

INTERLAKEN BRIDGE

THE STEVE & SHARI SADEK FAMILY CAMP INTERLAKEN JCC ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Vol. 5 No. 2 • Fall 2013



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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

2013 ALUMNI WEEKEND

Sylvia Winter

My favorite weekend of the year is when Camp Committee members, past campers, past staff, families and friends of Camp come together to celebrate their love of Interlaken. People come for different reasons. Alumni come to meet their camp friends and reminisce, and parents come to show their young children Camp. Regardless of the reason, everyone enjoys the weekend.

This year close to 100 alumni, family and friends enjoyed Shabbat at Camp Interlaken. We joined the campers for Shabbat services, Shabbat dinner, singing and dancing. We also had some special events. During the weekend, two boys' cabins, Zebulon and Naphtali, and female staff housing complex, Beit Miriam, were dedicated. The renovation of Cabin Zebulon was generously donated by Maureen Komisar and her son, Noah Schatz. We also honored the Legacy Circle members who received a lovely gift (see page 6) in commemoration of their dedication to the future of Camp Interlaken.

The rest of the weekend was spent enjoying Camp by taking tours, swimming to Peckarsky's, boating and many other activities. The weekend ended Saturday night with a Havdalah service lakeside followed by a traditional campfire with singing, wishes for the future, and s'mores.



ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR



We would like to welcome the newest addition to the year-round Interlaken team, our **Program Director & Alumni Engagement Coordinator, Grace Fantle!** Grace grew up in Milwaukee, and she recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a BA in Sociology and a minor in Jewish Studies. Grace has been attending Camp Interlaken since she was entering 5th grade; she just spent her 12th summer at camp. Grace has been a camper, ozo, counselor, unit leader, and Mama Ozo. Last year she spent a life-changing semester studying abroad at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She was very active at Hillel in Madison where she held leadership positions and helped raise money for the organization, sparking her passion for Jewish communal service. As it is for many, Interlaken is her favorite place in the world, and she could not be more excited to continue her camp journey!

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS • ALUMNI SCHMOOZE @ MOLLY COOL'S

Saturday, November 30, 2013 • 8:00pm

RSVP on Facebook or to Grace Fantle 414-967-8196 or gfantle@jccmilwaukee.org

Molly Cool's Tavern • 1110 N. Old World 3rd St. • Milwaukee, WI 53203

Cash Bar • Must be 21 or older to attend.

Although I could fill pages with all of the wonderful experiences I had as a camper in the 1980's and as a parent/camper at Family Camp these last 2 years, I will share one that ties it all together for me personally.

One of the lesser-known to younger campers, but no less enduring traditions at Interlaken is the K'far notebook. This is a communal diary of sorts that each K'far Noar session keeps. It is filled with the thoughts, drawings, arguments, poetry, songs, etc., of any K'far Noar camper who is willing to put it on paper.



While at Family Camp 2013 this past August, the staff was gracious enough to dig out the K'far books for those of us who attended K'far to re-read. While sitting around a campfire at K'far and crying with laughter at the things I (and others)

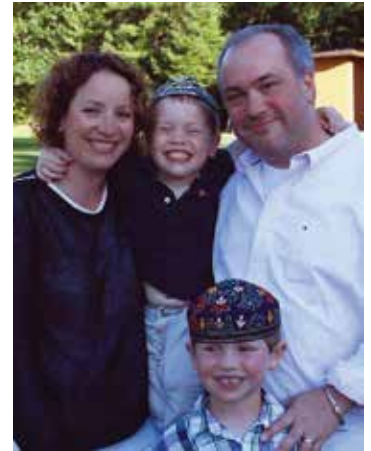
wrote in 1988 at age 15, I came across a page with only one entry from that August so long ago: In big, red magic-marker it said: "Debbie Weigler comes tomorrow - I'm so excited, I can't wait!!!"

I needed to share this exclamation of joy from one of her friends, so I took the journal over to show my wife,

Debbie (Weigler) Bernstein. I was amazed to see that we had met 25 years ago that month, in that place, and maybe even around that fire pit.

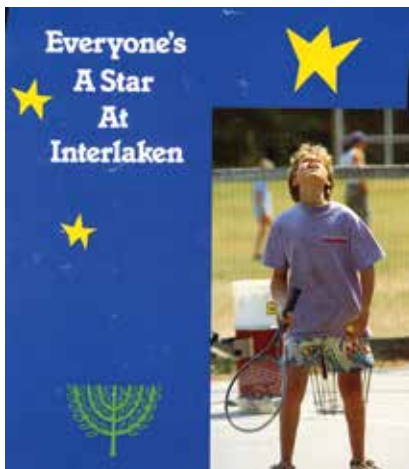
Understandably, any discussion I have about Interlaken is a bit sentimental because, in truth, Debbie's and my Interlaken story is just a continuation from our past and a bridge to our future. Debbie first attended Family Camp as a baby in the 1970s, we were both campers for years, Debbie was staff, and we are now watching our sons Noah and Max create their own camp experiences at Family Camp, and for Noah, as a first-time camper this year.

