

# INTERLAKEN BRIDGE

THE STEVE & SHARI SADEK CAMP INTERLAKEN JCC  
ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1 No. 2 • Fall/Winter 2009



## CIL Committee

**Chair** Sylvia Winter

**Vice Chair** Sheryl Rubin

Laurel Bear

Susan Carneol

Randie Collier

Melissa Feldmesser

Larry Golopol

Maureen Komisar

Dale Kunin

Michelle Lafferty

Mitchell Moser

Sharyl Paley

Jay Plavnick

Stephanie Rubnitz

Bryan Sadoff

Cindi Samson

Alan Schulman

Laurie Shapiro

David Steinberger

Sue Strait

Diane Zall

## Past Committee

### Chairs/Co-Chairs

Laurel Bear

Dean Ellis

Linda Hay

Leonard Loeb\*

Fran & Ron Meyers

Marilyn Pelz

Jerold Perlstein

Jim Zucker

## Past Camp Directors:

Howard Wagan 2000-2007

Judy Young 1995-1999

Jon Levin 1992-1995

Kevin Bukatman 1990-1991

David Friedman 1985-1989

Paul Chase\* 1983-1984

Judy Siegel 1979-1982

Ateret Cohen\* 1978

Steve Mirowitz 1977

Ateret Cohen\* 1968-1976

Shel Goldstein 1967

Jack Weiner\* 1966

*\*of blessed memory*

## Ultimate Camp Mom

When we talk about the last 20 years at Camp Interlaken, there is only one person who can weave those years together into a tapestry that represents Interlaken's modern history: Sharon "Camp Mom" Cohen. Sharon just completed her 23rd summer at camp, and she continues to be an integral part of our camp community as we prepare for her 24th summer at Camp Interlaken. She has touched hundreds of children in our community from the very young to the teenager to the adult, infusing them with her knowledge and love of Jewish traditions, learning and values.

In her 23 summers at camp, Sharon has heard over

10,000 sh'ticks, participated in 230 Shabbat walks, and has worked with 6 different camp directors. While her title may have changed to Assistant Director, she will always be Camp Mom to all of us!

Sharon is a preschool teacher in the JCC Gan Ami during the winter months and is the Assistant Director of Camp Interlaken during the summer. Sharon was the Coalition for Jewish Learning's Teacher of the Year in 2008. She graduated from Boston University with a Bachelor of Science degree in education, has studied at the graduate level at Keane College for early childhood education and has taken Judaic study classes at

both Hebrew Union College and Spertus College. Sharon is married to Hazzan Carey Cohen, is the mother of Phillip, Seth & Simcha Cohen, and the doting bubble to Elan & Rubin.



Camp Mom Sharon Cohen lights Sabbath candles, as CIL Director Toni looks on.

**Find us on Facebook, Twitter, and at [campinterlaken.org](http://campinterlaken.org)**

## Remembering Irv Peckarsky

*by Howard Wagan*

Camp Interlaken JCC lost one of its founding fathers on August 24 when Irv Peckarsky passed away at the age of 88. Many of us remember the story of how in 1965 when a committee of Jack Weiner, Julius Atkins, and Nate Wahlberg toured the property of Camp Interlaken of the Pines for Boys. It was Irv who was instrumental in having the committee come to view and ultimately locate Camp on Lake Finley.

I can still remember the times that staff went to Irv and Janet's to spend a relaxing day off on the waterfront, campers walking over to Irv's on Shabbat or doing the Lake swim so they could receive the coveted Oreo cookies that Irv always had waiting for them. Irv was also instrumental in the building of the Ulam. I can remember during my "off hour" handing stones to Karen Goldman and other staff on scaffolding to Ollie Olson the mason Irv hired, to build the fireplace in the Ulam. I can still picture

Irv on the Girl's side or Boy's side Tennis court playing tennis during rest hour with Jack Weiner and Bobbo Gruenberg. One of my favorite memories was cross country skiing to Irv's during Winterlaken (see picture).

We extend our condolences to Irv's children, Bobbie, Joanne, and Jimmy.



# FROM CAMPER TO CAMP CHAIR

by Sylvia Gutt Winter

**I realized recently** that I am the beginning of a new era for Camp Interlaken. I am the first Camp Chair to have been a camper at Camp Interlaken, but I was not only a camper. I am the first Camp Chair to have been a camper, counselor, attend family camp, and whose child was also a camper and counselor at Camp Interlaken.

