feel good." Thank you all.



Words from Missy- I was blessed to be his daughter. So the brightness in my days are a little less. The spring in my step, for the moment, is a little less. Because my amazing protector, mentor, friend, adventurer, and most of all, father, is no longer on this earthly plain. Although I know he always loves me and he always will, I will miss the giant hugs on a daily basis, and the promise that he would say every day. "I love you, be safe." So to all our family and friends, from all walks of life, anybody that was in Harry's life, from PSIA to the National Ski Patrol, Campgaw, Stirling Forest, and Surprise Lake Camp. Thank you all for your outpouring of love and support - your shared thoughts of our amazing father are truly sustaining us during

this most difficult time. Those of you who ever worked with Harry when he was organizing everything . . .

"Uuhhh.... You, uh, you, and uh you." Love you, Dad.

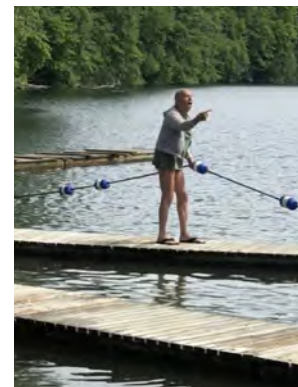
Words from Joanie- Thank you everybody for coming, for everything. Thank you for all the people who have stopped by so far, and brought us food to eat. Thank you, Joe and Paul, for everything. Thank you, thank you, thank you. We are so grateful to everyone here, and those of you who are watching streaming who couldn't get here. Thank you for your wishes



and prayers. Thank you, thank you, thank you. In the hospital, all Dad kept on saying every time he happened to be watching the news is “why can’t people just love each other?” Dad taught me that it doesn’t matter what people look like, what religion they are, what their political background is... it doesn’t matter. Just love people. Just love them for who they are. From the moment I was born I was Daddy’s little girl. As an infant I had horrific colic and screamed unconsolably. After working his day job at school, and his after school programs, and teaching at the adult continuing education classes at night, he would come home and pace the apartment throwing me over his shoulder and holding me by my feet, because it was the only position that gave my tiny body relief from the pain, and gave mom and the neighbors some peace to sleep. Last week, the third week that Missy and I were doing 12+ hour shifts at the hospital so Dad would never be alone, Dad said “I don’t want to be a burden to you girls anymore.” And I asked, “was I a burden all those nights, those sleepless nights, when you paced the floor to ease my pain?” I said “Dad, you could never be a burden to us.” And Mom chimed in “Harry, this is love!” My very first bath, I cried. And Dad almost did too because he thought I didn’t like the water. Five months later, all smiles and giggles, I had my first swimming lesson at SLC. Dad was a born teacher. He taught

Missy and I to swim and dive and sail and everything having to do with the water. He taught me gymnastics, and he taught me how to drive a stick shift. He taught all three of us how to drive and never once raised his voice or had an argument. When Dad taught a concept, he had a way of steering you in the direction of discovery, and always leaving with you something to work on or improve on for next time.

When Dad was considering retiring from teaching in the Bronx, it was becoming very dangerous to work there. Teachers were being assaulted. His colleague in the automotive shop was shot. One day during class, a kid came in and threw a Chinese star at his head. It landed in the wall behind him, missing him by inches. Dad dove toward the kid to prevent him from injuring the rest of the students in the class. He picked up the kid and hung him on a coat hook on the wall. He pried the throwing star out of the wall and proceeded to give the class a lesson in annealing metal and soldering, rendering the throwing star useless. More than ten years later, we were walking in the Palisades Mall, and we heard some guy scream “Mr. Vogel! Mr. Vogel! Is that you? Wait up! You saved my life! This is my wife, and my son, and if it hadn’t been for you, we wouldn’t be here today.” Dad just smiled



and said “Good job. Nice family.” Anywhere we ever went on vacation, around the world, to Jones Beach or the Jersey Shore, someone would come up to Dad and say “You’re Harry Vogel, aren’t you? You changed my life.” “You taught me how to ski.” Or, “you taught me how to snowboard.” He didn’t learn how to snowboard until he was 65. And then he taught snowboarding. “Surprise Lake Camp saved my life.” “I met my wife because of you.” “You made me want to be a better person.” “Harry Vogel you’re my idol. I want to be just like you when I’m your age.” One year, on Rosh Hashanah we were all sitting at a table at camp, and Jordan Dale was asking thought provoking questions, like he always does. He asked me, “Joanie, what is your biggest fear?” I thought for a second and I said,

