

# SURPRISE LAKE CAMP

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SURPRISE LAKE CAMP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
Established in 1961 for the Betterment of Camp

# RE-ECHOES

The Official Newsletter of Surprise Lake Camp

FALL 2017

issue #4





**SURPRISE LAKE CAMP  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

**Established in 1961 for the  
betterment of camp.**

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Joel "Whammy" Kaufman

Any newsletter submissions may  
be mailed directly to the editors.

Please notify us of any errors.

Design & layout by James Dinn

**January**

January 27th: Winter Alumni Party -  
Public House, NYC

[surpriselake.org/alumniparty](http://surpriselake.org/alumniparty)

**April**

April 29: Volunteer Day

[surpriselake.org/volunteerday](http://surpriselake.org/volunteerday)

**May**

May 6: New Camper Orientation & Tour Day

[surpriselake.org/maytourday](http://surpriselake.org/maytourday)

May 19: Spring Shabbat Program at SLC

[surpriselake.org/springshabbat](http://surpriselake.org/springshabbat)

**July**

July 29: Alumni Day

[surpriselake.org/alumniday](http://surpriselake.org/alumniday)

**August**

August 12: 1902 Society BBQ

[surpriselake.org/1902bbq](http://surpriselake.org/1902bbq)



**WANT TO SHARE YOUR SIMCHAS,  
SORROWS, OR OTHER NEWS WITH US?**

We want to hear about new babies, jobs, engagements, graduations,  
anniversaries, celebrations, reunions, and more!

Email [alumni@surpriselake.org](mailto:alumni@surpriselake.org) at any time to have your news included  
in the next issue of Reechoes.

*In Memoriam*

Our deepest condolences to Nancy Seligson Sidor and her family on the  
loss of her step-father, Joe Offen.

Our deepest condolences to Denise, Julia, Ryan, and Gregory Liebowitz  
on the loss of their beloved husband/father, Howie.



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Just like a first-time camper or counselor, I am very much still discovering so many incredible things about SLC that reveal its magic. I thought you might enjoy some of these revelations too.



This past spring, I attended the American Camp Association's Tri-State Conference. Despite the local name, this is the largest camping conference in the world. There were camp professionals from across the United States, as well as delegations from as far away as China! As I attended sessions and walked the halls, I was stopped by camp colleagues who spied my conference badge and exclaimed, "Hey... Surprise Lake! Are you the new executive?" I was struck by two things. First, the number of camping professionals who attended SLC as either campers or counselors and then took on camping as a career, was quite remarkable. It is a huge testament to the SLC experience. Second, the number of people who took me aside to congratulate me on my achievement was truly touching. Their message to me, over and over, was that SLC is a special place and how lucky I am to have the chance to lead this storied institution. I had not expected to encounter such heartfelt sentiments from so many professionals from *other* summer camps.

This week we received a new camper inquiry from a family with two children. I began reading the email from the parent only to discover that this mother was not new to SLC. Rather, her father had attended camp, and so had she when she was a little girl. The family had not kept in touch with camp for some time but now that their children were approaching camp age, the idea of reconnecting with Surprise Lake became a possibility. I spoke with the parents after the mother had a chance to view our new video. She shared with me that she was struck by how much things had changed, yet how much had also been preserved. Throughout our history, finding this balance between innovation and tradition has been an important value of Surprise Lake Camp.

Finally, I want to *kvell* (Yiddish for brag) a little with you. Just before camp began this past summer, Linda Markowitz, SLC's immediate past Board President, and I met with the professional and lay leadership of UJA-Federation of New York. UJA-Federation has been an incredible supporter of SLC for decades. As part of their funding process, Federation does a regular assessment of camp. We were meeting to learn the results of the latest reviews. Linda and I took deep breaths and sat down with our colleagues. As we opened our assessment packets and listened to their reviews, smiles spread across both of our faces. Whether it was program, governance or community connection, SLC received top ratings! Of course, there are opportunities for Camp to grow and improve, but the bottom line is that UJA-Federation was overwhelmed with how strong and healthy Camp is from every perspective.

As I write this, all of us at SLC are working hard on plans to make the summer of 2018 our best summer yet! I look forward to continuing to share more with you as I continue to discover SLC!





# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello SLC Alumni,

I hope you are all well and enjoying the holiday season!!

This time of year is always about family, friends and being appreciative for what you have. It represents a time for both giving, and giving back. I am always thankful for Surprise Lake Camp for the wonderful summers I experienced as a child, and for friends and memories that I still share today.

In the spirit of the holiday season, I would like to ask that everyone keep Surprise Lake Camp in his or her thoughts when considering their charitable gifts. Our 2017 Annual Scholarship goal is to raise \$230,000. While we are well on our way to reaching this goal, you can all help by making a contribution. Every little bit helps!!

The SLC Alumni Association is certainly doing their part. The money collected throughout the year from our various parties and events is donated back to camp for scholarships. Many thanks to those of you who participated and/or supported any of these events. Please be sure to look at the calendar 2018 events.

As you peruse this Re- Echoes, it may have occurred to you that you have not received an issue since early 2017. As with everything else in life, time brings about change. Throughout its history, Re- Echoes has periodically been revised or revamped, and that time has come again. As we begin 2018, you may notice changes in the publication's format and distribution. Some issues will come via US mail and some will come digitally. We are also hoping to get more alumni involved in the process. If you have any experience with journalism, editing, layout, design, etc. and would like to volunteer to help create quarterly issues of Reechoes, please come forward!

I would like to wish everyone and their families a very Happy and Healthy New Year... enjoy the season!

Stay well and as always, see you up at SLC!!

Joe Goldberg, President  
SLC Alumni Association  
goldnglich@aol.com



**We remain grateful to camp's former Directors  
who have helped us achieve greatness and  
have brought us to where we are today:**

**Max Oppenheimer \* 1919 to, 1954**

**Asher Melzer \* 1954 to 1973**

**Jerry Mark \* 1973 to 1984**

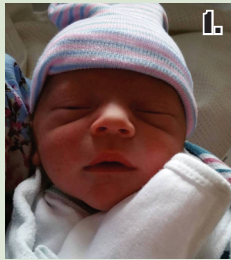
**Carol Seigel \* 1985 to 1986**

**Jordan Dale \* 1986 to 2016**





# ANNOUNCEMENTS!



1.

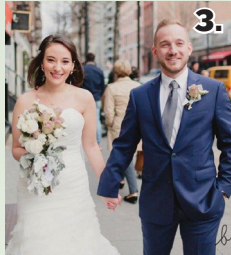
1. Congratulations to Roni Schneider and Steven Perez on the birth of Jackson Hunter Perez. He was born on December 6.



2.

2. Mazel Tov to Emily & Jeff Berk on the birth of their son, Corey Edward. He was born on March 15

3. Mazel Tov to Jenni Sussell on her marriage to Jon Zeftel on April 1.



3.

4. Congratulations to Jessica (Karp) and Adam Forman on the birth of Juliet Eve. She was born on April 7.

5. Mazel Tov to Ian and Heather Elimeliah on the birth of Scarlet Eden. She was born April 17.



4.

