

INTERLAKEN BRIDGE

THE STEVE & SHARI SADEK FAMILY CAMP INTERLAKEN JCC **ALUMNI NEWSLETTER**



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Toni Davison Levenberg
Asst. Camp Director Jonah Wagan
Program Director & Alumni
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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 Cohn*	1978
Steve Mirowitz	1977
Ateret Cohn*	1971-1976
Jack Weiner*	1968-1970
Shel Goldstein	1967
Jack Weiner*	1966

**of blessed memory*



Save the date for the 50th Best Summer Ever Celebration June 19-20!

Reunite with long-time Camp friends • Shabbat Walk
Song Session • Israeli Dancing • Lake Swim
Campfire • Havdallah Lakeside
and More!

The time to book your hotel is NOW! Visit our website for more information!

www.50th.campinterlaken.org

Are you receiving our mailings and emails? If you are not, please send your current mailing address, email address, and phone number to Grace at gfantle@jccmilwaukee.org to stay up to date on all of the reunion happenings!

50th Best Summer Ever Committee

50th Committee Chairs

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When I was a counselor so very long ago, I don't remember thinking too much about who was there year to year. Staff would spend a summer or two or four or more. Whoever happened to be there was who you hung out with. There were always enough long-time friends and always some new ones. Camp was the place to avoid the real world as long as possible, and even after staff stopped working at camp, they would always show up at some point to visit.

Being much older and a parent, I see the camp staff differently now. One of the most priceless things I get to do each summer is attend staff week and lead sessions with the counselors. It's such a special time to get to know them – they are bonding with each other, and there are no campers to distract them. I have also spent time at camp each summer during first session. It's amazing to see them in action – being loving and supportive and crazy all at the same time. Over the past four years I have become attached to a bunch of them- especially the ones who gush about my kids and tell me how wonderful they are. There are a few that I think are very special. The kind of young people you would hope your kids look up to. They are amazing role models with huge hearts who love camp as much as we do.

A couple were missing this summer. One of them was Zander.

Zander grew up at camp and worked there for several years. He was so much fun to watch – always surrounded by a mob

of campers, enjoying the crazy activities with them, dancing and singing his heart out and doling out those famous Zander hugs. He was also mature, thoughtful, and eager to help. Zander was never without his uniform- black baseball hat, sunglasses and belt full of paraphernalia that earned him the nickname "Inspector Gadget" from Toni. This year the real world got in the way of Zander returning to camp. Not surprisingly, he made a guest appearance during staff week to train the next counselor to do all of the "techie" things for which he had been responsible. I was there and sat in amazement as he regaled us with his real world adventures and future plans. He's an incredibly impressive and driven young man.

I saw Zander again today. Because of the unfortunate circumstances in Israel, our Interlaken trip was cancelled. An incredibly generous donor and a few phenomenal JCC staff pulled together an east coast adventure for our teens instead. Zander dropped everything to accompany some of his favorite campers and arrived at the bus this morning. I got to meet Zander's mom. I loved having the opportunity to tell her how special I think her son is and how lucky camp has been to have him for so many years. She watched with a huge smile as camper after camper ran screaming into Zander's arms for one of those hugs.

I know that Camp Interlaken is amazing, and I'm adding this to my reasons why.

TONI'S TAKE

by Camp Director, Toni Davison Levenberg

It's hard to believe that the fall is upon us again with the craziness of summer wrap-up and evaluation, Camper registration and recruitment, and staff recruitment and assessment. The summer flew by and was another successful summer! We maxed out our capacity again second session with 275 campers, and had a record breaking 120 first timers spend part of their summer at Camp! We had some firsts this summer with the 5K Finley Fun Run that all of camp participated in and Yom Sport, a morning of sporting competitions amongst cabins. We rallied together in support of Israel and delivered some beautiful programming helping to educate our older campers about both passion and compassion. In its sophomore year, our gender separated campfire resonated with most of our campers and staff, and it continues to keep its momentum as one of our successful, intentional single-sex programs. KTO was amazing as our K'far Noar campers really shined, and the Ozrim planned two unique three-team Maccabiah's!

I have had a very interesting fall as I have had the privilege to visit five different Camps since summer has ended. The visits spanned two Midwest camps and three east coast camps. Each camp was extremely different from the next, and the only commonality that the camps had with each other is that they are all Foundation for Jewish Camp rec-

ognized Jewish camps. Of course, I walked around taking pictures of things big and small that I thought would be awesome to do at our camp: from the design of a garbage can to a half-table in a dining hall to something as big as a covered basketball pavilion.

What's most important about my visits is the feeling that I walked away with: pride. I felt so proud of our Camp and our facility. I felt extremely proud of our facility upgrades. I felt proud of how well maintained our Camp is. I felt proud of the people who put so much time and energy into caring for our Camp. I felt proud of the JCC, agency that supports us and cares so much about our beautiful gem in the Northwoods. Yes, Camp gets dirty and gross, sometimes there are chipmunks or mice, I've seen holes in cabin walls, tons of writing on the walls, and lot of schmutz in the bayit or the moadon! However, at the end of the day, our Camp today is so beautiful, well maintained, and will be around for many years. The truth is that when you really care about a place, you take care of it like you care about it. It is evident that there are just so many who care so much. For the continuity of a Camp full of campers and staff who care about Camp as much as our alumni still do, I am thankful!