“disappointing my Dad.” And then I felt Dad’s strong arms around me, and he said, “you could never disappoint me, kid.” Dad was honest to a fault. Never boastful. Always humble. He treated every individual as the amazing person that each of us had the potential to be. When he did get angry, it was because he knew that we could do better. And he only ever yelled at people he loved. And he loved you all! Dad was a man of few words and people knew he could be trusted to keep their confidence. My gram always said “you need a crowbar to get information from your Dad.” And there are so many people and so many stories that he never even told us. So we welcome you all to share your stories so we can know about them. Thank you all for being here, and for loving my Dad.



Words from Jordan Dale- Harry often invited me to his funeral. I'm sure he did the same for many of you.

I always declined, because Harry said he was going to live to be 160, and I had no intention of lasting that long.

I heard Harry share his formula for living to 160 so many times and expressed with such earnestness that at times I have to admit I actually began to believe it. And that makes this moment a little surreal.

Harry was one of the greatest human beings I have known in my life, and I love him deeply. And I could stop there, for that really says it all.

But let me say a few more words about the qualities Harry had that I so admired and so loved.

No one could match his work ethic. He was the Ever-Ready bunny, moving at the speed of light, juggling sixteen projects at a time. He got more accomplished in less time than seemed humanly possible. So often I would come to him apologetically with a huge list of things that needed to get done. A normal person would have said "Jordan, this is too much." Harry's standard reply was "What else?"

He was extraordinarily competent. He had a million skills and everyone came to him when they didn't know how to do something, and he showed them. I was planting on Volunteer Day this year and Harry drove by in the jeep. "Harry," I said, "Do you have a trick for getting these plants out of the container without having all the soil break apart?" Of course he did, and it worked like a charm.



Harry loved his family with incredible passion and dedication. He was lucky to have Bobbi, Missy, and Joanie, and they were lucky to have him.

Harry cared. He wanted to make his corner of the world better in any way he could. He helped everyone.

Harry was a brilliant teacher. He taught us how to ski, how to swim, how to windsurf, how to do so many things. He taught us how to live better lives.

Harry loved humor. "We've gotta laugh Jordan." For, as Harry people know, laughter brings out the endorphins.

Harry was fiercely loyal. My God, how he protected me, supported me, and did whatever he could to make me succeed. Ditto his family and so many of his friends. Ditto Surprise Lake Camp.

Harry loved Surprise Lake Camp. It wasn't just a job. It was a second marriage. He worked at camp for 71 consecutive summers. Longer than I've been alive. He carried so much of the history and culture of the place inside him. What a huge loss his passing is to the institution that is SLC.

Harry wasn't afraid of change. He worked for six different Executive Directors, each with their own style, and he adjusted to all our craziness. Every year I'd discuss with him new ideas, new policies, new ways of doing things, and he made helpful suggestions, and then embraced the changes and helped make them happen.

Harry had broad shoulders. He confronted strangers, he managed difficult people, he put out fires, figuratively and literally, he removed snakes, he solved crises.

He was fearless, sometimes to a fault. I am thinking of the time that the road along the lake at camp gave way and a huge garbage truck was left leaning over the water at a very scary angle. The truck was leaking into Harry's beloved lake, so he climbed around the side of the truck, dangled between the truck and the lake where if the truck fell it would crush him, and hung a bucket to catch the dripping sewage. Who does things like that?!!!





And of course there were the Harryisms: “Hurry up and wait,” “busier than a one armed paper hanger with the hives,” “hello young fellow,” “get in the jeep,” “oopah,” “give me a hug and a squeeze,” and “they can’t make it tough enough, but they’re allowed to try.” Someone should make a list, or maybe write a book.

Perhaps the thing I admired most about Harry was that he counted his blessings. His typical answer when I asked “How are you Harry?” was to say “I’m blessed,” and then go on to recite the reasons why. He lived with a sense of appreciation, every day.

When they made Harry, they broke the mold. He was a one-of-a-kind human being whose soul and spirit were forged in a magical place, and whose presence made life sweeter for all of us.

Harry was one of the greatest human beings I have known in my life, and I love him deeply.

