

# INTERLAKEN BRIDGE

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

Vol. 2 No. 3 • Fall 2010



### CIL Committee

#### Chair Sheryl Rubin

Randie Collier  
Andy Enders  
Melissa Feldmesser  
Larry Golopol  
Maureen Komisar  
Dale Kunin  
Sharyl Paley  
Jay Plavnick  
Bryan Sadoff  
Cindi Samson  
Laurie Shapiro  
David Steinberger  
Ian Wagan  
Sylvia Winter  
Diane Zall

### Past Committee

#### Chairs/Co-Chairs

Laurel Bear  
Dean Ellis  
Art Grossman  
Linda Hay\*  
Leonard Loeb\*  
Fran & Ron Meyers  
Irv Peckarsky\*  
Marilyn Pelz  
Jerold Perlstein  
Sylvia Winter  
Jim Zucker

### Camp Director

Toni Davison Levenberg

**Asst. Camp Director** Daniel Baer

**Asst. Camp Director** Sharon Cohen

### 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*	1970-1976
Jack Weiner*	1968-1969
Shel Goldstein	1967
Jack Weiner*	1966

\*of blessed memory

## A Few Words from Our New Camp Committee Chair

**After our daughter's first Summer at Interlaken**, one of our friends asked Carly if she had a good time. She replied, "I liked it, and I know I have to keep going back because it's my mom's favorite place on earth!" She knows me pretty well.

I have worn many Interlaken hats throughout the years. I have been a camper, counselor, family camp staff, ad staff, adult staff, and camper parent. Being asked to join the camp committee nine years ago was a great thrill - giving me the opportunity to continue my connection to camp and give back. Of all the many volunteer positions I have given my time to over the years, camp still trumps them all. I get butterflies in my stomach each time I make the drive and pulling onto Old Hwy 70 can still bring tears to my eyes. So much has changed since I had my own buddy tag, but everything important is still the same. The legacy that each one of us has left as we passed through those gates continues to make Interlaken more incredible with each passing year.

I made the trek up to camp four times this summer. For our very first alumni weekend,

I spent Shabbat with a group of young people that marked their time at Interlaken after I had gone. Their connection to Camp was still so strong and they felt incredibly privileged to be there.

It was a joy to bask in their excitement. My second voyage was during staff week. Toni surrounded herself with amazing staff for this summer and I loved getting to know them. The heart pounding ruach that Shabbat was crazy! I knew that these staff also felt privileged to be there and were more than ready to spread the love as the buses rolled in for Summer 2010. I brought my family with me to the north woods for committee weekend. It was great fun to enjoy camp with the committee families, honor Sylvia and experience a fabulous first session in action. Sylvia's last meeting as chair was filled with positive energy, wonderful accomplishments and exciting news about camp's future. My fourth Shabbat at camp



Sheryl Rubin & Alicia Sadoff

*Continued, back page*

## CIL Director, Toni Davison Levenberg on Camp 2010

At the end of the summer of 2010, we were ready to start another four week session! We had amazing campers, exceptional staff, and the greatest weather! I want to share a few of my favorite moments with you from the summer of 2010:

**Thanking Sylvia Winter publically for her dedication to Camp Interlaken as the Chair of the Camp Committee for 8 plus years:** Camp presented Sylvia with a hand carved plaque that said: "As my ancestors planted for me, so too do I plant for my children." This truly defines Sylvia's commitment as she was a camper, staff, and parent of a camper. She lends her ideas, time, and leadership to constantly improving Camp Interlaken. As we continue to think about our future and camp's impact on up-



L-R JCC Exec. Dir., Mark Shapiro,  
Sylvia Winter,  
CIL Dir., Toni Davison Levenberg

coming generations of Jewish children, we are thankful to have leaders like Sylvia who work to assure each Interlaken family is impacted in the amazing way that Sylvia, her son David, and other children have been

*Continued, page 2*



## ♥♥♥♥♥ Camp Couple ♥♥♥♥♥

### Matt Pearson & Becky Schwartz

We had known of one another from our summers at camp since 1994, but we never had much to do with each other. That all changed during the summer of 2004. We arrived during Ad Staff week ready for yet another amazing summer at Camp Interlaken. By the end of the first night at camp that summer, it had begun; we both thought it was going to be just a "camp thing." We were extraordinarily wrong. Very soon into the summer, we knew it was much bigger than a summer romance. Seven years later, three years of a long distance relationship and two cities under our belts, we married on May 30, 2010. We often reminisce about our many summers in Eagle River (and sing a few song session songs every once in a while). We feel incredibly fortunate to have found one another, and to have a "camp romance" that blossomed into marriage.