This special initiation program

began just a couple of years ago when we stopped to think about how it feels to be in K'far Noar and know that this is your last summer as a camper. We wanted to help campers know that their "Camp Story" doesn't necessarily have to end here – whether or not they ever do or don't return to Camp. We want their Camp Story to be a part of their journey: their Jewish journey, their life journey, their friendship journey. Not only was it important for us to emphasize this point, we wanted to help transition the campers to alumni and have them join a very special and elite group of people known as Interlaken Alums! To sum up the initiation program, a K'far Noar counselor or Unit Leader helps lead an activity mid-week where he/she shares his/her "camp story" with the K'farnicks, encourages them, and gives them time and materials to write their

own camp story with an ellipses at the end to show that it shall continue in some capacity. Later on that week, after Havdallah, the K'far Noar campers return to K'far for a campfire where they are met by two Interlaken alumni who help facilitate this transition while sharing their own Camp Story. The campers then volunteer to share their camp stories if they'd like to, and it is often a night filled with tears, laughter and songs. Midway through the campfire, the campers are all presented with an exclusive Camp Interlaken Alumni pin and were assured that wherever life takes them, camp will always be in their heart; they should strive to make camp a part of their lives forever.

We are so happy to have started this meaningful tradition. It is so impactful to actually listen to how Camp has affected the lives of the campers, staff and alumni. It also has an incredibly profound impact on the staff as it validates that they made a much better choice spending their summer at Camp than in an internship!



First Session K'far



Second Session K'far

Would you be interested in leading one of the K'Far Noar Alumni Initiations this summer?

The dates for this summer's initiations will be **Saturday, July 11th** (First Session) and **Saturday, August 7th** (Second Session).

Of course, you would be invited to join us for the entire Shabbat weekend along with your family.

Please contact Grace at gfantle@jccmilwaukee.org to get involved!

A huge thank you goes out to our past K'Far Alumni Initiation leaders:

1st Session 2013 • Sheryl Rubin and Adam Bilsky

2nd Session 2013 • Shannon Albert Bernstein and Nathan Bernstein

1st Session 2014 • Mitch Moser and Simcha Cohen

2nd Session 2014 • Emily Zien Rotter and Mitch Rotter



In the summer of 2004, Jordan Davidoff and Goldie Miller met for the first time in the Chadar Ochel (dining hall) at the Steve & Shari Sadek Family Camp Interlaken JCC. Both long time campers, Jordan and Goldie attended different sessions throughout their camper years, but finally met when they were both cabin counselors in the summer of 2004. According to Jordan, "it was love at first sight in the Chadar, and we were a couple by the first Shabbat of the summer."

This past June, ten summers after they first met, the couple returned to Camp Interlaken JCC to exchange their wedding vows. They wanted to share this special and beautiful place with family and friends, many who grew up right at camp with them, and also those who heard them talk

about camp so much over the years, and were never lucky enough to experience it. Jonah Wagan, Assistant Director and long-time friend of the couple, felt elated to be at their wedding. "Seeing the smiles and happy tears while sharing camp stories with the alumni over dinner, dancing and a campfire with guitars truly made it an unforgettable event."

Camp truly was Jordan and Goldie's home away from home. Jordan grew up in Texas and Goldie in California, but they built a family at camp over their collective 21 years there. Camp was the constant in their lives through most of their formative years. Goldie even had her Bat Mitzvah at camp on the same Bimah (stage) where they had the ceremony.

As Goldie and Jordan continue to build their family, they will always have that strong bond that comes with sharing such close relationships and Jewish identity stemming from their experiences at Camp Interlaken JCC.



Photos by Jen Sexton Photography



Deb Carneol is the Harry & Rose Samson Family JCC Social Media & Family Programs Coordinator, and Camp Alumna - Ozo 2005

CALL THE CAMP OFFICE TODAY!
414-967-8240
INTERLAKEN@JCCMILWAUKEE.ORG



HAKSHIVU HAKSHIVU NA...KOL HA MACHANE...

Monette Leva (Wichman)

These words I not only remember hearing from my days at Camp Interlaken but also can be heard once in awhile in my own home. This phrase seems to stop my kids in their tracks, giving me their full attention.

Thinking back to my days at Camp Interlaken always puts a giant smile on my face and gives me a warm and happy feeling inside. Whether I am reminiscing about shticks at the flagpole, walks to the bog, late night kuntzes, making candles at aminut, or fun Shabbat celebrations, the memories of my wonderful summers at camp always have a special place in my heart. Along with this, I think back to camp and remember a unique sense of Jewish identity that was reinforced every summer through evening programs, holiday celebrations, or just day-to-day Jewish learning.

