

INTERLAKEN BRIDGE

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

Summer 2015

Thank you to all who joined us for Camp Interlaken's 50th Best Summer Ever!

With over 400 guests in attendance, Camp celebrated its largest Shabbat in history. We are glad so many of you were there to join in on the fun during this special milestone!!



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Camp Director

Toni Davison Levenberg

Asst. Camp Director Jonah Wagan

Asst. Camp Director Rachel Saslove

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

**of blessed memory*



If you are ever given the opportunity to make 400 people giddy with happiness, I hope you take it. Camp's 50th Best Summer Celebration was epic! From the Shabbat walk filled with hugs and kisses, to the ruach-filled services, the intimate dinner for 500 (including staff), to the life-changing song and dance session well into the night, day one was spectacular! Waking up to some heavy dew on Saturday dampened no one's spirits. Lively services in the ulam and a wonderful brunch gave way to a dry afternoon of fun activities, camp tours, schmoozing and an adventurous lake swim to a waiting Jimmy Peckarsky. Dinner was preceded by fun appetizers lakeside served by our excited staff. A moving Havdallah service at Makom HaLev (amphitheater), brought an end to Shabbat but not the evening. What would Camp be without a roaring campfire? Sappy songs and thoughtful wishes filled the night sky, and "Bless This House" brought the evening home.

The feelings of love and gratitude were palpable all weekend. There were more hugs per capita than anywhere on

earth. Interlaken's original campers were amazed by the Camp of today, and our youngest guests couldn't wait to tell us they will soon be campers here too. Many of our guests were moved to become new donors, and our current donors were honored for their commitments. It was special to have every single alum and guest that joined us. It was an experience we will not soon, or ever, forget. It was a perfect moment in time when we all came together with great joy to celebrate Interlaken. I know that Camp is amazing — I'm adding this to my reasons why.

Sheryl



Rachel "Sas" Saslove joined the Interlaken team for her 28th summer at Jewish camp! Beginning her staff career at URJ Camp George in 1999, Rachel held positions as a counselor, songleader, Head Specialist, Arts Director and CIT Director. Rachel has spent the last four years as the Assistant Director of Camp Mountain Chai in San Diego, CA. In 2012, Rachel was selected as one of 17 Assistant Directors to participate in the Foundation for Jewish Camp's Yitro Leadership Program. Born and raised in Toronto, Ontario, Rachel earned her Master of Arts in Jewish Education and her Master of Arts in Jewish Communal Service from the Baltimore Hebrew Institute at Towson University.

FUTURE CAMPERS

Emma Frankie Smith - daughter of Elyse Amigo

Jacob Eli Bar-Lev - son of Benji Bar-Lev

Leo Benjamin Bilsky - son of Daniel & Abby (Grossman) Bilsky

Henry Michael Enders - son of Andy Enders

Jacob Parker Lurie - son of Leigh Bornstein Lurie

Sam Minkin - son of Josh Minkin

Jasper Eero Pivar-Escobedo - son of Brad Pivar

Teddie June Rifkin - daughter of Jodi (Goldman) Rifkin

Gabriella Hazel Rosen - daughter of Dan Rosen



Toni, Jonah, and big brother Jaron are so excited to announce the arrival of **Nava Eliana Levenberg**. Nava Eliana was born at 10:02 PM on January 20th, weighing 6lbs. 13oz. Nava had a great first summer at Camp!

PRESERVATION CAMPAIGN



The Bridge to Our Future Preservation Campaign has successfully raised over \$3 million over the past 5 years. Our new Welcome Center, Aquatic Center and renovated Makom HaLev (amphitheater) are just a few of the wonderful additions to Camp thanks to the generosity of our loyal supporters. During intersession,

the Leva family joined us at Camp Interlaken to dedicate Cabin Gad, the renovation of which we have them to thank! Monette (Wichman), Craig, Ellee, Alex, Rachel & Eli hung the mezuzah and said the blessing together. Thank you to the Leva family for their commitment to helping Camp Interlaken continue to impact the lives of Jewish children and staff for many years to come!



I have a confession: I was so so so so so nervous for the celebration of our 50th summer! Of course, there were many things to be worried about, but I was nervous for reasons other than the food, the weather, the program, the parking, or the possibility of kuntzim. Instead, I was nervous that all of you who were a part of building Camp, instilling values, creating traditions, and becoming who we are today wouldn't accept who we are today as a Camp under my leadership. I just wanted everyone to show up at Camp and be happy and nostalgic. I'm not going to lie, the camp looks completely different than it did in 1966, 1976, 1986, 1996, and even 2006 when I began my Interlaken journey. I am so unbelievably proud of who we are today in 2015, and I just wanted to make sure that everybody else felt that way, too.