Becky & Matt display "We Met at Camp Interlaken" t-shirts at their wedding rehearsal dinner.



Send us camp couple stories, news and photos: [Interlaken@jccmilwaukee.org](mailto:Interlaken@jccmilwaukee.org)

*INTERLAKEN 2010, Continued from page 1*

over camp's long history.

Luckily, Sylvia continues to be an active leader on the Camp Committee with her commitment to continuing to develop alumni relations and alumni programming. We all thank you Sylvia.

**Cabin Dan - an 8th grade girls cabin:** As you may know, the purpose of creating cabin sign boards was to eliminate (or at least reduce) the signing of the walls in the cabins. I thought we may need to remind our campers of that this summer. Above a top bunk in a cabin there was a name written in large black sharpie that said 1981 beneath it. Just below that, a camper signed her name in the same large black sharpie, wrote 2010, then wrote "I love you mom" and circled the whole thing. Needless to say, I cried a little.

Camp was filled with children of alumni including an 8 year old camper who brought a song to camp that his father used to sing on Fridays at picnic lunch that we no longer

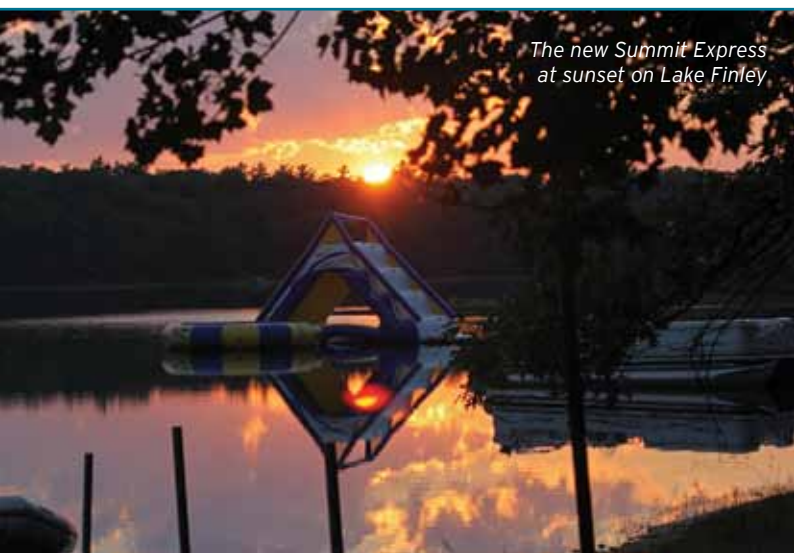
sing. With the help of a few staff that he taught the song to, we have brought back this tradition.

**Making sure Saturdays at camp were a time to get out, hang with campers, and have some fun:** Every Saturday, I was in Lake Finley around 5:00pm for our last activity block...it was very new for me. This summer we added two really fun elements to the lake: the Summit Express and the Watermats. The Summit is an inflatable climbing wall on one side and slide on the other side that is actually quite difficult to climb. The Watermats are 20x6 foot floating mats that you can stand on to "walk on water." On Saturday afternoons, I often grabbed our social worker, Michelle Lafferty, Sharon Cohen and Dan Baer as we raced campers up the Summit, did cart wheels (or at least I did) on the Watermats, and even jumped "popcorn style" on the Rave Aqua Jump (trampoline).

We even gave Sharon an Ayzeh Yofi for getting in the lake for the first time in over ten years as well as climbing the Summit.

**Sharon, Dan and I locked the buildings at camp for the last time this summer:** We stood on the porch of the office on a beautiful 80 degree and sunny afternoon. We looked at each other, smiled, and said: "Finley?" At that time, the three of us abandoned our hopes of getting back to Milwaukee before midnight, and, in our clothes, jumped in Lake Finley for one last time! We splashed around for a little while, laughed about our summer, and started the conversation about all we want to build upon for the summer of 2011.