6. Mazel Tov to Melanie, Seth, and big brother, Levi on the birth of Asher Cole Tucker. He was born May 1.

7. Mazel Tov to Lana (Greenbaum) and David Saad on the birth of Camille Joy. She was born on May 21.



5.

8. Mazel Tov to Josh Suchow on his July 27 engagement to Alana Spindler.

9. Mazel Tov to Ursula Alvarez and Jared Kramer on their October 1 wedding. This is another couple to add to camp's ever growing Camp Wedding Album, filled with couples who met at camp and later married!



6.

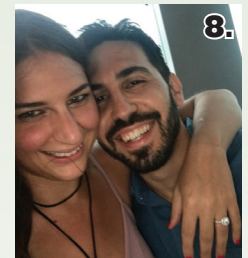
10. Congratulations to Michelle Friedman and Steve Lawrence on their October 7 wedding. Steve and Michelle met at got engaged at camp... Another couple for the SLC Wedding Album!



7.

11. Mazel Tov to Marissa (Garfinkel) and Ben Jacobson on the birth of their son, Natan Harvey, on October 8

12. Mazel Tov to Gayle (Hoffman), Bryan, and big sister, Izzy, on the birth of Mason Noah Doyle. He was born on October 9.



8.

13. Mazel Tov to Michelle (Grossberg) and David Smith on the birth of their daughter, Leora Rose. She was born on October 6.

14. Mazel Tov to Bryan Salz and Nicole Santariga on their October 21 wedding.

15. Mazel Tov to Mike Tenenhaus and Alli Fabrikant on their November 18 wedding.



9.



10.



11.



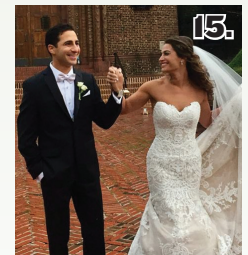
12.



13.



14.



15.



5





Ryan and Gregory Liebowitz, who celebrated their Bar Mitzvah in January, honored their SLC guests by inviting them to light a candle. It was an impressive group which spanned multiple generations!



In early May, Whammy flew to Anaheim, CA to participate in the Disney Tinkerbell Half Marathon run to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (in memory of Sheila Pollet and in honor of Skylar Rose Tucci). Whammy knew of several alumni in the area, and reached out to them to organize an evening at the Magic Castle. Michael Gutenplan, SLC alum and world renowned magician was their host, and showed them a fantastic time! Pictured above from left to right

are campers and staff from the 90's, 00's, and 10's: Michael Gutenplan, Josh "Flounder" Goodman, Anson Li, Brandon "Manshow Boy" Grumet, Dylan Marcus, Josh Karron, Erica Karron, and Whammy.

Congratulations to Jay Greenbaum (left) and Mike Seltzer (right) who both completed the Ironman (Maryland) race in October.





# JEWELRY JUDGE, BEN GORDON

Jewelry Judge, and SLC Winter Camper, Ben Gordon has once again received an Award for Excellence in the Workplace from the Greater Houston Better Business Bureau. The Award of Distinction was presented at a luncheon held Wednesday, May 10 at the Bayou City Event Center in Houston. This is the fifth consecutive year that the BBB has recognized The Jewelry Judge. He is pictured here with his wife, Linda.



# TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

Yet another opportunity for camp to flourish...won't you help us grow our camper scholarship fund?

SLC has received a matching grant which will enable us, with YOUR help, to receive up to \$42,500 in additional campership funding this year. Thanks to JCamp 180, Jerry & Roz Meyer and other generous donors, Camp is receiving a 50% match!

## Here's how YOU can help!

1. If you have never made a gift to Camp, or have not donated since 2012, you are eligible to have your gift matched 2:1!
2. Please share this opportunity with friends, family and colleagues. We hope you will be willing to make that ask and are happy to assist with sample emails/talking points. We are also happy to reach out to people you know on your behalf. Be in touch with David at 845-265-3616 or [david@surpriselake.org](mailto:david@surpriselake.org) with questions or suggestions.



Every gift from a new or lapsed donor between \$100 and \$2,500 will qualify for the match. Please help us take advantage of this great opportunity to support our Annual Scholarship Drive – **because every child deserves the opportunity to attend SLC!!** YOU can make a real and immediate difference in the life of a deserving SLC camper!

To donate (or share our donation page with others), visit [www.surpriselake.org/donate](http://www.surpriselake.org/donate), mail a check to our office or call 845-265-3616. If you have ANY questions about the program or need help asking others for a gift, please call David at the office. Please note, only donors who give in 2017, will be eligible to have their donations matched in 2018 and 2019.

Thank you, in advance, for caring.





# WHY I JOINED THE 1902 SOCIETY

By Andrew Schuster, former camper and current head of sports

As a child, I remember hearing stories from my mother about her wonderful experiences at a Jewish sleep-away summer camp. Swimming in a lake, sleeping in tents and participating in a color war all sounded amazing! I, however, spent most of my early summers at day camps, with staff I don't remember, swimming in highly chlorinated pools, watching movies in a hot crowded room, and feeling ambivalent about getting picked up every afternoon around 4pm. For numerous reasons, I was not fortunate enough to attend sleep-away camp as a child. While I still enjoyed my summers at home, I longed for something more.

During my first year of college, I met a unit supervisor from Surprise Lake Camp and an opportunity to become a counselor presented itself. Although I was no longer a young child, the desire to go to camp was still ever so present in my heart. I thought "better late than never," and perhaps I could go for the summer, make some new friends, get some work experience, and then return home and move on. Little did I know that after spending just one summer at SLC, my life would be transformed forever!



It definitely took some time to feel comfortable as an SLC staff member. I was not at all used to seeing young adults singing songs and playing silly games. After soaking up the atmosphere and pulse of a Surprise Lake orientation, I quickly adjusted and expanded my comfort zone, while preparing for the real challenge...camper arrival day. As the summer progressed, I realized that I had the ability and unique opportunity to make a difference in the lives of 11-year old boys and help provide a great summer! The kids were so innocent and open for adventure. They reminded me of myself at that age. I was also grateful for the support and training of my co-counselors and supervisor, who were always ready and willing to help, as were all other members of the staff, always lending a hand with a smiling face.

The Surprise Lake staff is a very special group. There are always people willing to join you on an exciting adventure, or provide a shoulder to lean on. While any summer camp can provide a variety of activities that include sports, arts & crafts, drama, and so much more, it's the staff at SLC that makes the difference. "We" go the extra mile and everyone contributes to the camp community. I learned quickly that I did not just become a member of a staff, I became a member of the SLC family, and SLC became my "home away from home."

I have grown significantly as a person over the course of my eleven years at Surprise Lake. While technically I joined SLC as an adult, I believe it goes without saying that 18 year-olds are very much still developing emotionally and spiritually as they transition into adulthood. Surprise Lake taught me valuable leadership and supervisory skills. I gained confidence, a stronger sense of responsibility and I no longer paid so much attention to what others thought about me. As I have entered the "real world" and have become a professional, I find I use the skills that I learned at camp every day. Without Surprise Lake, I would have never become a teacher or a coach, and been blessed to be able to give back the way camp gave so much to me.