While Noah and Max may not necessarily meet their future spouses at Interlaken (one can hope), we know that their experiences will be just as fulfilling and life-changing as ours.



FAMILY CAMP – MY NEW SECOND FAVORITE MEMORY

Zach London



"Everyone's a star at Interlaken." Yep, that's me. I'm going to guess that picture was taken in 1988. I can't remember if I felt proud or embarrassed when I saw myself in the Interlaken brochure, but I was certainly surprised. Was this really the best they could do? They must have sifted through hundreds of

photos of good-looking kids with their arms around each other, smiling kids on sailboats, and clean-shirted kids holding Havdalah candles. And yet, some mysterious force led them to look at this particular picture and say, "That's the one." Perhaps it was the undeniable appeal of the all-pastel wardrobe or the t-shirt stained with chili mac. Or perhaps the graphic designer simply recognized the raw humanity of a child so thoroughly distracted by a passing bird.

All I know is that the caption was true. I always felt like "A star at Interlaken."

I probably would have turned out okay without camp. Most people do, right? Still, it's hard to imagine being the same

person without that gift. Interlaken taught me the power of creativity, the joy of sharing, and the rewards of leadership. People I wouldn't have connected with in a different environment became lifetime friends. Camp brought me back to Judaism when I was dangerously close to letting it slip out of my life. What sometimes felt like mindless ritual anywhere else became a beautiful living tradition at camp. Sure, there was also some toilet scrubbing, a few scraped elbows, a little bit of homesickness and heartbreak, and a whole lot of shivering miserably on the docks. But again, it's hard to imagine being the same person without that gift.

Seventeen years passed, the painted ponies went up and down a few times, and I've had some different adventures. Last August I found myself back in the north woods again, for Family Camp. Instead of coming by bus, I was in a wagon train of minivans with my wife and kids, my sister and her family, and my parents. I really wanted that week to go well for them, and I was nervous. My family had to experience the magic themselves, and not just feel like impartial observers on someone else's sentimental pilgrimage.

Family Camp exceeded our expectations. We played hard, we pigged out, and we dove into to every chug and every evening program. Our kids hijacked the talent show, ran off with new friends, and launched model rockets into the oblivion. We played tushball and ga-ga and ultimate like it was our last day on Earth. We sang at the top of our lungs.

(Continued, page 4)

A MESSAGE FROM THE CAMP COMMITTEE CHAIR

As Chair of the Camp Committee, I have already had many memorable experiences, and this summer was no different. We started a new tradition- initiating our K'far campers into Steve & Shari Sadek Family Camp Interlaken JCC Alumni Association. I was lucky enough to facilitate this special ceremony first session with Adam Bilsky, and Shannon & Nathan Bernstein had the honor second session.

Camp felt it was important for K'farniks to take time to contemplate what it meant that their time as campers was finite. When Camp ended for the summer, their "camper story" was completed. We wanted them to think about what Camp had meant to them, what lessons they had learned, and what they would always remember. We also wanted them to truly understand that their "camp story" was far from over. Whether they returned as Ozrim or staff, or went off on other life adventures, Camp would always be an incredibly significant part of their lives.

Adam and I spoke with them at a special campfire and shared our own Camp journeys. We told them what Camp meant to us, how our experiences had helped guide us

through life in many ways, and how Camp still continued to impact our lives so many years after we spent our summers there. The campers shared their own camper stories with us, made wishes for the future and were given special Camp Interlaken pins to mark the occasion. Yes, there were many tears, but there was also much gratitude for the experience and for what we all shared.

It's hard for me to believe that our youngest child Carly, will be a K'farnik next summer and complete her own camper story. Adam and Karee Bilsky's daughter Shayna's story is just beginning. Carly could very well be Shayna's counselor one day. L'dor v'dor.

Thank You!



Sheryl Selby Rubin
Camp Committee Chair



Carly, Sheryl, Jon & Micah Rubin

LIFECYCLES

ENGAGEMENTS • MAZEL TOV!