Words from Whammy- Good afternoon to Bobbi, Joanne, Missy, friends and family of Harry. Anyone who ever spent a summer in camp is considered family of Harry, chosen family.

We always thought Harry would live forever - that we would not be here extolling his many virtues and the way he lived his life.

Today we say farewell to the Harry we knew, yet the celebration of his life will continue long after this service is over. 71 consecutive years at camp gives us thousands of stories...

It is incredible that we have such a large collection of people who grew with Harry over at least the past 50 plus years. Some, 70 years. Collectively, we represent thousands of years of people who were taught by a Legend who gave so much of his heart and soul to Surprise Lake Camp over eight decades.

Harry was never soft spoken. There are many people who fondly remember Harry “speaking loudly to them”. It might have been a rite of passage during Harry’s tenure.

He was a King of Safety, and always made sure the waterfronts were safe and the campers were safe. He was famous for moving copperheads out of units, and for just being Harry.

He also did things rational folks would not do.

In 1991, right before camp and right before docks weekend, he was hit by a car on his bicycle. We know he had his standard red jeep, which had a stick shift. Harry had his arm in a sling, maybe even a cast. I don’t know how he did it, but he drove that jeep around the lake with his waterfront staff in tow and his arm in a sling.



He could definitely kick Chuck Norris’s butt.

Harry’s life in camp was a part of the Camp tapestry. He was always there. He would always be there. Nothing else was ever expected.

Talking to Harry was a chance to interact with someone who stood on the Eddie Cantor stage with Eddie Cantor.

He worked for seven directors, eight decades. Before Jerry Mark became Director, there were spiked rocks put in front of the Main Office so staff would not sit by the steps. When Jerry took over the role, Harry came out of his office with his

trusty sledgehammer and knocked those spikes down to little nubs. He was, after all, making camp safer for all.

He was cantankerous at times in later years...

Mousetrap story.

A supervisor in camp needed mouse traps for his bunk. Harry showed him how to use them. But he ended his lesson with "young fellow, after you catch them, clean the traps and bring them back." Most people would not have dared to not bring them back.

I remember when Harry told me that he was not allowed to wear his Speedos in the office anymore. Harry found a way to get around that by wearing what he called his "Taliban shorts". A legend changing with the times.

I still have some unanswered questions. Harry, you provided the bus counselors with twine and paper bags for accidents. My question is... why a paper bag!? Where did the Hippo go? How do you teach a dog to go windsurfing with you? Is there a singular version of speedos? What is the phone number at the top of Mt Beacon, as I know you have it in your black book...

The celebration continues as we share Harry's love for camp and tell more stories that some people would never believe happened. With Harry, they happened.

Harry, thank you for your incredible dedication and memories that will keep your spirit alive forever.

In our hearts and minds you are on our lake surrounded by SLCers who have passed before. You have your Speedos on as you move the windsurfer with Bear on the rear for a perfect ride. You'll be watching over us and keeping us safe on and at the Lake.



Two Bananas- We were campers at SLC for 8 years and then worked as Lifeguards from 1985 to 1989. We learned how to sail, windsurf, canoe, swim and lifeguard at SLC and we suspect that was in no small part due to Harry's vision and efforts at the SLC waterfront. As lifeguards we interacted with Harry a lot, putting docks together (including dropping a few ratchet wrenches), hauling boats in and out of the water, Sunday drills, sinking anchors, pulling up anchors and more. Harry was a person that commanded respect, a person that we all listened to, while also giving his heart, kindness and soul to SLC and everyone around him. We all picked up a lot of skills, knowledge and love from Harry (and Missy too) and we are very thankful for the time that we spent with Harry and all of the Vogels. Harry graced us with some wonderful sayings and will continue to live on forever in our souls and memories. And we will think of him when we are doing some of our favorite activities like canoing, swimming or sailing and try to enjoy these activities and life as much as he did.

With Love, Sorrow and Thankfulness,

Greg Kaufman and Murray Lantner (or as Harry Referred to us "Two Bananas.")



Our deepest condolences to Harry's Surprise Lake and immediate family. He was such a significant part of the SLC experience.....and his Speedo will never be forgotten. His personality was strong, and he had quite a presence. May his spirit continue to live on through the SLC experience and traditions, and the other amazing and inexplicable ways that our loved ones let us know that they are still with us, even when they are physically gone. May his memory live on forever.

