

SURPRISE LAKE CAMP
SINCE 1961
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

RE-ECHOES

The official newsletter of the Surprise Lake Camp community

Spring 2024



SURPRISE LAKE CAMP
SINCE 1961
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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alumni@surpriselake.org

Please email your
newsletter submissions
or notify us of any errors:
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Layout by [James Dinn](mailto:James.Dinn)

UPCOMING EVENTS

SLC Alumni Association Raffle 2024 · Ongoing until mid-December
www.surpriselake.org/event/raffle2024

Spring Camp Tour (for prospective families) · Sunday, April 14
www.surpriselake.org/event/camp-tour-4-14-24/

Volunteer Day · Sunday, May 5
www.surpriselake.org/event/volunteerday2024

Spring Shabbat · Saturday, May 18
[surpriselake.org/event/springshabbat2024/](http://www.surpriselake.org/event/springshabbat2024/)

Spring Alumni Overnight · Saturday, May 18-Sunday, May 19
www.surpriselake.org/event/alumniovernight2024

Spring Hike Day · Sunday, May 19
www.surpriselake.org/event/springhike2024/

Whiskey Tasting Experience · Sunday, June 2
[surpriselake.org/event/whiskey2024](http://www.surpriselake.org/event/whiskey2024)

Alumni Day Eve Lawn Fest · Saturday, August 3
www.surpriselake.org/event/lawnfest2024

Alumni Day · Sunday, August 4
www.surpriselake.org/event/alumniday2024

Family Camping Weekend · Friday, August 30-Monday, September 2
Website coming soon.

SLC Rosh Hashana Program · Thursday, October 3
Website coming soon.

Visit our Events page for more info! Surpriselake.org/events



**SLC prays for an end to the
suffering in Gaza and Israel, for
the return of all hostages, and for
a path to lasting peace and justice
in the Middle East.**

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



Sara Violet, born to Jason and Shoshana Cusner, on September 12.



Benjamin Michael Tarrash-Wu, born to Brad Tarrash and Michelle Wu, on January 10.



Reuben Jay, born to Miriam Tarrash and Matt Stollerman, on January 23.



Leora Sylvie, born to Lisa Tenenhaus and Zachariah Dannett, on January 26.



Rob Rosenbaum and Casey Spellman on their January 26 wedding.



Matt Miskanic and Sydney Greenspan on their February 17th engagement.



Sabrina Levin and Nadav Shoshani on their March 10th wedding. Another couple for the SLC Wedding Album!



Emma Vogel and Jennifer Arthur on their March 29 engagement in Lofoten, Norway.



Jared Pollet and Elayne Wang on their March 30 engagement



Henn Kremer and Asaf Yancu on their March 7 wedding.

We Extend Our Deepest Condolences To...

Steve & Shelley Gershner and their families on the passing of Steve's mother, Bette.

Jessie Shatesky, Tyler Shatesky, and their family on the passing of their grandfather, Milton (Moshe) Wolff.

The family and friends of Elyse Avchen Goldstein.

The family of Charles Stendig, who passed away in February. Mr. Stendig was a member of the 1902 Society.

May their memories be a blessing.

Weddings, etc

Executive Director's Message

The camp hibernation season is ending, and spring is unfolding in vibrant hues of green in anticipation of another SLC summer. Even Lake Surprise has shed its icy covered top to reveal the calm waters that are getting ready to welcome a new set of campers.

With the thawing of winter's grip, preparations for camp are also beginning to take center stage. Families have started to sift through packing lists, ensuring every essential item finds its way into duffel bags. From sunscreen to bug spray, rain gear to swimsuits, the checklist grows longer with each passing day, mirroring the gradual lengthening of daylight hours.

You can see the buds emerging on our most precious natural surroundings -- much like our Mountainview campers, formerly Juniorside, who will experience the wonders of SLC for the first time. As the new season unfolds, so too does a sense of readiness and resilience among these newest members of the Surprise Lake Camp family.



Amidst the burgeoning foliage and fragrant blooms, campers are eagerly anticipating the adventures that await them. Excitement brews as they envision days spent hiking trails, roasting marshmallows around crackling campfires, and forging friendships that will endure beyond the fleeting days of summer. With each passing breeze and budding flower, anticipation swells, igniting a fervent longing for the freedom and joy SLC promises.

Spring serves as a time of preparation not only for the physical journey ahead, but also for the emotional and mental growth that summer camp fosters. With each passing day, as the landscape transforms and the air fills with the promise of warmer days, campers and staff eagerly embrace the spirit of adventure, awaiting the moment when they can bid farewell to spring and embark on their summer odyssey they call Surprise Lake Camp.