Goldie Miller and Jordan Davidoff



START 'EM YOUNG! MORE FUTURE CAMPERS

Benjy Bar-Lev & Lauren Canter Bar-Lev
- *Sammie (pictured)*

Cayla (Becker) Hibbard & Nate Hibbard
- *Brayden*

Elie and Rachel Zarem - *Philip Robert*

Iyla Margulius - *Eden Bella*

Josh and Annie Turim - *Ellie Rae*

Ashley Buckholtz - *Natasha Rose*

Sara Martin - *Annie Rose*

Sybil (Barmish) Worden - *Eliana Isabelle*

Leah (Landesberg) Bruch - *Ari Jack*

Tera and Danny Shapiro - *Caleb Aaron*

Sari Grossman Rothbart - *Noah Tal*

Randi (Komisar) Schachter - *Jordan Harvey*

IN MEMORY OF JERRY PERLSTEIN

We are so sad to share that past Camp Committee co-chair Jerold Perlstein passed away on September 4th. Jerry was a longtime supporter of Camp and worked on the 25th and 36th Anniversary events and fundraising efforts. Jerry, Sandi and their children Steve, Rick, Linda and Ben are all named on the sign at Ski Point in thanks for a caring gift. Jerry had planned to attend Family Camp this summer with his family, but became too ill. May his memory be a blessing.

IN MEMORY OF RICK TEPER

Longtime camper, counselor, parent, husband, and good friend of Camp, Rick Teper lost his battle to cancer this past May. Rick spent many memorable years at Camp. Many of us remember Rick's fun, caring way. Below is a picture of Rick in one of his favorite places surrounded by his camp friends. May his memory be a blessing.



SUMMER OF 'HINEINI' AT THE STEVE & SHARI SADEK FAMILY CAMP INTERLAKEN JCC



The summer of 2013 was unbelievably successful for Camp Interlaken.

For me it was the summer of "hineini," which in Hebrew means "here I am." The concept of hineini was evident in that Camp had the most amazing group of staff that I've worked with in my eight years. Our programs were creative and fun, our staff were



nurturing and present, and our Camp community was a family. First session had 30 more campers than last year, second session was full, and Family Camp was full. One of the most remarkable changes this summer was the commitment of a new generation of Camp alumni. Many visited and were wowed by Camp's physical changes but reassured by Camp's familiar spirit. Many sent their children for the first time to Camp, and they posted about it all summer long on Facebook and Twitter. We took a photo of children of alumni, and the number of campers each session in that photo was astonishing. Our success in the summer of 2013 will support the next generation of campers - both children of alumni and new campers - for many years. This was a hard summer for me to take off my hineini bracelet and get in the car to drive home from Camp. Unfortunately, now I am suffering the same "campsickness" that many of my campers feel after a great summer at Camp, and that makes me even more excited to dive back in and start planning for an even better summer of 2014!

Toni

Toni Davison Levenberg

THIS SUMMER'S CAMPERS WHO ARE CHILDREN OF ALUMNI! IT IS AWESOME HOW MANY THERE ARE!!



(Zach London, Continued)

We wore ourselves out, and we slept like babies. It was the best family vacation ever (not to mention the cheapest.)

If you're an Interlaken alum, don't bother coming to Family Camp just to relive old memories. If you just want to see the old signboards, email me and I'll send you pictures. Don't come to Family Camp as a nostalgic misty-eyed alumnus. Come as a wide-eyed camper. Get dirty, get happy, and soak up the sonic wall of acoustic guitars reverberating off the floors of the Chadar. Camp is vibrant, it's real, it's there right now, and it's a perfect way to reconnect with your family.

Close your eyes and picture yourself sitting around a campfire in K'far Noar. Imagine the sounds and smells of that experience. It's a cool night, and everyone is huddled together

in hoodie sweatshirts, staring into the fire. Who is sitting next to you on either side? People you love, no doubt, even if you haven't seen them in years. Now imagine adding a few more faces around that fire: your kids, your spouse, your parents, or your siblings. Think of what a blessing it is to share that experience with them.



That's why Family Camp is my new second favorite memory.

My favorite, of course, is this time I was playing tennis and suddenly saw this really interesting bird directly above me.

Our heartfelt thanks to the following contributors to the Jim Sweet \$25,000 Matching Grant Challenge for the Tracy Sweet Camp Interlaken JCC Scholarship Endowment Fund

Together we added over \$52,000 to this vital scholarship endowment!

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Jamie Adashek
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Wisconsin Endodontic Group, S.C.
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Jill & Bob Youman
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*Thank you all! And
thanks, Jim, for caring for
our Interlaken campers!*



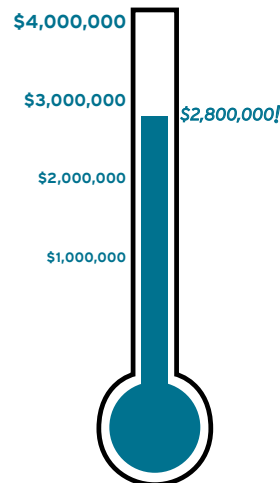
For almost 50 years, Camp Interlaken has been fostering enduring relationships, a love of Jewish community and a connection to Israel while promoting individual growth, learning and fun.