Sadly, not everyone has the opportunity to attend and experience the magic of sleepaway camp, and I was very fortunate to find SLC along my journey. It has made a substantial impact on my life and I can only imagine how much greater that could have been if I began as a child at SLC. I continue working as a staff member, not only because I enjoy it, but also to help children grow, the same way I did. I know SLC will be there for generations to come, thanks to the 1902 Society, and that is why I am proud to be a member. It all starts with the campers and by joining, I can play a role in endowing scholarships, sustaining camp's mission and safeguarding that experience for future SLC'ers, regardless of their families' financial status.

Surprise Lake has varying impacts on children and it's difficult to pinpoint what exactly is the most significant. Some feel it's the friendships made, and others feel it is our camp traditions and values, embraced since 1902. Perhaps it's the memories of a counselor helping a camper go into the lake for the first time, or packing for an overnight hike. Maybe it's rooting for *Team Red* during the Olympics, or participating in an inter-camp sporting event. Whatever the specifics, the benefits are indisputable.

Please consider joining me as a member of the 1902 society, to help provide more opportunities for children to have the amazing experiences that we had, transforming us into the adults we are today.





# AL'S SLC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMOIRS

This third and final segment of my memoirs pertains to the founding of the Surprise Lake Camp Alumni Association, which is proudly celebrating its' 57th year in operation. In the fall of 1960, I received a postcard from Henny Cohen, who had retired as Head Counselor of SLC, as well as Dean of the Boys and Basketball Coach at Seward Park High School. He wanted to have a meeting with a few former staff members and campers to discuss organizing an Alumni Association. It was decided to have a kickoff banquet in early 1961 to invite as many former SLC'ers as possible. I wish I could describe to you what a wonderful event that was, and what a thrill it was to see so many people who I had not seen in several years. The banquet was a big success, and as a result, the SLC Alumni Association became a reality.

When the Alumni Association was organized in 1961, I was the youngest member at that time by approximately ten years. I was also married to Louise on October 22nd 1961, and was proud to have Asher and Shirley Melzer at my wedding. As the years went by, I assumed several positions in the SLC Alumni Association, including Editor of Re-Echoes, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st Vice President, and finally, President.

There were many Charter Alumni Members who were an important part of the Alumni Association in those early years. Several Alumni members went to winter camp and summer camp as far back as in the teens, 20's, and the 30's. We used to have Alumni Board Meetings every month, at the SLC New York City office, at 31 Union Square West. Before every meeting, many of us always enjoyed getting together for dinner at a local restaurant, at the corner of 16th Street & Broadway. Henny Cohen was our first President for seven years, and he successfully guided us as we planned and organized many events. We also had frequent Alumni get-togethers at the Federation Building on East 59th Street or at the 92nd Street Y. One of our biggest fundraisers every spring was our annual weekend at one of the well-known hotels in the Catskills. Those of us who got together always enjoyed this wonderful social event every year. Of course, the one event we always looked forward to every year was Alumni Day, which we used to have on the last Sunday in June. During our first ten years, the Alumni Association contributed many physical and monetary donations to the camp, and we celebrated our tenth Anniversary by erecting Alumni Hall, which still proudly stands by the Mainside waterfront.

If there was one thing that I always wanted to see happen in the Alumni Association, it was being able to attract many new, younger Alumni members than we had when our organization was first chartered. It is so wonderful to see all the younger alumni that are now active members and leaders of our Alumni Association. I know that Henny Cohen, and all our Charter Alumni Members, would be proud of how much our current Alumni Association has accomplished in recent years, and how far we've come since 1961.

I would like to conclude this article by personally thanking Jordan Dale for all he did to keep the spirit of Surprise Lake Camp alive. In the thirty years Jordan was the Executive Director, we can all be proud of how far Surprise Lake Camp and the SLCAA have come in working together to serve children.

I would also like to thank Celia Baczowski for her encouragement in writing about my memories of SLC. I can't think of a better way to end this segment than to repeat the first line of my first article, and that is, "Nestled 'neath the shady tree lies our camp so dear." SLC will always have a special place in all our hearts.

Al Elkins, Past President

SLC Alumni Association





# DEDICATED TO OUR

The following pages are dedicated to the many friends who have supported Surprise Lake Camp in one way or another during 2016. Camp is blessed to have so many special people who care about its mission. Please know that camp is very grateful for all the support we receive, and we hope that one day we will have a chance to thank everyone...in person, in print, or both!

## **What's the Difference Between an Annual Campaign and a Capital Campaign?**

Capital campaigns are conducted periodically to provide significant funds for major expenses such as the renovation of the Main Building, Arts & Crafts and the Health Center, as well as the scholarship endowment, etc. Annual campaigns, such as the Alumni Scholarship Drive and Board Campaign, are designed to provide scholarships for current year campers.

The Annual Campaign helps us live, the Capital Campaign helps us grow.

## **The following individuals made gifts to one of several funds in our endowment, or made gifts to support a capital/building campaign.**