I cannot wait for you all to witness another unforgettable summer and showcase your own lifelong friendships forged here at SLC when you visit on August 4th for Alumni Day!

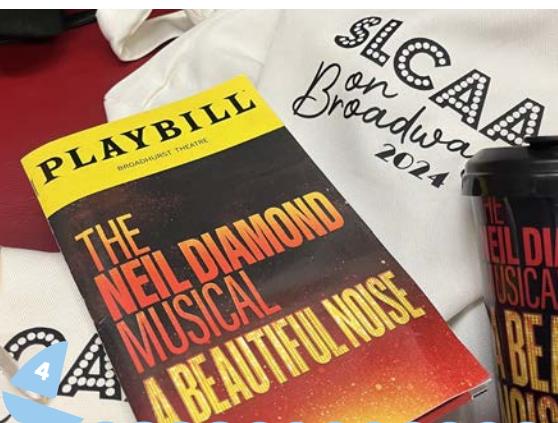
See you all then.

Adam

Adam Bendeson
Executive Director



Photos from SLCAA on Broadway, February 18, 2024



President's Message

Hello SLC Friends and Family!

Welcome to the Spring 2024 issue of Re-Echoes! This year is flying by, and another fabulous SLC summer is on the horizon. I can't wait to see what camp has in store for 2024!

The SLC Alumni Association has been busy since our last issue! We took a trip to Broadway to see *A Beautiful Noise* – the musical about the life of SLC alumnus extraordinaire Neil Diamond – and celebrated the new year with reunions in Florida and New York. We also connected online with Holiday Bingo, Super Bowl Squares, and March Madness games. I'm thrilled that so many of you have participated in these programs, and I hope that even more of you consider joining us for future events – we have so many in store!

As the summer approaches, we'll be keeping our momentum going with a classic SLC-style kickball tournament in Central Park, followed by a guided whiskey tasting experience at a local distillery, and will take in a baseball game at Yankee Stadium. We'll also be visiting SLC a few times this spring – first to help get camp ready for the summer season during Volunteer Day on May 5th, and later for an Alumni Overnight and Friends and Family Hike Day over the weekend of May 18th and 19th. Look out for more information about these programs in your inboxes!

Last, but certainly not least, we're looking forward to welcoming you all to camp for the first mid-summer Alumni Day since 2019! We'll kick off the festivities with an Alumni Day Eve Lawn Fest in Fishkill on the night of August 3rd, and will continue our celebrations at SLC on August 4th. Please save these dates – and start thinking about who you'll sponsor for the Swim-A-Thon!

Of course, none of this would be possible without the dedicated group of SLCAA Board Members that volunteer to put these programs together. We all have a deep love for SLC, and are passionate about sharing it with all of you!

Each time you attend one of the SLCAA's events, make a purchase at the SLC Store, or renew your Alumni Association dues, you help us get closer to reaching our fundraising goals. With your assistance, the SLC Alumni Association is able to make a significant contribution each year to camp's Annual Scholarship Drive, allowing us to share the magic of SLC with the next generation of campers. The SLC Alumni Association thrives with your participation!

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me to share your news, reminisce about your time at SLC, or help us brainstorm about future plans at an Alumni Association meeting. We'd love to hear from you!

Enjoy this beautiful weather. I'm looking forward to seeing you all at camp this summer!

Jessica

Jessica Zalin

President, SLC Alumni Association

jessicazalin@surpriselake.org



Our 2023 Supporters

The donors listed below made gifts between January 1 and December 31, 2023. This listing includes alumni and friends who made contributions in support of our tuition assistance programs, capital endeavors, and program expansions. We are grateful to the SLC community for your love and generosity.

Surprise Lake Camp has a multitude of diverse programs that often require expensive pieces of equipment for our campers to successfully engage and learn. Your in-kind gifts provide critical support and enrich our sports, aquatics, music, adventure, performance, and nature programs, making camp life even more fun and meaningful! We would like to extend our thanks to the following 2023 in-kind contributors:

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382 Lake Surprise Road
Cold Spring, NY 10516



Spring Appeal

Since 1902, Surprise Lake Camp has been a haven for children, a beacon of joy and growth where young individuals explore their identities, make lifelong friendships, and deepen their connection with Jewish traditions; it is hailed as an oasis that fosters and celebrates the values of grit, gratitude, compassion, and courage all within the warm embrace of our community.