I was a camper the first year Camp Interlaken opened in 1966. Ateret Cohn was the Program Director and Jack Weiner was the Camp Director. I had also been a camper at the forerunner to Camp Interlaken. (The JCC had rented a camp at Green Lake, Wisconsin called Camp Robinhood.) I was a counselor in 1970 and 1971. Ateret Cohn was the Camp Director, Jack Weiner was the Executive Director of the JCC, and Howard Wagan was Ateret's assistant. We had counselors from all over the world and we still do. I had a crush on a Canadian counselor. Where are you Gerry? (We didn't have the internet to keep in touch.)

Over the next number of years, I had very little connection to Camp. I attended the 10th anniversary of

Camp in 1976 where I saw many of my old staff friends. The next time I connected with Camp was in 1991 at the 25th anniversary of Camp Interlaken. It was there I realized there was a Family Camp at the end of the summer. That summer I took my husband, Michael, and my five year old son, David, and off we went to family camp. Camp has been in the fabric of my family's life ever since we attended family camp in that summer of 1991.

We went to family camp over the next seven years, and David became a camper in 1995. (We didn't want to stop going to family camp. It was too much fun.) I became a member of the Camp Committee and eventually, the Chair of the Camp Committee. During those years, David went through his Ozo year at camp, became a counselor and eventually ski director at Camp. In fact, he graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 2008 and postponed starting his new job as an actuary with J.P. Morgan in Chicago until September so that he could spend one last summer at camp as the ski director.

It has been my privilege to be the Camp Committee Chair for the last eight



Michael, Sylvia & David Winter – Camp Shabbat July '09

years. I have seen our camp evolve in those years. Interlaken is still the same beautiful, ruach filled Jewish Camp you remember. Camp is still impacting the lives of all who have spent time on the shores of Lake Finley through life long friendships and beautiful memories, but Camp Interlaken is also changing to keep up with today's Jewish children who are coming from all over the country. Seeing Jewish children having the best time of their lives at Jewish summer camp is a highlight of my life.



## Where would you be today... if you had never gone to camp?

**How would you be different,** never having had that life-changing experience? As the world changes and everything becomes more expensive, so does camp. A session that was \$500 back in the day, now costs approximately \$4000. As a

Jewish community, we would love every Jewish child to have that life-changing opportunity, but for some families, it is far from a realistic goal or a great sacrifice.

Last year, Camp Interlaken spent nearly \$60,000 of its budget on meeting scholarship needs. Our camp endowment funds and the Milwaukee JCC covers some of this cost, but we need your help to make sure we can meet everyone's needs.

The time has come for a Camp Interlaken Alumni Scholarship Fund. We are hoping that ALL of our Alumni will understand how vital this is and give back to our camp community. Our goal for the 2010 camp season is to raise as much of our \$60,000 budget as possible. We promise to keep you posted on how many campers we are able to help with our donations.



## Featured Camp Couple:

# Mitch & Emily (Zien) Rotter

I've probably started this 15 times as I try to find something more insightful to say than "I work a lot, travel too much, and my family supports me." All true but it doesn't really address where I fit in with my (and our) idea of "family." My mother passed when I was 2 and I was raised by my father with some help from my maternal and paternal grandmothers and, in fairness, many of my father's friends. "Family" to me has been a relatively fluid concept and never really coalesced until I began Camp Interlaken camp at the ripe age of 9. Even as I approach my 38th birthday, I can safely say that the core group of



friends I made there are not only my best friends still today but my family as well. I met my wife, Emily, at summer camp and although we didn't become romantically involved until we were adults, our friendship and our shared experience from those magic summers provided a shorthand that superseded a more traditional courtship. To this day she credits me with teaching her sarcasm and if that is indeed the case, I am a stellar teacher! Without sounding like a John Hughes movie, we literally came separately to the same conclusion that I was looking for "someone like her" and she for "someone like me." That was a fun night...

With that understanding it didn't take long to embark on what we hope will be a storybook ending. We have a beautiful daughter, Zoe, who has all of her mother's beauty and all of her father's, uh, tenacity. We just welcomed our son, Zach, three months ago and he couldn't be an easier baby; I keep waiting for the other shoe to drop but so far he's just chillin'. Emily is a stay-at-home mom and while I envy the unique bond she has with Zoe and Zach, I am also beyond grateful for my career which affords us the luxury to have her at home while allowing us to



lead the lifestyle we love. Never mind that we're in bed by 10pm and only see kids flix these days...that's not the point! I know it's cliché, but I love music and wanted to be in the music business since the day I found out you could actually be paid for it. In the short time I've been at Universal Music Group, I feel like I've been welcomed into a new family and for me, that's truly a beautiful thing.

