

INTERLAKEN BRIDGE

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

Spring 2017



CIL Committee

- Mitch Moser, Chair
- Laurel Bear
- Aaron Bernstein
- Nathan Bernstein
- Karee Bilsky
- Randie Collier
- Ari Domnitz
- Andy Enders
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- Larry Golopol
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- Dale Kunin
- Maureen Luddy
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- Sharyl Paley
- Jay Plavnick
- Sheryl Rubin
- Bryan Sadoff
- Cindi Samson
- Laurie Shapiro
- Ian Wagan
- Jodi Weber
- Dina Weinbach
- Sylvia Winter
- Diane Zall

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- Dean Ellis
- Jordan Fink
- Art Grossman
- Linda Hay*
- Leonard Loeb*
- Fran & Ron Meyers
- Irv Peckarsky*
- Marilyn Pelz
- Jerold Perlstein*
- Sheryl Rubin
- James Sweet
- Sylvia Winter
- Jim Zucker*

Camp Director

Toni Davison Levenberg

Asst. Director Mark Gutman

Asst. 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* 1971-1976
- Jack Weiner* 1968-1970
- Shel Goldstein 1967
- Jack Weiner* 1966

**of blessed memory*

I FIRST BECAME A CAMPER IN 1976...AND NEVER REALLY LEFT

by Mitch Moser, Camp Committee Chair

Getting packed to go to Camp Interlaken for the first time

in the summer of 1976 was a time of mixed trepidations for me. Sure, my big brother Steve had attended the summer before, and had a great time — but “Tush” was the kind of kid who could go up to a new place, sight unseen, and fit seamlessly into the fabric (which he did).



Mitch (right) at Camp, circa 1976

My parents knew that I was a little different. Shy, introverted, uncertain in new situations — they appreciated that this whole camp thing might be a one-and-done. But, buoyed by a visit to Camp the summer before to pick up Steve after his session, and knowing that he would be there to keep an eye on me... my parents apprehensively loaded me on the Lamers bus at the Prospect Avenue JCC and went into a three-week blackout of any information from the North Woods.

What happened over the next three weeks was the usual ho-hum Camp experience: a youngest boys camper falling in love with Camp, gaining social and Jewish self-confidence, meeting and making friendships for a lifetime, yada yada yada. It began a 13-summer run at Camp as a camper, K’farnik, Ozo,

counselor, Program Director, back to counselor, and ultimately Papa Ozo.

During my first summer not at Camp in 1989, I didn’t last all that long being away. Despite working at a law firm in Madison all summer, I snuck up to Camp for long weekends repeatedly. That began a summer tradition of visiting Camp whenever I could — for multiple long weekends, a single short weekend, or just a quick mid-week visit to meet with the Ozos or staff. I’ve had the great fortune of visiting Camp in some capacity every year since we picked up my brother after his first summer in 1975.



Upon returning to Milwaukee for my first “real” adult job in 1991, I sought any connection to Camp that I could find, and wiggled my way onto the Camp Committee. At 26, I was a full generation younger than the next “youngest” Committee member, but

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Camp opens at 2PM on Friday.

Shabbat dinner, Saturday brunch, and Sunday continental breakfast provided. Dinner on Saturday night on your own.

Recommended donation - \$50

Please register — and tell all your friends. Deadline for sign-up is 5/15. Register at campinterlaken.org/alumni/schmutzbuster or call Beth at 414-967-8240.

As the new Assistant and Program Directors of Camp Interlaken, both Mark Gutman and Stephanie Wezelman are thrilled for their upcoming first summer at Camp. Get to know them both a little bit better and hear what they've been up to, as they help get Camp all ready to go for Summer 2017!

The following comes from our Camp Interlaken blog, which we update with Camp news throughout the year! For more blog posts just like these, please visit: <https://www.campinterlaken.org/blog/>

Mark, Assistant Director

It has been an incredible two months since moving to Milwaukee and joining the team at Camp Interlaken. Now that we have a full team, we have hit the ground running and haven't looked back. Over the past few weeks, I've had the opportunity to start meeting the camp staff; this has by far been my favorite part of the job. Every staff member is unique, but the conversations all lead to their love for Camp and how they can't wait to create an amazing experience for their campers this summer.

Getting to know the staff has made me so much more excited for the summer. As a team, we took a trip to Eagle River to visit camp, and it was magical! There was more than a foot of snow and below zero temperatures, but I wasn't going to let that stop me from exploring my new summer home. We toured the buildings, walked on a frozen Lake Finley, and even played tushball. The entire time, I could not stop smiling as I pictured camp in full swing over the summer and I started counting down the days until we move up there.