With much Love,

Gloria and Oliver Karimian



Joanne, Missy & Bobbi,

I know it's been a long time since I've seen any of you and that there's been an outpouring of love from SLC and the whole community... I wanted to just send you a note to say I'm so, so sorry for the loss of Harry. I met him when I was 13 at camp and he left a lasting impression on me all those many years ago (and since!) I loved him and had a lot of wonderful times with him over the years and will never forget his can-do attitude, "YOU, YOU, and UH, YOU" to all the staff, and his iconic Jeep/Speedo/Walkie-Talkie uniform. But mostly how much he LOVED you all. The story of how he met Bobbi was one I've always remembered, and the way he would talk about loving his wife served as a role model for me for how a husband should love a wife and how a couple knows they're meant to be together. NOT a little thing. I know your loss is huge but am grateful you were all lucky enough to have him in your lives. He truly was like no other. So along with the masses, I add my voice to the sea of people singing the praises of the great Harry.

You are all in my thoughts! Passing on the solstice must be a good thing. He passed on what was also my grandmother's birthday. He was (and always will be) beyond special and loved.

Take care,

Jalyne Bassell (SLC camper 1989-1992, A&C specialist/photography specialist 1993-1997).

One of my favorite Harry memories, wrangled a snake in my camper's bunk and just drove away with it! One hand on the stick shift and the other with the snake. May his memory be a blessing.

Matt Stollerman



Lt. Harry S. Vogel
147-05 Sanford Ave.
Flushing 55, N.Y.

February 27, 1962

Major Anthony J. Sava
Commanding Officer
351st Psychological Warfare Co.
2181 Loring Place North
Bronx 53, New York

Dear Sir:

I am a teacher in civilian life and must supplement my income with summer employment. If I do not work during the summer, I will be forced to go into debt.

The New York City Board of Education allows its employees up to one month a year for military service. With your permission I could perform my military obligation at any time during the school year, rather than during the months of July and August.

It is during the months of July and August that I work at a non-profit childrens camp in Cold Spring, N.Y. The camp season is from July 1, through September 3rd. If I am unable to remain at camp for the entire season, I will have to forfeit the position. The camp will not hire me for part of the season, because I am director of the waterfront, and the safety of the campers is at stake.

If it will facilitate matters I will try to find a unit that will accept me for my ANACDUTRA.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

1st/Lt. Harry S. Vogel

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The donors listed below made gifts between January 1 and December 31, 2022. This listing includes alumni and friends who made contributions to our Annual Scholarship Drive as well as Board members who made gifts to the Annual Board Campaign, combined totaling over \$388,000! We are grateful to the SLC community for your love and generosity.

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Magic Castle “mini-reunion”

On March 19, a group of SLCers and friends met at the Magic Castle in Los Angeles, CA. The evening included a by-invitation-only dinner, followed by a top-notch magic show. Afterwards, guests were allowed into different rooms to watch other magic shows being performed. Thank you to Whammy and Michael Gutenplan for facilitating this highly enjoyable evening. Pictured are Joshua Karron, Sarah, Joshua Marcus, Altara Michelle, Michael Gutenplan, Whammy, Claudia Sampson, Lisa Krigsman, and Marc Krigsman.



GOT SLC?!!

Want to show your SLC pride? Get some camp swag from our [online store](#). We have something for everyone, including branded T-Shirts, Sweatshirts, Pajama & Sweatpants, Beanies, Hats & Visors, Bibs & Onesies, Beach Towels, Blankets, Jewelry and more!



Looking back on 25 years

By James Benedick

This summer will be 25 years since I first set foot in Surprise Lake Camp. Little did I know it then, but those footsteps would change my life forever.

As the summer of 1998 loomed, I had no plans and a friend of mine suggested I go to the Camp America fair. I had no concept of what a summer camp was, least of all one in America. I also had exams to do and that meant the dates I could work didn't suit most of the camps at the fair. A camp director (who I wish I now knew) walked me round to the Surprise Lake stall and told Adam Bendeson and Terri Krauthamer that he couldn't take me on his camp, but he thought they had the right dates for me. They did, and after a short chat with Terri I had a job for the summer as a camp counselor.