**As many campers feel, we too agree that the summer 2011 can't be soon enough!**



The new Summit Express at sunset on Lake Finley



**Our summer vacation began** with Erev Shabbat at Camp. We have made short visits to Camp over the past several summers, but have not been able to stay. Everyone has told us that we have to experience Shabbat. So, with great anticipation, we walked into Camp. Like all alumni, we wondered whether Camp had changed or was still the same. The answer is "yes."

Returning alumni will notice all the new buildings. Obviously camp has changed. But stay a while and you will see that it is still the same—the anticipation of the Shabbat walk, the creative service and the great rendition of Sabbath Prayer sung with a chorus of hundreds of voices. Show up for the singing, but stay for the dancing! The new Chadar Ochel has plenty of space for some wild dancing after dinner: best described as a Jewish mosh-pit. We all had "moshiach, moshiach, moshiach, oy, yoy," ringing in our heads for weeks.

It is hard to admit that Camp goes on even though we are no longer spending our summers there. Even our youngest campers have long since matriculated. But it is heartening to see that the things that have always made camp special continue—the ruach and the great counselors. Ateret Cohn always said, "Everyone's a star at Interlaken." Those stars still shine bright!

Thanks Toni, Dan, Sharon and all the staff for being great hosts.



## 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 \$4,000. 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.

Last year, Camp Interlaken spent over \$71,000 on meeting scholarship needs. Our camp endowment funds, generous donors and the Milwaukee JCC cover some of this cost, but we need your help to make sure we can meet everyone's needs.

**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 2011 camp season is to raise as much of the scholarship need as possible.

### 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

**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).



Steve & Shari Sadek Family  
Camp Interlaken JCC  
2010



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

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

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Milwaukee, WI  
Permit No.4623



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.



*COMMITTEE CHAIR MESSAGE,  
Continued from page 1*

was a last minute quickie and how surprised was I to find Jordy and Jessie Loeb, along with their adorable family, coming down the hill for the Shabbat walk. I loved watching the evening unfold through their eyes. They were awed by the spectacle and loved watching their daughter dance the night away after dinner. It gives me great peace to know that even though our time to be at camp is done, the gifts that camp gives each year continue.

I am honored to have been asked to take on this new challenge as chair of the camp committee. Keeping the Interlaken magic alive for our children and future generations is of the utmost importance to me, and



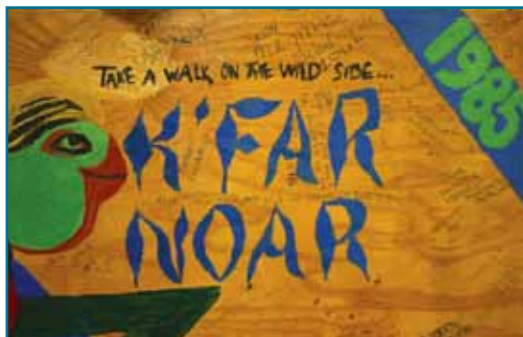
Sylvia Winter & Sheryl Rubin

camp's future shines as bright as the stars over Finley on a cloudless summer night.

*Sheryl*

## K'far Noar Signboards

See them all at the Camp Interlaken Facebook page!





# INTERLAKEN BRIDGE

## The 2010 Camp Interlaken Alumni Reunion



Talia Jubelirer

**Ever since I left camp as a staff member in 2004,** I've been looking for a way to get back. Too old to be a camper and not quite ready for family camp, I've been looking for a way to recapture that special feeling. I don't need to tell anyone reading this how awesome it feels to smell the crisp Eagle River air, to spend some time on the bridge or to watch the sun set over Lake Finley. Finally, this summer we were given an amazing opportunity to return to camp in the most incredible way possible – no curfew, no mandatory swim test – and boys and girls allowed in each others' cabins!

It was Camp Interlaken's first alumni reunion. We celebrated Shabbat on Friday night with services, dinner and a song session with as much ruach as I remembered. On Saturday we were free to roam around camp, our second home, to see all the changes that have happened since our last summer there. As a camper and staff member I remember shuttering at the idea of some the changes that were being



proposed. Now to actually see those changes was very exciting (it turns out that bathrooms in K'far are a pretty good idea!) Hearing about the upcoming changes also energized me about the future of camp.