### **1902 Society Fund**

Harvey Sills

### **Bar/Bat Mitzvah Fund**

Roberta & Peter Hirsch

Rise Fine

Shuying & Paul Mermelstein

### **Billie Schwartz Scholarship Fund**

Joe Goldberg

Suzanne Moskowitz & Jordan Dale

### **Building Fund**

Marcia Adler

Andrew Bata

Pearl & Harry Belkowitz

Brian Blaubeux

Suzanne Moskowitz & Jordan Dale

Dove Ballon & Dale

Elena Dale

Michele DiRuggiero

Robert French

Norm Friedman

Phyllis Goldman

Andrea & Arthur Gruber

Harold Grinspoon Foundation-

JCamp 180

Roberta & Peter Hirsch

Sharon Jacobs

Chuck Jainchill

Stanley Josephson

Ron Kalb

Lee Kaplan

Thomas Karger

Joel Kaufman

Wayne Kellner

Dena & Elly Levine

Ted Liebowitz

Andrew Lobb

Judith & Michael Margulies

Linda Markowitz

Roz & Jerry Meyer

Robin & Danny Muskin

Stephen Nitkin

Mary Paolino

Mary Pappas

Kenny Pollet

Rebecca Safeer

Alan Saltz

Irene Sanders

Nina & Joel Schneider

Howard Schur

Ben Segan

Eileen & Eliot Senior

Cindy Shmerler Levy

Denis Sternberg

Jennifer Sussell Zeffel

Anne & Joel Zbar

### **Amy Rubinstein Scholarship Fund**

Peter Braverman

Aline & Stephen Finkelstein

Linda & Jay Gold

Irwin Jacobs

Joan B. & Richard L. Barovick

Family Foundation

Sue North

### **Alumni Association Scholarship Fund**

SLC Alumni Association

Martin Blum

### **Carol Grief Saltz Scholarship Fund**

Alan Saltz

### **Irwin Flick Fleischer/Mooween Camp Scholarship Fund**

Elaine & Melvin Finkelstein

Henry & Michelle Foster

Suzanne Moskowitz & Jordan Dale

Roger Sachs

Roslyn & Karl Sydney

### **General Endowment Fund**

Alumni Association SLC

Arthur Anton

Andrew Benerofe

Mark Benerofe

Howie Berk

Blanche Berk

Lauren & Mark Bernstein

Scott Brody

Camp Baco & Che-Na-Wah

George, Marla & Ross Coleman

Congregation Beth Emeth

Elena Dale

Melanie Fleischmann

Esther & Bert Glassberg

Jay Greenbaum

Barbara & Stanley Hirsch

Roberta & Peter Hirsch

Marc Honigfeld

Jane & Dan Kagan

Faith Kirkpatrick

Sheryl Kirschenbaum

Alan Kleiman

Keith Klein

Theodore Lehmann

Michele Levine

Laura & Carter Mansbach

Shuying & Paul Mermelstein

Charles Michaelson

Jonathan Miller

David Miller

Roni & Jason Nadell

Stephen Nitkin

Rina & Howard Pianko

Jessica Pollner

Jillian Rauer

Ellen Rieser

Michele & David Rosner

Mark Segal

Jeffrey Spiegel

Adam Stein

The V & L Marx Foundation

Mark Transport

Dmytro Trofymets

Skip Vichness

Darrell (Rubin) Weinberg

Dan Zenkel

### **Harry Vogel Aquatic Fund**

Ron Kalb

Kathy & Mel Kalichman

Shuying & Paul Mermelstein

Arthur Zilz

### **Harry Henshel Scholarship Fund**

Suzanne Moskowitz & Jordan Dale

### **Milton Herson Scholarship Fund**

Vicki & Michael Herson

### **Hoffman-Lantner-Mitchel-**

#### **Tarrash Fund**

Gayle & Bryan Doyle

Nancy & Alan Hoffman

Jason Hoffman

Maureen & Howard Lantner

Karen & Stewart Lantner

Rita & John Tarrash

### **Jeff Herman Scholarship Fund**

Pearl & Harry Belkowitz

Michael Berk

Richard Goldstein

Bebe Herman

Helena Prigal



# 2016 SUPPORTERS

Stuart Rachlin  
Robert Schechter  
Rachel Spector  
Lisa & Glen Wolland  
Arthur Zilz

## **Lenore Hershey Scholarship Fund**

Jane Cuzzo

## **Panepinto Family Fund**

Stacey & Rob Panepinto

## **Rhoda Kaplan Fund**

Sarita Keyser  
Andrew Miller  
Tracy Miller

## **Tribute Fund**

Celia Baczkowski  
Sylvaine Baczkowski  
Howie Berk  
Debra Berney  
Alan Bernstein  
Rita Bettino  
Wendy Beverin  
Julia Blaney  
E. Steve Braun  
Lori Braunstein  
Diane & Stephen Brennan  
Ronald Burch  
Anne Camp  
Carolyn & John Canova  
Audrey Cohan  
Mary-Jo & Tom Coticchio  
Anita Cruso  
Suzanne Moskowitz & Jordan Dale  
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Nicole & Douglas Falk  
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Gloria Fine  
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Avri Klemer  
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Nini Krever  
Steven Krumholz  
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Murray Lantner  
Mimi & Jules Leibman

Carole Lerner  
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Andrew Miller  
Kerry Miller  
Barb Mink  
Lynn Mitchell  
MSA Boosters  
Joanne Neustater  
Angela Nikitopoulos  
Rose & Aaron Nitkin  
Lana Nixon  
Sue North  
Shelli & Larry Olinsky  
P721K  
Jane Pearlson  
Pepsico Foundation  
Jerry Person  
Arnold Polinger  
Jessica Pollner  
David Pratt  
Richard Pressman  
Charlotte Prince  
Karen Proft  
Ira Quiat  
April & Paul Rachmuth  
Jennifer Rameil Harmon  
Rose Marie Ranuro  
Jaime Ressler  
Richard Rolof  
Jean Rorro  
Ellen Rosen  
Ellen & Marc Rosenwald  
Kim Ross  
Pamela Roth  
Lori Rothman

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Robert Rundle  
Alan Saltz  
Robert Saposh  
Judith & Robert Saydah  
Steven Schifrien  
Laurie Schlamowitz  
Jackie Schneider  
Abbe Wittenberg & Rob Schneider  
Samantha Schnell  
Meri & Paul Schoenblum  
Debra & Craig Schor  
Jeremy Schwalbe  
Mark Segal  
Renee Selitto  
Renee & Ralph Selitto  
Gary Sella  
Julia & Mike Seltzer  
Cindy Shmerler Levy  
Nancy Sidor  
Jack Siegel  
Jamie Silver  
Holly Slodowitz  
Aliza Kline & Bradley Solmsen  
Susan Spencer  
Alan & Hollis Steinbach  
Cheryl Stern  
Elaine & Paul Suchow  
Josh & Sheri Sussman  
The Palin Family Foundation  
Richard Trent  
Valley Home Care  
Thomas Waters  
Jessica Weinberg  
Helene & David Weingarten  
Debra Weinstein  
Susan Wilson  
David Wolfe  
Barbara & Mike Zbar  
Anne & Joel Zbar

## **Winter Camp Scholarship Fund**

Molly Benton  
Linda & Ben Gordon



# OUR 2016 ANNUAL

The gifts listed below were made between February 1, 2016 and January 31, 2017. This listing includes alumni who made gifts to our annual Scholarship Drive (formerly the Alumni Drive) as well as Board members who made or solicited gifts to the annual Board campaign (totaling over \$272,000!). We are grateful to everyone for their generosity.

## Full Summer at SLC: \$7,600 or more

### (Up to \$35,000)

SLC Alumni Association  
Moe Bordwin  
Ariel David  
Neil Diamond  
Kathy Fine  
Roberta & Peter Hirsch  
Stanley Josephson  
Lee Kaplan  
Arlene & Marvin Lubin  
Judith & Michael Margulies  
Roz & Jerry Meyer  
Lisa & Adam Stulberger

## Two Weeks at SLC: \$2,300 or more

### (up to \$4,600)

Blanche Berk  
Carolyn & John Canova  
John Ehrenkranz  
Vicki & Michael Herson  
Eleazer Klein  
Amanda & Richard Lansky  
Ruth Messinger  
Steven Moses  
Robin & Danny Muskin  
Alison & Symon Ryde  
Jenna & Bret Tenenhaus  
The V & L Marx Foundation

## One Week at SLC: \$1,150 or more

### (up to \$2,300)

Robert Altabet  
Emily & Jeff Berk  
Keith Cohen  
Anita Cruso  
Marjorie Feder  
David Fleischer  
Joe Goldberg

Ira Goldfarb  
Linda & Ben Gordon  
Brenda & Matthew Grosshandler  
Andrea & Arthur Gruber  
Bruce Haber  
Barbara & Stanley Hirsch  
Nancy & Alan Hoffman  
Chuck Jainchill  
Faith Kirkpatrick  
Nance & Martin Liebgott  
Linda Markowitz  
Suzanne Moskowitz & Jordan Dale  
Jonathan Miller  
Stephen Nitkin  
Stacey & Rob Panepinto  
Ira Panko  
Bruce Rubinger  
Susan & Matthew Tratner  
Barbara & Mike Zbar

## 5 Days at SLC: \$825 or more

### (Up to \$1,150)

David Berkowitz  
Marlene & Stanley Besen  
Amy Goldberg  
Michael Gurman  
Harry Donenfeld Foundation  
Mel Kalichman  
Thomas Karger  
Bruce & Heidi Katz  
Space & Gene Kelly  
Simone & Joseph Kleinert  
Andrew Kominik  
Mark Levine  
Paul Mermelstein  
Melissa Moskowitz  
Roni & Jason Nadell  
Morris Offit  
Rina & Howard Panko