Oh yeah...I work a lot, travel too much, but my family (both of them) supports me.

*Written for an executive piece in the Universal Music Group newsletter to introduce himself to the staff.*

### Please change a child's summer by choosing one:

\$\$ for their canteen account	\$18
Duffle bag	\$36
Sleeping bag	\$72
Pre-camp shopping	\$180
1/2 week of camp	\$500
One week of camp	\$1000
Mini session	\$1800
One session of camp	\$4000

*We've given our share to start the Alumni Scholarship Fund. Please Join Us!*

### Camp Interlaken Alumni Committee

Nancy Appel  
Daniel N. Baer  
Benjy Bar Lev  
Toni M. Davison Levenberg  
Karen Chernof Gottlieb  
Graham Hoffman  
Mitch Moser  
Sheryl Selby Rubin  
Stephanie Rubnitz  
Ben Sadek  
Howard S. Wagan  
Sylvia Winter  
Diane Meyers Zall

Help us make sure that no camper is turned away and all of our kids have the opportunity to skip around the room, be a schmutz buster, get kuntzed and celebrate Shabbat in one of the holiest places we know!

Please use the enclosed envelope soon, or go to [Campinterlaken.org](http://Campinterlaken.org)

### MATCHING GRANT OPPORTUNITY

The Foundation for Jewish Camp has offered the Steve & Shari Sadek Family Camp Interlaken a \$18,000 matching grant. Help us raise the \$18,000 and they will match one for one. Now some families can be offered more help!



Harry & Rose Samson Family **JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER**

6255 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Milwaukee, WI 53217-4353

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The JCC is a partner in serving the community with the Milwaukee Jewish Federation and is a beneficiary agency of the United Way of Greater Milwaukee.



## The Harold Grinspoon Foundation

continues to help us impact the future of Camp Interlaken through Mr. Grinspoon's mentoring and matching gifts programs. Many lay people with strong ties to Camp Interlaken have been diligently working with our assigned mentor, David Sharken and CIL staff, to direct camp's long range planning. Thanks to the generosity of a few, matching Grants in the amount of \$68,000 are on the way! They are the beginning of future capital improvements for your camp.

## Shabbat Across America

Plan a camp Shabbat event in your city! Just email Dan Baer [dbear@jccmilwaukee.org](mailto:dbear@jccmilwaukee.org) and we will provide a Camp challah cover, a challah certificate and Shabbat candles. We have one in the works in Chicago and one at the JCC on February 12. Plan to have a camp Shabbat in your city and this summer watch for a live simulcast Camp Interlaken Shabbat Across America - short simulcast from camp at your Shabbat.

Interested in planning a summer alumni event at camp? Email [dbaer@jccmilwaukee.org](mailto:dbaer@jccmilwaukee.org).

## K'far Noar Signboards from Years Past...



See them all at the Camp Interlaken page on Facebook!



# Make a difference for a camper this summer.

Each Family will get a note saying that the Camp's Alumni helped make their scholarship possible.

Help someone experience the ruach that is Interlaken!

**MATCHING FUNDS** are available from the Foundation for Jewish Camp - up to \$18,000 will be matched dollar for dollar from the Foundation.

Yes, I want to make a difference for a camper.

☐ \$\$ for their canteen account \$18

☐ ½ week of camp \$500

☐ Duffle bag \$36

☐ One week of camp \$1000

☐ Sleeping bag \$72

☐ Mini-session \$1800

☐ Pre-camp shopping \$180

☐ One session of camp \$4000



Exp date \_\_\_\_\_

☐ My check is enclosed

☐ I would like more information – please call me

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ C ell \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Todah Rabah!**

Unless you would like anonymity, we will list our chavarim in the next newsletter.

*Camp is a 501(c) (3) organization. Your donation is tax deductible and eligible for your company's matching gifts program.*

**Mail to: Steve & Shari Sadek Family**

**Camp Interlaken Alumni Scholarship Fund**

**6255 N Santa Monica Blvd**

**Milwaukee, WI 53217**