A few months later and I was on a plane and on my way to orientation. That first week I sat for two days in the Upper Rec Room trying to stay awake during first aid training. I didn't learn much first aid, but I got a feeling that the place I found myself in had something about it. The rest of the week was spent learning about what a summer camp was and what we needed to do. I had been made a counselor in Unit I and we spent our week with the girls' unit of the same age, Unit J. That summer there was to be one head of both units, Karen Morrison. Karen and I didn't get off to the best of starts as I had no idea what I was doing or how to do it (I imagine SLC still doesn't allow counselors to have "favourite" campers or just do what they want!). By the end of the summer Karen would become one of the many people who had taken me under their wing, shown me so much and made my summer. We ended that week with an overnight at Cornish, with the Unit I and Unit J counselors listening to the Israeli scouts tell us about their life, hearing the CAs tell us about what SLC meant to them and sleeping under the stars. Something special was brewing, but I had no idea what. It was all a blur to me really, but I felt comfortable and thought that it might be fun.

What I didn't realise, was that this was just the build up to arrivals day and the campers coming. The peace of orientation didn't last and I soon learnt that I didn't want it to. We waited by the Lake and Senior Hill as buses came in from places I'd only seen in films - Manhattan, Brooklyn, Staten Island and Queens - maybe I was in a movie I thought. In many ways I was and within days my life would never be the same. The Units and Mainside were vibrant and friendly, the campers showing us the way and making every day unique. Mornings would start on Senior Hill listening to Liz Sussman take round up. "Rise and shine and give god your glory glory, children of the lord". I can close my eyes now, see Liz's beaming smile and hear those sounds. The rest of the days were spent at activities and we hung out doing arts and crafts, sports, swimming, buddy board and hikes. Nights were spent across camp and in the Eddie Cantor Theater, looking at the lake glistening and with everyone smiling. I'd quickly begun to realise this place was magical and I didn't want any day to end. Luckily for me for six glorious summers those days and nights didn't end.



I found my own little place at camp that summer on the ballfield after someone asked Paul Doctors and myself if we wanted to coach the Mainside soccer team. "Why not?" we said, and we suddenly had trials and a football team. We got the boys up at 6am, ran them up the Eddie Cantor steps and played football with the sun on our backs. For a couple of football loving Brits it was heaven on earth.

It wasn't just the days that were fun. The nights spent with the staff were unforgettable. We'd start at the Canteen and got to see all of Cold Spring. Whether it was dinner at Denny's, fun in Walmart or drinks at The Hub, the people made it special. We also had our own little Britpack forming. In Unit I Paul and I had already been joined by another Brit, Alex Wright, who was a lifeguard on Mainside. I'm pretty sure he was the only reason I passed my deep water swimming test that summer. There were lots of other Brits on Mainside too. On



the flight over I had already met Jamie Gross, who was joined in Unit H by Jeremy Korhnauser. They probably had an argument about Arsenal and Spurs before Jeremy had unpacked. Jeremy had been to SLC in 1996, but I think even he will tell you it wasn't like that summer of 1998. In the evenings and on our days off we would meet up with Pete "Fitness" Mayfield and Tony Peel, who was a lifeguard on Teenside. We saw New York together, had the odd drink (Tony might have had a few more) and might even have celebrated Paul's birthday on Deer Hollow Road. There were plenty of others too and the Brits, the Americans, the Canadians, the Israelis and all the other nationalities brought so much to camp and so much to me personally.



For me, SLC changed my life and formed me into the person I am today. Within weeks SLC had become my home and I knew I would be coming back for more summers. As my friends travelled the world I travelled to Cold Spring and worked out how I would be able to come back the next summer. When university and law school came to an end, I again ended up at Surprise Lake Camp, as excited for the start of each summer as I had been the previous year. By the end my campers were staff and creating their own magic. I would fly in each summer as soon as I could to spend time with my SLC friends and families. The homes of the Zbars, the Habers and the Schneiders were my homes and they couldn't do enough for me ever. They and so many others are and remain my family and I still count Jordy Zbar as one of my best friends in the world.



SLC to me was everything. It made me who I am. I went as an unconfident 18-year-old kid and grew up each summer around the most amazing people. I fell in love, I laughed, I smiled, and I cried once or twice. Those memories remain with me and SLC remains in my heart and remains my place. I haven't been back since the summer of 2003, but I want to and I will do. Work Program 2003 was a wonderful end for me, seeing campers I'd known since Mainside start to become young adults. My SLC journey hasn't ended since 2003. I've been privileged to see old campers and counselors when they have been over to London, and nothing makes me happier than getting those messages to tell me they are coming over.