If you can't tell, I am pretty excited for the summer. Until then, I have been spending my time exploring Milwaukee, finding other Colorado sports fans, looking for the best hiking trails, and sampling all the cheese and local Wisconsin foods I can!

mgutman@jccmilwaukee.org

Stephanie, Program Director

Hi everyone! For those of you I haven't met yet, my name is Stephanie and I'm the Program Director for Camp Interlaken. This isn't my first time living in Wisconsin, as I went to school at UW-Madison a few years back (Go Badgers!), but I recently moved to Milwaukee from Chicago, Illinois. Being in this role as the Program Director and back in the camping world is truly a dream come true, and I am ecstatic for the summer and to work with such an amazing team!

Since December, I've been learning all things camp. I've been traveling all over the country for camper recruitment, and I am happy to say that we have so many awesome new campers for Summer 2017 who can't wait for Lake Finley and the Wisconsin North Woods. It's been interesting to learn where all of our campers come from, and how most

states in the USA are represented somehow through our campers and staff! In the coming months, you may catch me on the road at various camp fairs, parlor meetings, and camper gatherings.

Another part of my job has been all of the marketing and social media for Camp. We recently made a #Snapchat account (@campinterlaken, follow us!) and plan to post summer updates frequently for those who aren't at Camp. We are also doing fun campaigns on Facebook and Instagram, so follow along if you don't already. Additionally, I've started planning for programming, and getting the schedule together for an unforgettable summer.

The team went up to Camp a couple months ago, and we were greeted by 16 inches of snow. Being from Arizona, I had to borrow snow pants! We walked through Camp and explored (and even got to stand on a frozen Lake Finley!). Although it was winter, it was easy to imagine all of the greenery and memories being made in this place. It made me smile thinking about the fact that I can't wait to be back.

There have been so many moments since I started where I just get this incredible feeling inside knowing that my summer will consist of camp again, and specifically Interlaken. In a place that is rooted so deeply in tradition, I will be learning from each and every one of you... I am thrilled to make Camp Interlaken my home. It's a countdown until camp, cannot wait to meet all of you! Please feel free to reach out and introduce yourself in the meantime, and no matter when you attended Camp, send me your favorite summer programs.

swezelman@jccmilwaukee.org



When I was a camper, I always found it interesting that non-Wisconsin kids made their way to Northern Wisconsin for camp each summer. I remember what a big deal it was for kids to fly into Rhinelander and thought it was pretty cool. I am so excited that my son Brett Katz is making the trek from Phoenix, Arizona, to Eagle River this summer, joining the boatloads of alumni kids attending Camp Interlaken – including the Zall kids from Arizona.

Brett has attended both Camp Newman in Sonoma, California, and Camp Stein in Prescott, Arizona. The one thing that was missing from those camps is the culture around the lake. He is so excited to learn how to water ski and sail. As a native Arizonan, he is also excited to have cold nights and cold mornings in the summer. I loved being with my Jewish friends, the lake activities, the crazy fun adventures we had, the singing and dancing after meals, and Shabbat. I look forward to hearing about all of the above when he comes home in July.



Chilling in the "oldest girls tent" Alli Gottlieb Zall, Beth Weitz Katz and Mindy Zarem

FUTURE CAMPERS



Emanuelle Eisinger Hirsh
Parents: Sarah Eisinger & Jonathan Hirsh



Benjamin Michael Stock
Parents: Molly Rabinovitz Stock & David Stock

Mitch Moser, continued

I immediately got to work with many legends of Camp's Committee history.

Twenty-five years later – with only one break due to term limits (ugh, Strategic Plans!) – I am humbled and excited to become Camp Committee Chair. Camp has changed in so many amazing ways (more on that in future editions), but at its core it remains the same incredible place that sucked me in that summer of 1976: a magical place that helps build children's Jewish identities, creates friendships for a lifetime and, of course, where Every Camper is a Star.

Following Sheryl (Selby) Rubin as Camp Committee Chair is a little like taking over as Program Director from Danny O (fortunately, I didn't have to do that!). Sheryl has led the Committee with excellence for the last six years, tirelessly devoting incredible amounts of time to improving systems,

handling changed societal expectations, and promoting counselor development and growth. The amount of time that Sheryl has invested in Camp both during the summers and throughout the planning off-seasons has been remarkable. Almost three decades after we were on Ad-Staff together in 1988, it remains a pleasure to be able to work with Sheryl to continue to support Camp's development.

As we approach our **52nd Best Summer Ever**, I know the deck is deeply stacked in Camp's favor. Please join the entire Camp Committee and Alumni Association in working to improve Camp for this and its next generations. Not sure how? Drop me an e-mail at commoffice@sbcglobal.net, and we can work on it together.