Carl Reisner  
Gloria & Martin Rubin  
Robin & Laurence Rubinstein  
Mark Segal  
Carol Seigel

## 4 Days at SLC: \$640 or more

### (up to \$825)

Howie Berk  
Anne & Joel Zbar

## 3 Days at SLC: \$495 or more

### (up to \$640)

Susan Alintoff  
Evelyn & Nick Beilenson  
Thomas Berner  
Camp Baco & Che-Na-Wah  
Scott Ehrlich  
Donna & Glen Frick  
Michele Levine  
Rochelle & Gary Lindner  
Roberta & James Meyer  
Marylyn Muskin  
Susan & Sheldon Osinoff  
Kenny Pollet  
Kevin Rome  
Rita Sue Siegel  
Audrey & Mark Tenenhaus  
Marcia Teschner  
Michael Witman  
Jordana Zbar

## 2 Days at SLC: \$330 or more

### (up to \$495)

Jeremy Abrams  
Steven Bleiberg  
Samantha Blendis  
Jolene Bressler  
William Buchbaum

Steven Condiotti  
Karen & Donald Fagelman  
Seth & Lori Fishman  
Lloyd Greene  
Ron Kalb  
Emily Kaplan

Fredda & Michael Klopfer  
Stuart & Cecile Levy  
Ellen Manobla  
Marilyn Bailis & Jerry Mark  
Stuart Rachlin  
Mark Rothman  
Sherry & Steven Rubin  
Robert Schechter  
Jean & Phil Schneider  
Nili Simhai  
Jerry Statman  
Joshua Suchow  
Michael Tenenhaus  
Marlene & Barry Vegter

## 1 Day at SLC: \$165 or more

### (Up to \$330)

Steven Allen  
Amazon Smile  
Celia Baczowski  
Tracie & Mark Basch  
Janeen Bellafiore Levine  
Mylene Benardo  
Michael Berk  
Gary Biale  
Harvey Bienstock  
William Briggs  
Michael Cohen  
Donna Cohen Ross  
Nancy Collins  
Donald Davis  
Gayle Doyle  
Earthshare/NYCCFC





# GIVING SUPPORTERS

Harvey Fader  
Michael Fandal  
Melvin Fishman  
Eddy Friedfeld  
Roger Galburt  
Abe Greenberg  
Amy Gross  
Leslie & Sam Guttman  
Thelma & Sanford Hochberg  
Elizabeth Izower  
Myrna & Ira Jaffe  
Thomas Johnson  
Meghan & Diarmuid Joye  
Roger Karlebach  
Vickie & Stuart Karten  
Doris Kaufman  
Alex Kerzhner  
Donna & Garry Klein  
Avri Klemmer  
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Jack Krause  
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David Leibowitz  
Barry Leitman  
Sharon & Mark Manewitz  
Jackie Marcus  
Alice & Alan Model  
Ina Muskin Massa  
Orchard Yarn & Thread Co, Inc.  
Francine & David Penner  
Helen Perlmutter  
Nicole Pilevsky  
Jessica Pollner  
Lee Posniack  
David Rome  
Jeff Rosen  
Margot & David Rosenstrauch  
Eve Rubinstein  
Karyn Sackstein  
Judy & Steven Sails  
Santa Barbara Foundation  
Ken Schneider  
Henry Schoenfeld

Jeffrey Spiegel  
Robert Steinhardt  
Charles Stendig  
Jennifer Sussell  
Hody Tannenbaum  
Rita & John Tarrash  
Lisa & Steve Weinberg  
Julie & Neil Weintraub  
Howard Weissberger  
Cheryl & David Wolff  
Lisa & Glen Wolland  
Eleanor Zbar Silverman  
Robert Zuckerman & Family

## Gifts Under \$155

Jennifer & Matt Berk  
Ami Aharon  
Sylvaine Baczkowski  
Pearl & Harry Belkowitz  
Jennifer & Matt Berk  
Jeffrey G. Berkon  
Beverly Berkowitz  
Lois & Jack Bialek  
Jill Rovitzky Black  
Seymour Bloom  
Larysa & Nelson Botwinick  
Ed Boxer  
Michael Brown  
Nedra & Michael Bush  
Boris Dikovsky  
Daniel Dikovsky  
Wendy Dinn  
Saul Eisenberg  
Edward Elkin  
Judith Elkin  
Ali & Meri Feir  
Howard Feldman  
Ralph Fine  
Arnold Finkelstein  
Sandy Friedman  
Elliot Gemunder  
Alyson Gill  
Jill Gold  
Alvin Goldberg

Karen Gorsky  
Rob Grader  
Robert Greenspan  
Abe Greenstein  
Gail Gremse  
Margery & Art Haber  
Charles Heckheimer  
Laurie Herrick  
Howard Horder  
Harriet & Jack Izower  
Jeffrey Jackel  
Keith Jacobs  
Joan Jetter  
Jeanne Kaiser  
Michele Kaiser Jacobson  
Irwin Karp  
Joel Kaufman  
Jack Kaye  
Harvey Kazdon  
Mariya & Dmitriy Khodorkovskaya  
Arnold Kinsler  
Jan Klein  
Cheryl Klein  
Madeleine & Edward Koransky  
Elihu Kover  
Robin Krompiew  
Danny Langer  
Sandra Lansky  
Stephen Lawrence  
Theodore Lehmann  
Steven Levenson  
Stacie Lilien  
Rebekah Lipsky  
Martin Moskowitz  
Susan Netburn  
Network for Good  
Malcolm Newman  
Billy Newman  
George Penchina  
Kate & Howard Permut  
Joachim Pinczower  
Jared Pollet  
Helena Prigal  
Debra Pruslin

Lawrence Rabinowitz  
Jillian Rauer  
Michael Rieger  
Ellen Rieser  
Iris Romano  
Robert Rosenbaum  
Gail & Dan Rosner  
David Rosner  
Deborah & Michael Samori  
Michael (Satch) Saunders  
Gayle Schwartz  
Norm Schwartz  
Barbara & Paul Schwarz  
Rachel Shatz  
Shomrim Society  
Manfred Simon  
Herb Skovronek  
Peter Slater  
Gary Spielvogel  
Gary Stern  
Randi Steuerman  
Matt Stollerman  
Carl Strass  
Elaine & Paul Suchow  
Sulman Family Fund  
Alice Tenney  
Nancy Tepper  
Phyllis Tucker  
Jared Tyler  
Alex Ullman  
Leon Unterman  
Sandi & Les Waldman  
Seth Wax  
Jessica Wayman  
Jessica & Mitchel Weiss  
Jessica Zalin  
Richard Zbar  
Arthur Zilz  
Diane Zilz





# ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FAQs

## 1. What is the SLC Alumni Association (SLC AA)?

The SLC AA is a group of over 600 SLC alumni and staff whose goals are to assist camp in providing camp scholarships, enriching and expanding camp programs and continuing a long-lasting relationship between SLC and its members.