As for that Britpack, well that's its own wonderful tale. What started as a random group of guys of different ages and from different parts of England meeting by chance in upstate New York has ended with us being the greatest of friends. I imagine we all thought our friendship would be fleeting, but 25 years later the Magnificent Seven remain the best of friends. We've been to half the bars in London, birthdays, bachelor parties, weddings, births, bar and bat mitzvahs, christenings and holy communions. We even now have our own Surprise Lake Camping, as every year we go to a camp site, pitch our tents, barbecue and reminisce. For all of us, SLC is in our heart. This year the celebration will be a little bit more special as we celebrate 25 years of friendship.

So to SLC, thank you. You've changed my life for the better forever and as I write this and a tear goes down my cheek, please know there are too many of you to mention, but I miss you and I love you all.

I only hope whoever has the privilege of taking those first footsteps into Surprise Lake Camp this summer will be half as lucky as I was.

CURRENT MEMBERS OF *The 1902 Society* AS OF MARCH 29, 2023

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* 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.



Refer your Friends to SLC

Do you have friends or family considering sleepaway camp for their children? Please make sure that SLC is on the radar! Here are the [Top 10 Reasons to Choose SLC](#). Also, please refer families to our [Future Families web pages](#). If your kids are SLC campers, they are eligible for the [I.R.A.F. referral program](#). Please help us spread the word!



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 Anonymus :

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

Photos from the Winter Party, February 4, 2023





SINCE 1902

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-
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Camp Director

YEAR-ROUND

382 Lake Surprise Road
Cold Spring, NY 10516

Spring Appeal

Dear SLC Alums,

As an alumnus of Surprise Lake Camp, you may already know that for many of our youth, camp would not be – or would not have been – an option, due to financial barriers. However, because of philanthropic people like you, we are able to provide a comprehensive Jewish camp program for children regardless of their family’s financial status or ability to pay. In fact, you may have even benefited from this long-standing scholarship program!

Continuing with this tradition, we are fortunate to renew our longstanding partnership with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, which has announced their 2023 Forward Together initiative. With this opportunity, for every \$3 you give to SLC in support of our campers and grounds, The Foundation will match with an additional \$1. As if that wasn’t enough reason to donate, if we surpass our annual fundraising goal, we will be awarded an additional \$10,000 in support of our deserving community!

With these funds, not only will we continue to fuel our mission of providing scholarships to deserving campers to join us for the summer, but once they are here, we would have the opportunity to provide them with fresh cabins and modern program spaces that foster creativity, passion, and exploration - the building blocks of a successful summer! Additionally, we would like to support our hardworking staff with improvements to their housing and lounge areas. After all, happy staff = happy campers!

Whether campers are boating across beautifully maintained Lake Surprise, eating their favorite meal in the renovated dining hall, zooming down the slide into the heated pool, visiting the Nurse in the overhauled Health Center, or singing their hearts out at the Eddie Cantor Theater – you can take comfort in knowing these experiences were made possible through critical donations in years past. Now, let’s look to the future.

You, our loyal alumni and generous donors, make camp the place it is and are helping prepare us for Surprise Lake Camp’s next 120 years! Please complete the enclosed form (or visit <https://surpriselake.org/ways-to-give/>) and take pride in supporting “The Best in Jewish Camping!”





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 Full Name _____ Name(s) as you'd like to appear in donor list or "Anonymous" _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Preferred Phone _____ Date of Birth _____ Email _____

Our Gift

Have a specific fund in mind?
Please contact us at (845) 265-3616.

**Donations to these funds are eligible for a 3:1 Forward Together Match from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.*

- \$ _____ Annual Scholarship Drive*
- \$ _____ Capital Improvement Fund*
- \$ _____ Harry Vogel Aquatics Fund*
- \$ _____ Tribute / Honor Fund* (Honoree's name below)

- \$ _____ Wherever my gift is needed most.

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 Legacy Society. 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 3% 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 establish monthly gift installments upon receipt of this form.*

I'll pay by:

Credit Card: Visa MC Disc. AMEX Card #: _____

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

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

Thank you for your generosity!

The SLC Community Corner!

Thanks to our Spring Advertisers.

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



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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:

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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!