Your generosity has been instrumental in carrying our mission forward, and today, I am reaching out with an important request. We need your help to ensure that every child can have the transformative experience that our camp offers - regardless of their family's financial situation. As we spring into another summer full of laughter and learning at SLC, I urge you to join others by making a meaningful contribution in support of our campers, programs, and grounds.

In addition to typical one-time gifts, there are so many opportunities to support SLC including making a monthly gift through our CHAI8 initiative, attending volunteer and special events, and by joining or renewing your annual membership in our esteemed Alumni Association. For those who wish to make a long-lasting impact on SLC's future generations, consider making a gift to our endowment or becoming part of our 1902 Legacy Society – an exclusive group committed to ensuring our mission thrives beyond their lifetime by including us in their estate planning or wills. **This year, the Harold Grinspoon Foundation has committed to providing a 3:1 matching grant to benefit our endowment, capital, and annual funds, ensuring our campers flourish well into the future!**

By supporting SLC, you join the ranks of many who came before you, who also strongly believe in preserving Jewish values through community building and personal growth. In this time, when our community's values and cultural preservation are more important than ever, we ask you to stand with us, to carry forward the legacy initiated in 1902, ensuring that future generations experience the joy and enrichment that SLC provides.

No matter how you give, your generosity will help ensure this important work continues for many years to come. Thank you for being a part of our Surprise Lake Camp family; we make a difference because of your support.

Warmest regards,

Lindsey Brown

Lindsey Brown
Advancement/Development Director
surpriselake.org/ways-to-give





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

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Our Gift

Have donation questions?
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 Drive*
\$ _____	Capital Drive*
\$ _____	Endowment Drive*
\$ _____	Tribute / Honor Fund* (Honoree's name below)
\$ _____	Wherever my gift is needed most.

I'd like to join CHAI8 and give monthly:

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.

Please also:

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.

Add my SLC Alumni Association Membership Dues*: Annual: \$50 Lifetime: \$360
*If paying by check, please remember to add in this amount!

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'll pay by:

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

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

Bank Routing Number: _____ Bank Account Number: _____

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

Thank you for your generosity!

Florida Reunion, December 28, 2023



GOT SLC?!!

Want to show your SLC pride? Get some camp swag from our surpriselake.org/summer/shop/. We have something for everyone, including branded T-Shirts, Sweatshirts, Pajama & Sweatpants, Beanies, Hats & Visors, Bibs & Onesies, Beach Towels, Blankets, Jewelry and more!



Current Members of The 1902 Society

As of February 2024

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!

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

1902 Legacy Society Letter of Intent



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."

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

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 SLC in my/our estate plans in the future. Please contact us with more info.

There is no minimum planned gift amount to become a member. We will contact you soon to begin planning.

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

(check all that apply)

Bequest in a Will Charitable Gift Annuity Retirement Plan/IRA
 Life Insurance Policy Charitable Lead Trust Charitable Remainder Trust
 Real Estate Other: _____

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"

Your Full Name

Date of Birth

Relationship to Camp

Spouse's Full Name (as applicable)

Spouse's Date of Birth (as applicable)

Relationship to Camp

Address

City

State

Zip

Preferred Phone

Email

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.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Spouse's Signature: _____ Date: _____
(as applicable)

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

The SLC Community Corner!

Thanks to our Spring Advertisers.

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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!

Kickball Classic 2024 Sunday April 7



Do you remember the warm glow of summer suns, the sound of laughter echoing across the lake, and those unforgettable moments that Surprise Lake Camp gifted us? As an alumni member and part of our beloved SLC family, you know firsthand how transformative these experiences can be.

Now, we're giving you an opportunity to pay it forward and participate in a beautiful act of tzedakah. When you join other supporters in contributing to our CHAI8 monthly giving initiative, together we ensure every child in our community has access to spectacular summers at SLC - regardless of their financial situation.

Your monthly donation can do so much more than just offset tuition costs - it can bring smiles on young faces, create lasting friendships, and foster values of grit, gratitude, compassion, courage, and community, all stemming from our shared Jewish heritage.

Please consider joining CHAI8 today as an act rooted not only in generosity but also as a testament to your faith and commitment towards shaping better futures for children within our community. Simply either complete the CHAI8 form online OR check the CHAI8 box on the donation form included in this issue of Re-Echoes!

CHAI8 Benefits to YOU:

Join the inner circle: Be surrounded by fellow camp champions who share your values and commitment. Get exclusive updates and insider peeks.

Gain peace of mind: Your automatic monthly donation simplifies giving and lets you focus on the joy you bring to campers. Change your donation amount at any time.

Inspire future givers: Send a strong message to your peers that giving to SLC matters. Your name will appear in ReEchoes as a member of CHAI8.