## 2. What is the history of the AA? When was it founded?

Although there were prior incarnations of the SLC AA, such as the Eddie Cantor Camp Committee, which was formed in 1923 and the Women's League of the Eddie Cantor Camp Committee, which was formed in 1946, the current SLC AA was founded in 1961 by Henny Cohen. Henny Cohen was a former head counselor at SLC for approximately 30 years, and together with other interested and enthusiastic staff members, including Asher Meltzer, wanted to create an organization to give back to the SLC community. In 1972, the SLC AA had 250 members, as of 2016 it has over 600 members.

## 3. What is the purpose of the Alumni Association?

- Assist SLC in providing scholarships for children to attend camp
- Assist SLC in enriching and expanding its program and achieving its goals
- Promote a mutually beneficial and long-lasting relationship between SLC and members of its Alumni Association

## 4. What does the SLC AA do?

The SLC AA performs many important functions, including:

- Nurtures SLC staff and campers to become active members of the Alumni community and potential involvement with the Alumni Association and Board
- Acts as the largest single contributor to the annual scholarship campaign
- Sponsors a variety of fundraisers, including auctions and events
- Hosts Alumni Day, annually, at SLC
- Produces Re-Echoes, our alumni newsletter 4x/year
- Runs reunions and other social events for alumni of SLC and their friends
- Organizes and manages the Alumni store, selling SLC merchandise

## 5. What are the benefits of joining the SLC AA?

You are eligible to receive certain benefits, such as:

- Discounts to camp events and goods
- Receive Re-Echoes (quarterly newsletter)
- Invitations to SLC-related events
- Most importantly, supporting a very special place that continues to provide a safe, fun, and rewarding experience to hundreds of children every summer

## 6. How do I become a member of the SLC AA?

You can join the SLC AA going to [www.surpriselake.org](http://www.surpriselake.org), selecting the "Alumni" tab and clicking on "Join the SLC AA Today" button. You can also join the SLC AA at the Alumni Registration table or Alumni store at any SLC event.

## 7. What types of memberships are available?

There are two types of membership opportunities at the SLC AA. You can join either as an Annual member, or as a Lifetime member. Costs are: \$36 – Annual Membership; \$250 – Lifetime Membership. Lifetime members receive a free SLC blanket or sweatshirt as a gift from the SLCAA.

## 8. How much money does the SLC AA raise?

Surprise Lake Camp raised over \$214,000 for the Annual Scholarship Drive, which supports current year camper scholarships. Of that total, \$34,500 was from the Alumni Association. SLC provides scholarship assistance (in excess of \$1 million) to roughly 50% of its families each summer.

## 9. What is the SLC Annual Scholarship Drive?

The SLC Annual Drive ("Send A Child to Camp Fund") is the SLC Annual Scholarship Drive, which raises funds to pay to send deserving children to SLC. Surprise Lake Camp, not the Alumni Association, runs this drive. The following donation amounts can send a child to SLC for the following, as of 2017:

1 day - \$180	1 week - \$1,260
2 days - \$360	2 weeks - \$2,500
3 days - \$545	1 session - \$5,000
4 days - \$720	Whole summer - \$9,000
5 days - \$900	

## 10. How can I get (more) involved?

Speak to an Officer on the Alumni Association Board, or contact SLC, and let them know that you'd like to become more involved with the AA. Either contact will put you in touch with the appropriate person(s).

## 11. Do I need to be an SLC Alumnus to join?

No, the SLC AA is open to all former and present campers, staff, members of the Board of Directors, and any other persons dedicated to the purposes of the AA.





# CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES

One of the little known but wonderful “Planned Gifts” is a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) to Surprise Lake Camp (SLC). The CGA is administered through UJA-Federation of New York with SLC as the beneficiary of the remainder. It is a secure, tax-wise gift, and incredibly meaningful to Camp. It works as follows:

You make a gift to SLC (usually a minimum of \$10,000) which goes into the CGA account. You receive a tax deduction for a portion of your gift, in the year of the gift. Donating appreciated stock is a great way to fund a CGA, as you will not have to pay capital gains tax when the stock is transferred. You will receive income for life, which may be paid annually, quarterly or monthly and once the rate is set, it will not change (see rates below for the Immediate Annuity). A portion of your income will be tax-free for a period of time and ultimately at your income tax rate. You may choose to do the CGA on your life, for two people (husband/wife, etc.), and you may also open the CGA, take the deduction, but defer income to a future starting date. Deferring income will allow you to receive a higher rate of payment as the rates are determined by age and investment climate, but again, once a rate is set, it is set for life.

The built in assumption is that the remainder in your account, when the CGA settles, will be approximately 50% of the original deposit. That means if it worked out exactly based on the assumption, a \$10,000 deposit would leave \$5,000 to Surprise Lake Camp.

Anyone can do a CGA, but it is incredibly useful for seniors that need a good return on their investments, as you can tell by the rates below.

Immediate Charitable Gift Annuity Rates

Age	Rate	Age	Rate
65	5.7%	70	6.1%
75	6.7%	80	7.6%
85	8.9%		

For more information or a written illustration, please contact Jim Meyer, SLC Board Member, at (631) 390-4300 or David Rosner, Development Director, at (212) 924-3131.

## SURPRISE LAKE CAMP IS LOOKING TO HIRE A FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR.



The Food Service Director, in coordination with the Head Chef, has primary responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the two SLC kitchens and four family style dining rooms. Serving up to 650 people, three meals/day.

This position is seasonal from May (exact day TBD) through Labor Day, 5 days/week (6 days/week during the 8 weeks camp is in session). Several days required in spring for pre-season preparation.

### Qualifications:

- Experienced in high volume food preparation and management
- Experienced in commercial kitchen operations
- Experienced in supervising, coaching and training staff
- Must be highly organized, and self-motivated
- Need to work well in a fast-paced summer camp environment
- Know health department regulations
- Superior interpersonal and communication skills
- Experienced in safe food service operations
- ServSafe certification required or to be acquired before summer season
- Resume required. Any offer of employment will be contingent on satisfactory receipt of background checks. These may include references, drug and/or alcohol testing, driver's license checks and criminal background check.



For more information, or to submit a resume, please email [sheryl@surpriselake.org](mailto:sheryl@surpriselake.org)





# Surprise Lake Camp 2017 Donation Form

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

ADDRESS

EMAIL

DATE OF BIRTH

HOME PHONE

CELL PHONE

## My/Our 2017 Contributions

### \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Scholarship Drive/Send A Child To Camp

(formerly the Alumni Drive) Gifts to the Annual Scholarship Drive are used to support current year scholarships. **This is camp's greatest current need.**

### \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship Endowment Fund

Supports *future* scholarships.

### \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Building Maintenance Fund

Supports upkeep for structures throughout camp.

For more information on other available funds, please contact David Rosner at (212) 924-3131, x21.

### 2017 Annual Scholarship Drive/ Send A Child To Camp

1 Day **\$180**

2 Days **\$360**

3 Days **\$540**

4 Days **\$720**

5 Days **\$900**

One Week **\$1,260+**

Two Weeks **\$2,500+**

One Session **\$5,000+**

Full Summer **\$9,000+**

### SLC Alumni Association Membership Dues

☐ ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP \$36

Membership entitles Alumni to a membership card, quarterly newsletter, free admission to Alumni Day, discounts at the Alumni Store and certain events, and more.