Now...where are your campers?

Many times I am asked by my coworkers at the JCC MetroWest in West Orange, NJ, "Sharon, are you going back to Wisconsin this summer?" Without a moment of hesitation, the answer is always, "Yes, of course." It is funny, though! Last year before Camp, I had planned for the summer of 2016 to be my last. It was my 31st year at Camp. I am truly a senior citizen at this point, and maybe I should stay home and sit at the pool outside our apartment. Then, something happened. I arrived at Camp, fell in love with it all over again, and was bitten again by the Interlaken bug.

Why? Why does a 72-year-old woman keep coming back to Camp? It is really simple: Interlaken has grabbed a piece of my heart. It has influenced who I am today. In many ways, it is my home away from home.

I started coming to Camp when my son Simcha was a toddler. I watched him grow up there from staff child, to camper, to Ozo, to staff and finally to Ad-Staff. Now he is the Assistant Director of Camp Herzl. Simcha became the man he is because of many of the experiences he had at Camp Interlaken.

Camp Interlaken affords opportunities for children to grow and learn who they are and allows them to see, in their counselors, what they can aspire to – who they can be someday. Our counselors are role models for our campers. They maintain connections years and years after they leave Camp. Memories and skills from Camp stay with us for years. We never know when a memory of Camp will spur us on to greater and greater things. The memory of a song session might influence someone to try their hand at writing or singing. A K'far chug for the Camp play might influence someone to try their hand in theater. I remember taking Simcha to the Skylight Music Theater in Milwaukee to see a camp counselor in the musical *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Perhaps one of the most important aspects that campers take away from Camp is a different perspective of their Judaism. Our Camp schedule incorporates Jewish rituals and practices in a very fluid way. At flag each morning we say the *Modeh Ani*, in which we thank G-d for giving us a new day to experience the wonders of the world. At meals, we say the *Motzi* to start the meal, and the *Birkat Hamazon* to end the meal. Of course, we cannot forget our vibrant and moving song sessions filled with Hebrew and folksongs.

My most consistent and meaningful memory, though, is of Shabbat. Each Friday, we join together for the Shabbat walk, followed by the Shabbat Circle and candle lighting on the athletic field. This really demonstrates the amazing community or *kehilah* that Camp Interlaken is. I once saw an overhead photo of the Shabbat Circle from atop the climbing wall. It was amazing. To see more than 300 people standing together dressed in our white Shabbat clothing, holding hands, really illustrates to me that we are a vibrant community that has joined together to wish everyone a peaceful and happy Shabbat.

As the parent of an alumnus, and a grateful staff member, I recognize just how fortunate I am to be a part of the Interlaken family. My deepest wish is that more and more children will be able to experience the magic and wonder that Camp Interlaken brings to all who are fortunate enough to be associated with it. For as our Camp song proclaims – *B'nai Atid* – our campers are our future.

Sharon Cohen
Assistant Director



B'NAI HE ATID

CHILDREN OF THE FUTURE

בני העתיד



Donations to our annual appeal, **B'nai He Atid (Children of the Future)**, will ensure all scholarship needs are met, strengthen programming, help us attract quality professional staff and enhance Camp's infrastructure. You are helping us safeguard the future of Camp so that it's there for our children and our children's children!

THANK YOU to the following Camp Interlaken friends for their generous gifts to our 2016-2017 B'nai He Atid Annual Appeal.

Anonymous

Steven & Joyce Appel

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& Marci Gittleman

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Sylvia & Michael Winter

Jennifer & Michael Wirth

Join us in this effort to help Camp continue to fulfill its mission to foster enduring friendships, a love of Jewish community and a connection to Israel while promoting individual growth, learning and fun.

Your donation to B'nai He Atid will ensure that there will be funds available for scholarship, quality programming, staff recruitment and training...whatever pressing needs arise! **Gifts can be made online at www.campinterlaken.org or sent to the Camp Interlaken Office, 6255 N. Santa Monica Boulevard, Milwaukee, WI 53217.**



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.

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 Diane and Eric Zall
 James* and Eve Joan Zucker

**of blessed memory*

To discuss how you can help Camp's future, please contact Harriet Rothman, Chief Development Officer, at 414-967-8239 or hrothman@jccmilwaukee.org



Please take a minute to complete this quick survey so we can update our records at Camp Interlaken!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NTYYQF5>



Harry & Rose Samson Family
 Jewish Community Center
 6255 N. Santa Monica Blvd. | Milwaukee, WI 53217

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 and Waukesha County.