I feel so lucky to have four children who have made Camp Interlaken a very important and special part of their own lives. They appreciate the same wonderful experiences of camp and feel the same sense of belonging that I felt because they too have found the magic there. Although my children started going to camp without knowing anyone, all four of them have made friendships that they cherish and will maintain forever. They all started with two-week mini sessions, hanging out on the infamous white chairs, enjoying Macabiah or KTO, or dancing with ruach and high energy during Shabbat celebrations. From there, they

have surpassed even me to continue on to K'far, Israel and Northeast trips, Ozrim, and Staff.

Through these experiences they have gained a similar sense of happiness as I did 30 years ago. I love to visit camp and see their names on Cabin Gad next to my own name from 1979 and 1981. When I witness my children carrying on our family legacy at Camp Interlaken, I am reminded of everything that I hold so dear about camp.

I am filled with gratitude for all that Camp Interlaken has given us. My children have embraced Camp and all it has to offer while adapting the core Jewish values that shape the people they are becoming. It's a simple, but profound statement: l'dor v'dor – from generation to generation. How lucky we are to be living it because of Camp Interlaken.



We talk so often about the Camp Interlaken family that transcends the definition of the word family. In Monette (Wichman) Leva's case, Camp Interlaken really does mean the true definition of family as she celebrates her children's love for Camp and the legacy that she has left because her children have made Interlaken their home. I am so proud, honored and grateful to thank the Leva Family; Craig, Monette, Ellee, Alex, Rachel and Eli, for making a generous gift to renovate and rebuild Cabin Gad for the summer of 2015. Even though it is Monette's children's time to be the stars at Camp Interlaken, to Monette, I say, "Welcome Home!"

- Toni Davison Levenberg



JCC Maccabi Games 2015 will be hosted in Milwaukee! Sunday, August 2-Thursday, August 7!

Camp Interlaken is partnering with The Games to build a delegation that will leave Camp on Sunday to join The Team and return to Camp on Friday morning before Shabbat!

The JCC Maccabi games is the largest Jewish youth event in the world. From August 2-7, 2015, our community will welcome over 1,000 visiting Jewish teens from across the globe and involve all of Greater Milwaukee, including 500 host families, 1,000 volunteers and 200 local teen athletes.

A five day athletic competition and community event, the JCC Maccabi Games will open at the BMO Harris Bradley Center on Sunday, August 2nd. Over the course of the week, athletes from around the world will compete in sports ranging from soccer to tennis to swimming and more. Along the way, they'll experience rachmanus (compassion) during the competition, tikkun olam (repair the world) during the community action projects known as "JCC Cares", and amiyut yehudit (Jewish peoplehood) during unique experiences that strengthen their connection to each other, their communities, and Israel.

Milwaukee last proudly hosted the Games in 1997 - but the opportunity to create a lasting community experience has never been greater. Together, we'll build an experience that transcends the Games - one that strengthens our entire Jewish community, empowers our next generation of leaders, and celebrates our values and traditions.

Whether an athlete, a host, a volunteer, or a donor – we need you to GET IN THE GAME! For more information please visit: www.milwaukeeemaccabi.org or <https://www.facebook.com/MilwaukeeMaccabi>
Or Contact: Jesse Rosen, Maccabi Games Director, 414-967-8182 / jrosen@jccmilwaukee.org

****Not from Milwaukee but still want to participate in the games, go here to contact your delegation head:
<http://www.jccmaccabigames.org>





We gratefully acknowledge our visionary and generous donors who have promised to fulfill the commitment of leaving a Legacy to the Steve & Shari Sadek Family Camp Interlaken JCC.

Anonymous

Jamie Lyn Adashek

Beth Alling

Steve & Joy Appel

Daniel N. Baer

Drs. Brian & Laurel Bear

Samantha Bear

Adam, Karee, Shayna & Jacob Bilsky

Tova Blasberg

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Ian Wagan

Jonah M. Wagan

Dara Winter

David Winter

Sylvia & Michael Winter

Evan Michael Wool

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As of October 31, 2014



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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.



FUTURE CAMPERS

Daniel Adashek
Ava

Elan Peltz
Dylan Wesley Peltz

Jame Honigman Klein
Theodore Axel Klein

Noah Sumner
Benjamin

Faye Zemel
Natan Lou pictured

Noah Kunin-Goldsmith
Ayla

Beth Glassman
Sydney
Louis Reins
Soloman Luca Reines

Katie Gleischman
Noah Elliot Williamson

Simcha and Julie Cohen
Rory Judah Cohen

Marc Zemel
Maya Lachman Zemel



AVODAH PROJECT



The Ozrim of Summer 2014 chose to update our “white chairs” circle. The white chairs were getting old and beginning to fall apart; some of them were no longer even white! Pictured below are the beautiful new white chairs. This project was made possible thanks to the Dorf Family Camp Interlaken Avodah Endowment Fund.