☐ LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP: \$250

☐ **I prefer to pay by check.** (Payable to Surprise Lake Camp. Mail to: 307 7th Ave. Suite 900. NY NY 10001)

☐ **Please bill my credit card:** (No AMEX, please)

TOTAL AMOUNT TO CHARGE:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

CARD NUMBER

EXP. DATE

☐ **I'd like to make monthly contributions with my credit card.**

PREFERRED DAY OF CHARGE: \_\_\_\_\_ MONTH TO BEGIN: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL DONATION AMOUNT:

MONTHLY AMOUNT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER OF MONTHS: \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **I prefer to save paper & postage.**  
**Please email me my/our acknowledgment letter.**

(please confirm/include email address above)

☐ **I would like to speak with an Alumni Fundraiser and/or member of Surprise Lake Camp's professional staff about becoming a member of the 1902 Society.**

Membership in the 1902 Society is open to all those who include Surprise Lake Camp in their estate plans. We hope you will tell us when you have done so because we would very much like the opportunity to say "thank you" for your generosity.

**Donate easily and securely online: [www.SurpriseLake.org/donate](http://www.SurpriseLake.org/donate)**



# SUMMERS AT SLC IN THE 1950s

By Charles Michaelson

I enjoyed three summers as a counselor at Surprise Lake Camp in the first half of the 1950s. I was a counselor in Unit A-2 in 1950 and unit leader of A-2 in 1951 and 1955.

In 1950, I was finishing my first year at CCNY. I went downtown to Seward Park High School on the Lower East Side and spoke to Henny Cohen, the SLC head counselor who was a gym teacher and boys' basketball coach there. Henny was a relaxed man and an easy person to talk to. I had been a camper for five summers so it was an easy conversation and I was hired.

At camp, Henny was usually accompanied on his rounds by Freddie Rothschild, who wrote Henny's notes down on his clipboard. The Korean War was on and Freddie got drafted in the middle of the 1951 season. Jack Mittleman, the assistant head counselor, was an assistant principal in the New York City school system. Henny and Jack kept a close watch on the day-to-day workings of the camp. Counselors were on duty from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and the kids always came first.

My division head in 1950 and 1951 was Max Fuchs, who taught in the NYC schools. He was a very enthusiastic person and liked nothing better than leading the boys in singing:

When the men of the woods fall in line/We're going to cheer, cheer, cheer and that's fine, We're going to fight, fight, fight for victory/ And let our names go down in camping history..."

A-division had three units. Each had a unit leader, five counselors and 36 boys. We lived in wooden cabins with open sides and a canvas flap that rolled down when it rained. I think the counselors' cabins had electricity, a single light bulb and an outlet or two for a radio. (When I write 'I think,' or 'as I recall' or 'my recollection is' or 'I remember,' what follows may well be in error.) I don't think the campers had electricity in their cabin. The schedule was something like this: up at 7:30, breakfast, clean-up, morning activity (usually small group), swim, lunch, rest period (about 45 minutes), afternoon activity, swim, supper, free period (another 45 minutes), evening activity (for the entire unit) and lights out at 8:30.

As I recall, the summer was made up of three three-week trips that started on the last day of the New York City school year in late June. Counselors each got two days off during each trip and the other counselors in the unit covered their kids. I earned \$100 for the 1950 summer.

Mr. Oppenheimer was the director. It was said he fell asleep under a sun lamp years before, burning his face severely, and he always had a dressing covering the right side of his face. While Henny and Jack walked around the camp, Mr. Oppenheimer had a telescope or binoculars in his office to keep an eye on things from there. One day, Max called me over and said Mr. Oppenheimer had spotted me with my boys at a dam that was off limits. I said it wasn't me, I'd taken my group in the other direction, to the ball field. I think Mr. Oppenheimer mistook me for some other counselor with his binoculars, but it was a reminder that Mr. Oppenheimer was also watchful all the time.

I had one other complaint from Mr. Oppenheimer. In 1951, we had an activity based on the Pilgrims landing at Plymouth Rock. We had a barge at camp and the boys landed near a big rock on the A-side (the Eddie Cantor rock?). We had painted the year "1620" in white paint about six inches high. Later that day Max told me Mr. Oppenheimer said to remove the paint. So after lights out that night I scrubbed the paint off the rock with the help of Dave Smith, the arts and crafts counselor.

My second summer I was the A-2 unit leader. Murray Reich, a friend from high school and CCNY, was the A-1 leader, and I think Norm Reich (no relation to Murray) was the A-3 leader. About two weeks into the summer, we went to Max and complained. We had a regular counselor's load of six campers as well as unit paperwork, and asked for relief. Max said he'd try to ease our load. And he did. About two weeks later, we got some time away from the boys to do our paperwork, which made the job much easier. My recollection is the pay that summer was \$150 and the three of us got a \$25 bonus. Most counselors were students at New York City colleges — CCNY, NYU, Brooklyn College and Columbia or local graduate schools.





I had continuing friendships with several counselors from the first two years. Jim Auslander, on C-side, was a very easy and sociable person. He had a ukulele that he'd play for the kids, some string to do knot tricks with and coins to take out of campers' ears. He later practiced admiralty law in New York City. In the late '90s, he and his wife operated a B&B in Bucks County. Ruth, my wife, and I spent several weekends there.

Glenn Manacher, a counselor in 1951, was a mathematics and physics student at Cornell. One of his skills was "backward" singing. That summer a very popular song was Pete Seeger and the Weavers singing On Top of Old Smoky. Glenn sang it as No Pot Fo Dlo Ykoms. The kids loved it.

After the summer he rode his motor bike from NYC to Ithaca. He later got a pilot's license and I flew with him once in his two-seater. I think he taught at the Courant Institute at NYU.

A large number of my fellow counselors had successful careers in the professions and arts.

Murray Reich was professor of art at Bard College. Dave Smith was director of an art school in New Bedford, Massachusetts. Norm Reich was a lawyer. So was Jay Fischer, my bunkmate in 1951. Two of the A-1 counselors in 1950, Sim Pollack and Norm Kaplan were physicians. So was Stan Cedar in A-3. Eddie Lasky became involved in Jewish camping. Larry Gottheim, the A-1 unit leader in 1955, became a filmmaker. I think I saw the name of Alan Protas, a music counselor, years later in The Times as an administrator of the Isadora Duncan Dance Company.

In 1951, we had a nature counselor, Frank Gehr, a middle aged man with an unusual approach to nature. He went out to Breakneck Ridge with some nine- and ten-year olds from C-side to catch a rattlesnake. They did, brought it back and put it in cage he built for it back from the lakeside road below A-division. Anytime you wanted to scare yourself that summer you could walk 20 or 30 feet from the cage and the snake rattled. At the end of the summer Frank took the snake back to where they caught it and set it free.

The most memorable person at camp was probably Doc Maslin, the waterfront head. He was a truant officer in Brooklyn who must have been in his mid-60's. He had a head of white hair slicked back, every strand in place, and a white mustache. He made me think of an aging Clark Gable. Five or ten minutes after the boys got into the pool, he stood on his stand, ten or 12 feet above the pool, and blew his whistle. That was a sign for all the boys to raise their hand with their buddies to show all swimmers were present. Then Doc would shout "BeeYOUtiffly done boys, BeeYOUtiffly done." I can still hear it.