The future of Camp depends upon our planning today to transform our facilities and programs to meet the needs of a new generation of campers and parents.

The time has come for everyone who loves Camp Interlaken and Jewish camping to help us build this bridge to our future, while we preserve the memories and experiences we share.

We are counting on you to join us!

Please contact Development Director, Harriet Rothman
414-967-8239 hrothman@jccmilwaukee.org



Exciting News from JCamp180!

Camp Interlaken was selected to be a member of JCamp180's Chai Match program. Your gift of \$1,800 or more may be eligible for the match!



LEGACY CIRCLE PROMISES

The Steve & Shari Sadek Family Camp Interlaken JCC has secured 46 Legacy Circle promises from alumni and friends.

These promises make a statement of our love for all things Camp and our promise to ensure a bright future of memories on Lake Finley. We are so proud of our alumni and friends for their charter support of our Legacy Circle initiative for Camp. Forty-six legacy promises were received by Interlaken to begin our Legacy Circle Campaign for a lasting future for Camp. Four more promises will get us to our goal of receiving a \$10,000 challenge grant from JCamp 180. Friends and alumni who have promised to leave a portion of their estate, insurance policy, individual retirement account or other investment are writing their camp stories in Camp's Legacy Circle Book of Honor. Each will be presented with a commemorative work of art to remind them of their caring tzedakah.



To join this list and secure Camp's future, please contact Harriet Rothman
(414) 967-8239 hrothman@jccmilwaukee.org.

Thank you to Camp Interlaken's Legacy Circle Donors.
You've started something big.

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Cindi & David Samson Family
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** of blessed memory*

I (we) wish to help preserve our place on Lake Finley with a contribution of:

☐ \$180 ☐ \$360 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$1,800 (Matching Grant from JCamp180*) ☐ Other _____

For gifts over \$500 your pledge amount \$ _____ can be paid over 5 years. Please include your first installment with this card.

If you are considering a more sizeable gift in support of the Preservation Campaign, please call 414-967-8239 for more information.



_____ Exp date _____

☐ My check, payable to Camp Interlaken, is enclosed

☐ I (we) wish to remain anonymous

Name(s) as you would like it to appear _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____ Work _____

Email _____

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

* Your gift of \$1,800 or more is eligible for the matching grant. Pledges must be received by March 18, 2014. The first payment of at least 1/3 of the pledged amount should be received within 60 days. The balance must be paid by September 18, 2016. If you choose this generous option, we will call you to discuss your pledge payment plan.



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

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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.



ALUMNI GUESTBOOK

This summer we started a new tradition at Camp, the Alumni Book. The Alumni Book is a black hardcover book that sits in the entry way of the Welcome Center. Every time an alumni comes to visit camp over the summer they can sign it. Many people wrote about all of the wonderful memories and great feelings they felt being back at Camp. Come visit Camp next summer, we would love for you to sign the book!

55 alumni signed the book this summer! Here are a few memories that were written...

I walked into Camp on Friday afternoon and I was greeted by smiles and hugs; however my favorite greeting is Welcome Home. Interlaken, my home for 25 years, helped point me in the direction I took with my professional career as well as helped me figure out what is the best version of myself. Although I'm not physically at camp, I sit at my desk thinking about the Finley, this community, and the memories I created here. Camp may physically change over the years, but its heart and soul will be passed on from generation to generation. Stay strong and true to yourself Interlaken- I look forward to the days I'll return in the future and to my children creating memories here that will last them a lifetime.

- Simcha Cohen

SHALOM CAMP INTERLAKEN - I was here as a camper/ counselor in the 70's-80's. You look and feel so familiar and that friendly camp spirit is so alive and still strong after all this time! It is incredible to see camp evolve yet retain its warmth and the very key to its survival-being a family or home away from home-a lasting set of memories for the generations to come. So glad my kids can share the fondness I had for this place- B'nai Atid Lives

- Mark "The Shark" Kleiner

JOIN OUR FACEBOOK FAMILY

Have you "friended" Camp Interlaken on Facebook yet? Join in the fun and get the latest news, plus a few blasts from the past! Throwback Thursdays feature a Camp picture from yesteryear for our friends to tag and comment on-great fun to see our 70s bell-bottoms and 80s shoulder pads! Use our page to reconnect with friends, discover opportunities to get together and see how wonderful, flourishing and full of ruach Camp still is today

INTERLAKEN'S 50TH YEAR CELEBRATION...

is around the corner! Help us put together a video of photos, videos, recording, stories, influential people, and more! Add your story. Email material or inquiries to

history@campinterlaken.org.