I was so overwhelmed with this nervous energy that I was emotional at every turn. I saw Joann Share walk over to Peggy Brill and say: "Hi Peggy, You were my counselor. Do you remember me?" Of course Peggy remembered, and then they embraced! I watched Meredith Rich walk into Camp and run to Zander Steichen because she was so excited to see her closest camp friend! Aaron Stern ran into Max Golopol's arms as he screamed "Papa!" David Korenthal walked towards me and shared that he was freaking out because he was surrounded by his counselors, campers, camp friends, and his Ozrim from when he was Papa Ozo in 2011. I cried a little each time, and these are just the people that I know. Obviously, there are 40 years' worth of Camp Interlaken people I don't know. If you had just stood at registration for a few minutes, all you would have seen were the things I just described.

Humbly, I was beaming with pride as I stood next to Shirley Weiner and Ariel (Weiner) Malia to represent Jack Weiner ז"ל their late husband and grandfather, David Friedman, Howard Wagan, Peggy Brill and Dan Oren who represented Ateret Cohn ז"ל, and Sharon Cohen as Shirley lit the candles to bring in Shabbat while we sang Shalom Aleichem and

the blessing for Shabbat together. With a full house in the amphitheater, Rabbi Adam Allenberg led us in a beautiful Shabbat service that had a mix of traditional prayers and songs from the past and present. As I sat there and looked out at Lake Finley, smelled Shabbat dinner cooking, and listened to the melodic mix of our songleaders' different instruments including flutes, guitars, saxophone, drums and voices, I just knew that we were off to an awesome start and this was going to be a Shabbat to remember.

The weekend was a huge success. Despite the weather on Saturday, those who wanted to do Lake Swim still got to eat Oreos at Jimmy Peckarsky's house. People played disc golf on the snail trail. The tushball roof was blowing up. Most importantly, people just were there, and they were happy to be there! Everybody reverted back to their favorite Saturday afternoon when they were a camper or a staff and just hung out in their favorite place, with their favorite friends. It was amazing!

It was a hard transition to get right back into Staff Orientation with our incredible staff of 2015, but we had the campers arriving for first session just a few days later. I breathed a sigh of relief as I walked into our first training session back together as we focused with Camp alums, Ari Friedman, about security at Camp and Randi (Rellin) Collier about camper behavior, and we easily became a family again eagerly awaiting our campers! I worried about my staff during the 50th because I knew that it may be hard when our orientation was split in half, but they were so deeply moved by the weekend too. Their favorite part was standing outside the tent on Friday night and singing Shalom Aleichem to welcome the guests inside. They couldn't believe that they were lucky enough to welcome all of the people who welcomed them into Shabbat dinner in the chadar when they were campers. What an awesome moment for our staff and what a great feeling to walk into the summer with! Thank you!

Toni

THE NEXT CHAPTER IN OUR FAMILY'S INTERLAKEN STORY

Sheryl Rubin



Carly & Micah Rubin, at Camp Interlaken JCC

Jon and I had no campers this summer. We have been putting our campers on the Interlaken bus for the past ten years, and it was very foreign to be at Drop Off watching our friends say goodbye to their own kids and have none of our own to wave to. But even so, Camp was still a part of their summers. I'm incredibly proud to say that Micah was a counselor and Carly took a life-changing trip to Poland and Israel with her Camp friends, which culminated in a special Shabbat at Interlaken. Both of their camper stories are complete. They are each full of incredible friendships, unforgettable stories, letters and packages, adventures, misadventures, secrets, life lessons...the list is endless.

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NEXT CHAPTER, continued

We know that their time at Camp has meant everything to them. It has helped shape them into the amazing Jewish adults they are too quickly becoming. As our children get older and the patterns of their summers start to change, I am comforted knowing what an incredible thing we were able to do for our kids by giving them camp. How do I know this? I have it in their very own words.

Carly was in K'far last summer. During the new program inducting K'far campers into the Interlaken Alumni Association, they were asked to write their camper story. Here are excerpts from hers.

What is camp?

Is it a distinct place or location?

Or is it the people that return from generation to generation?

To me camp is much much more

It's the rain on a yurt and the slam of a cabin door...

Her story is full of inside jokes, memories and all of the special childhood moments she could never have gotten anywhere else. My most favorite part is her very last lines. It's comforting to know that Carly believes her camp story is far from over.

So this is my camp story

What camp has meant to me

But I swear to you it's only the beginning

Just you wait and see...

Micah also had the opportunity to put his feelings about Camp into words. One of his college essays was to describe the place where you are most at home. Instead of choosing his room or his car, he chose being in the dark wet Hezekiah tunnel in Jerusalem with his Camp friends.

I realize that I trust my life with these people, and I would not want to be in this tunnel with anyone else. I realize that the places where we feel the most content have little to do with the nature of the places themselves. Instead, the people in those tunnels, those cabins, those woods make us feel content wherever we are all together.

The gifts that Interlaken has given our kids are too numerous to count. How lucky we are to have this sacred place to pass on to future generations. I know that Camp is amazing and I'm adding this to my reasons why.