I remember two vehicles at camp. Henry used a mid-1930's Plymouth coupe with the license plate PC [Putnam County?] - 300. The other was the camp truck, a big red truck with stakes around the sides and back. In the 1951 summer on Friday nights each unit could send one counselor for a few hours of R&R. I went once. Fred drove 15 or 20 staffers standing in the back at what seemed high speeds, maybe 45 mph on those narrow country roads, to Beacon. There was no bridge then but you could take the ferry across to Newburgh, walk around for a while and then take the ferry back to meet Fred and the truck in Beacon.

I made a mistake and worked at another camp in 1952. The administration was less organized and I found it difficult. I was drafted in 1953 and returned to camp in 1955, again as the unit leader of A-2. My pay was up to \$250. The camp director was Asher Melzer and the division leader was Moe Cohen. His family were Greek Jews who had escaped to South America before the Nazis invaded Greece. He spoke fluent Spanish and was a graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania social work school.

A-2 had been moved over to what had been C-side. We had a new lodge with a kitchen and better bunks. The big change that summer, though, was the girls camp. My first two years I estimate there were only four women at camp. There was Mrs. Oppenheimer, the director's wife who ran the camp office, the camp nurse, Momma K, the camp mother, and Tess Cohen, Henry's wife. Tess ran the canteen. I think the canteen opened only on occasional nights. After 8:30, one counselor stayed in each unit in case of a problem but the rest were free to go to the canteen for an ice cream and a soft drink. I don't remember a TV set at camp but there was a movie once in a while... The best staff-motivated activity that I recall was in the summer of 1951. We played Capture the White Flag on the ballfield on a dark night, with no flashlights permitted.

There were no cellphones, computers, email, instant messaging or Skype back then. We relied on the mail and a rare phone call to keep in touch with family and friends. If you wanted to make a phone call, you went to the office and asked Mrs. Oppenheimer if you could use the phone....We had fewer distractions.

Six decades later, my main memory of those summers is we worked hard to make a safe, active, exciting and memorable time for the campers.





# ZEYDAFEST 2017

The weekend of December 1st we celebrated my Dad's, Jeff Lambert, 70th birthday at Surprise Lake Camp. Every year we celebrate in a unique way and call it "Zeydafest." The grandkids all call him Zeyda. This year Zeydafest was at SLC. Three generations of SLCer's attended the weekend. My parents Jeff and Ellen (Feldman) Lambert met behind the teenside dining hall back in 1969, when they were counselors. My sister Shira (Lambert) Greenblatt was a camper/counselor 1991-2000 and Shira's husband Evan Greenblatt was a camper 1987-1990. I, Ilana (Lambert) Sussman was a camper 1988-1993, staff 1994-1999, 2001 and recently summer 2017 (Highlands Supervisor). The third generation are current SLC campers. Abby Sussman started in 2016, Ella Sussman's first summer was 2017 and Noah Greenblatt's first summer will be 2018. My niece Ariel Greenblatt will be GYFW summer 2020!

We started the weekend by heading up to camp from Long Island on Friday night. We decorated Journey's Way lodge and sang happy birthday to my dad since it was his actual birthday. My sister and I planned the weekend like a day in camp. First we had roundup and breakfast. Zeyda played the guitar for Roundup and we all sang camp classics. Then we all bundled up for the cold and headed to the Eddie Cantor Theater for Shabbat services (an abridged version). Next, it was time for a scavenger hunt around camp! The kids ran around, laughing, taking pictures and having so much fun in the gorgeous sunshine.

Some of the clues for the scavenger hunt included....

- Where is the Oldest building in Camp?  
(*The Museum Building*)
- Where was the spot where you used to be able to get a drink from a fresh stream?  
(*next to the Eddie Cantor Theater*)
- Act out a buddy call on the beach  
(*Mainside Waterfront*)
- Where was the old phone booth?  
(*in front of the Little Playhouse*)
- Where can you "Get Your Feet Wet?"  
(*Mountainview*)

Next, it was time for arts and crafts. The kids made bracelets, played games, did spin art, and made keychains. Lunch was pizza fondue. Shira, Evan and I have fond memories (as campers) of making pizza

fondue in the lodge, so we included that on the weekend's lunch menu. Of course, after lunch was Hafsaka (rest hour) and mail call. Each grandchild wrote a letter to Zeyda and gave it to him (he was the only one who got mail).

Finally, it was Canteen time. We ordered a box of candy from the year 1947 (the year Zeyda was born). Each child got "Zeyda bucks" and got to buy candy from Zeyda's canteen. Finally, it was shower time before dinner. We all got ready and went to Nicolas' down the road on route 9, where my dad was surprised with more family who joined us for an amazing dinner. Sunday came too quickly. After breakfast, Zeyda set up an archery target for the kids to play with.

Our last stop was on teenside, to see the spot where my parents met. The story goes that my dad came up to camp late in the summer of 1969 because he was in the Army Reserves. Soon after his arrival, he was playing his guitar for a group of campers on the hill behind teenside dining room. My mom was wondering who this new guy was. It just so happened that a few days earlier, my mom broke her glasses and my dad was the one who picked them up for her in Queens and brought them to SLC. After playing the guitar, he walked over and introduced himself, gave her the glasses, and the rest is history... Two years later they were married! If it wasn't for their chance encounter at SLC, none of us would be here today.







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**It takes money and resources for the Alumni Association to mail you this newsletter.  
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We are proud to present the 2nd class for the Surprise Lake Camp Alumni All-Stars. While we consider ALL of our alumni All-Stars, this exemplary group met the following five criteria for being All-Stars in 2016. We congratulate, and thank them!

They have all:

- ★ Paid Alumni Association dues, either annual or lifetime
- ★ Made a gift to the Annual Scholarship Drive (or Board Campaign) to support current year scholarships
- ★ Attended or supported at least one Alumni Association event (i.e., Casino Night alumni parties, Hike Day, etc.)
- ★ Contributed to a capital project or endowment campaign (Heath Center, Scholarship Endowment, etc.)
- ★ Joined the 1902 Society (we now have 271 members – you'd be surprised how easy and impactful this is!)

1. Howie Berk 2. Suzanne Moskowitz and Jordan Dale 3. Michael Fandal 4. Nancy & Alan Hoffman 5. Dr. Joe Goldberg  
6. Chuck Jainchill 7. Mark Levine 8. Stan Josephson 9. Karri & Joel (Whammy) Kaufman 10. Stephen Nitkin  
11. Linda Markowitz 12. Kenny Pollet 13. Dr. Jeff Spiegel 14. Anne & Joel Zbar 15. Barbara & Mike Zbar  
16. Tracie & Mark Basch 17. Jillian Rauer

If you believe your name was inadvertently omitted from this list, please be sure to let us know. When you see someone you know on the list, please thank them!

To be included in future All-Star classes, please note the following change to the criteria for 2017 and beyond:

- ★ The minimum annual scholarship gift is \$360.
- ★ We no longer require a gift to a capital or endowment project, although these are very much appreciated.

The other requirements remain the same.

Someday we hope that the list will be too long to fit on a full page!