I felt lucky to have the opportunity to go back to the Machaneh as an adult with friends I made there as a child. Interlaken has had a hand in shaping so many of us into the people we are today. The reunion showed me that camp will continue to shape young, Jewish children for years to come. I can't wait for an opportunity to do this again and to continue the tradition of making camp even better as the years go on.

Graham Hoffman

**I remember it all being so much bigger,** grander somehow. I had been away from Camp Interlaken JCC for quite a while and although distance (and time) often makes the heart grow fonder, it also makes the prospect of returning all the more nerve-racking. What if it's not the same as I remember? Or perhaps worse, what if it is EXACTLY the same as I remember? And of course - what if camp doesn't remember me? Can a place (and a group of people) have such an impact on you and then forget?

The first week of June 2010 marked the inaugural Camp Interlaken JCC Alumni Reunion Weekend. Andy Fine and I met in Milwaukee and drove up together – somehow the drive was much quicker than either of us remembered. We pulled into Camp several hours earlier than anticipated and were greeted and welcomed by Toni and Sheryl Selby Rubin. Ironically, Sheryl was among the very first faces to ever greet me on my first summer at Interlaken in 1989 – and although she probably does not remember (having greeted hundreds of campers in her role on Ad Staff that summer) – I can still picture it—jumping off the bus in front of the Tzrif and Flag Rectangle (both structures now merely a distant memory).



Visiting the Bayit was completely surreal—all of the history of it preserved, with some welcomed updates to the interior and kitchen. I was glad to see that some of the furniture had been upgraded. The Yurts, recreation building, and K'far Washhouse were among the most fantastic additions—establishing a truly independent Teen Village that can continue the great tradition of leadership development, team-building, and personal growth for each new generation of K'farnicks.

We then commence the all-too-important Shabbat Prep in advance of the Shabbat Walk. Fortunately, the rain stopped and cleared up just in time for the Shabbat Walk. Connecting with a few others of our era at Camp, we gathered in front of Boys' Cabin Row (taking a few minutes to peek into the cabins and look for our names in the rafters). I was a bit surprised to see the interior and exterior of these boys' cabins almost EXACTLY as it was my last summer at Interlaken in 1999. Names, sign-boards, even bunk beds, shelves, and drawers exactly as we had left them. *(Continued, next page)*



## The 2010 Camp Interlaken Alumni Reunion Page 2

*(Graham Hoffman, continued)*

We quickly gathered outside of Cabin Levi as we heard the Shabbat Walk approaching. Greeted by singing, hugs, and tons of “Shabbat Shaloms,” it was incredible to see so many of our former campers all grown up. Of course, as all of us continue getting older, Sharon Cohen stays the same—same bright smile, same warm hug, same firm yet loving authoritarian tone when she sends you back to your cabin to put on a clean shirt (okay, I didn’t experience that part this weekend, but I can imagine). We joined the end of the Shabbat Walk and proceeded to candle-lighting and a truly beautiful Shabbat service and dinner.

I can say that all camp alumni would have enjoyed the opportunity to step back into some of the very best highlights of the Camp experience with us. I’m sure those of you who remember The Twilight before it was a crazy teenybopper vampire phenomenon, would have enjoyed joining us as we revisited some of our great memories together. I couldn’t help but feel an enormous sense of pride seeing the amazingly accomplished, driven, and successful adults that our former campers have become. And there’s nothing quite as cathartic as sharing cocktails with a 23 year old that you taught how to make his bed—or comforted when he was feeling homesick his first time away for the summer.

We celebrated Shabbat, sang and danced, toured all of our favorite spots, and most of all—really enjoyed reconnecting with each other. On Saturday night, after a day of mostly open activities we gathered together for a lovely cocktail reception and dinner. Sylvia Winter, chair of the Camp Committee spoke for a few minutes, sharing the remarkable plans that the committee has developed for continuing to improve Camp for the next generation of campers—and each of us received an envelope with the opportunity to make a contribution to support Camp. Certainly none of us in attendance were in a position to make a major gift for a new building or major endowment—but all of us were invited, free-of-charge, to enjoy this weekend together and we all have the capacity to make some kind of a meaningful gift—whatever meaningful means to each of us individually. And what’s more, we all have the ability to set an example for and encourage our peers who were unable to attend to do the same. And so we did—many of us even pledged on the spot and returned our envelopes immediately.

The evening closed with a beautiful campfire and a second night of some late-night socializing and celebrating. And the following morning, we all scattered to the winds—returning home to places as far as Texas, California, New York, and

in my case, Washington DC. I left with a renewed sense of hope and inspiration. Camp Interlaken played a central role in the formation of many of my closest friendships, life-long memories, and great life experiences. But even more than that, Camp Interlaken somehow is special and unique in its ability to serve as an assembly of an extraordinarily talented group of thoughtful, caring, and compassionate people. I only wish you could have witnessed the group of extraordinary adults assembled at the reunion—each more impressive than the next—and each with a deep and abiding sense of responsibility to leave this world a better place than we found it.

The true meaning of ‘Bnai Atid,’ Children of The Future, remains in the truest sense of the words. All of you should be so proud for what we accomplished there.

I can’t imagine how different my life would be without my summers at Camp Interlaken—and we can’t afford for a single family or camper to miss out on these life-shaping experiences. There are innumerable ways that you can help, give back, and contribute to the future of Interlaken’s success—volunteering your time, helping to find outstanding families and potential campers, referring talented potential staff members, and giving and getting resources to support the important next phases in Camp Interlaken’s strategic plan for capital improvement.

For me, camp’s not even the first Jewish organization I am focused on supporting—in my role at Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, I spend most of my time ensuring the future success of Jewish campus life. But we can’t forget, nor diminish, the important role that Camp Interlaken played in our lives—and we are responsible, just as those who came before us, to ensure that it continues to play the same role for generations to come.







# STEVE & SHARI SADEK FAMILY CAMP INTERLAKEN JCC SCHOLARSHIP FUND

*A sincere "thank you" to our scholarship fund donors who help to ensure that no Interlaken camper is turned away because of financial need.*

Anonymous

Pam Baer

Jane Banks

Laurel & Brian Bear

Michele Boal

Robin Broidy

Allan & Susan Carneol

Deborah Carneol

Jane & Steve Chernof

Melissa Chudnow

David Ciralsky

Randie Collier

Jordan Davidoff

Ari Davidson

Josh Davidson

Michael Dorf

Sarah Eisinger

Julie & Allie Ellsworth

Andrew Enders

Kenneth & Claire Fabric

Melissa & Larry Feldmesser

Neena & Rick Florsheim

Milton Gedallovich

Jeff Genecov

Jennifer Gilbert

Larry & Geli Golopol

Ilana Goren

Karen Gottlieb

Tera Greenberg

& Daniel Shapiro

Bette Gromis

Rebecca & Michael Guralnick

Lisa Heilbronner

Bruce Himelstein

Graham Hoffman

Patricia Jaegerman

Tali Jubelirer

Alyson Kaiser

Martin & Gail Komisar

Maureen Komisar

Randi Komisar

David Korenthal

Kathryn Koslov

Elena Kraus

Frances Kulutbanis

John Lesch

Geanna Levin

Jessica Levin

Steve Levy

Thomas & Nancy Lewandowski

Julie & Tedd Lookatch

Pip Lowe

Robert Marcuvitz

Tracy Stein & Marco Masotti

Lisa Morgan-Barrientos

Mitch & Cheryl Moser

Gary & Carol Moseson

Karen Mozer

Andy & Allie Nelson

Dan Oren

Sharyl & Bob Paley

Jay & Jill Plavnick

Molly Rabinovitz

Rosalie Rellin

Sheryl & Jon Rubin

Bryan & Alicia Sadoff

Allison Schwartz

Laurie Shapiro

Mark & Sharon Shapiro

Beth Sherman

Greg Sherman

Ben Shmuel

Lissa Silver

David & Carrie Steinberger

Randi & Harlan Steinberger

Rachel Stern

Alex Strnad

Zachary Urdang

Jonah Wagan

Howard & Diane Wagan

David Winter

Sylvia & Michael Winter

Mary Yanny

Eve Joan & James Zucker

