

INTERLAKEN BRIDGE

THE STEVE & SHARI SADEK FAMILY CAMP INTERLAKEN JCC ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Summer 2016



Special Recognition Edition

TODAH RABA, DR. LAUREL BEAR by Toni Davison Levenberg

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Toni Davison Levenberg

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Howard Wagan	2000-2007
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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



One of Laurel's early summers at Camp.

It's been twenty five years since Dr. Aaron Bodner called Dr. Laurel Bear and asked if she was interested in donating a week of her time as a pediatrician to Camp Interlaken. Laurel, her husband, Dr. Brian Bear, and their daughters Alexandria (who was 4) and Samantha (who was just 1) packed up to spend a week in Wisconsin's Northwoods. This began an annual tradition for the Bear family. Together with their daughters Alex, Sam, Michaela and their bichon frisee dogs and then their 2 mi-ki pups, the Bear family quickly became a part of the fabric of Interlaken. Little did they know at the time the tremendous impact that Dr. Bear would have on Camp and the great impact that Camp would have on their family. "Through my mom's involvement with camp, she and I both, together, connected very much to our Jewishness. Many of the memories I have as a camper, I am lucky to say, are because of my mom's involvement with camp." - Samantha (Sam) Bear, daughter.

Nothing an Ice Pop Couldn't Fix

Laurel has served on the Camp Committee for close to twenty years and held the position of Camp Committee Chair from 1998 through camp's thirty-sixth anniversary celebration in 2001. Under Laurel's direction, the health center has dramatically transformed into a professional, modern clinic that supports the health and wellness of the small city that operates on our 106 acres each

summer. Many alumni remember when the old health center was located in the rustic mercaz building adjacent to the chadar ochel (dining hall). Many early visits to the health center were directly related to homesickness, and Laurel was always able to identify those campers, give them a hug, a few motivational words and an ice pop; those were the easiest to "fix!"

Laurel and her family lived in the beloved doctor's cabin in Pine Haven, and they spent each summer renovating a room at a time. Alex, Sam and Micki helped with the painting. Laurel and Brian were so generous; they always looked around Camp each year to see what was needed, and they helped to provide it. When they wanted to begin renovations on the doctors' cabin, they bought and donated the supplies, provided the labor (their daughters) and also bought furniture and linens for the cabin. They definitely went above and beyond. Brian Bear loved who his wife became at Camp: "What I always loved about (Laurel) at camp was how when there she went into 'Camp Mode.' Camp Mode involved always doing things to make it better. Better health care for the campers and anything that would make the camp a better place. It was always fun to watch."



Bear family in front of the Doctors' Cabin. Clockwise from top left: Laurel, Micki, Brian, Sam, Alex

As the medical director, Laurel started making phone calls in October to set the summer doctor schedule. She reached out to

Continued, next page

returning camp docs, parents of campers who were doctors, and physicians that she knew through her own network to fill the summer calendar each year. Laurel was always engaging doctors from all over Milwaukee, Madison and beyond to come and help out at Camp. Many of these doctors spent 10+ years donating a week to Camp Interlaken. Eventually, Laurel was able to streamline the process and send out an email in the winter to her list of contacts and have an easier time filling the eight weeks of summer with physicians eager to spend a week in the beautiful Northwoods. Dr. Paul Grossberg, who spent fifteen summers at Camp worked very closely with Laurel. "When not in person, Dr. Bear is there behind the kehillah b'yar (community in the woods) ensuring the continuity and quality of the multiple components of Interlaken health care. You know how hard it is to get an appointment with your doctor? Imagine coordinating the scheduling of eight different physicians, each volunteering a week's time every summer — not to mention the administrative details of keeping the mirpa'ah (health center) up to date — for two decades? Having been one of the docs for fifteen summers, I can say it was a pleasure knowing Dr. Bear was always there as the Medical Director."

Learning Everything About Everybody

Laurel hosted a pre-camp doctors' orientation and a post-camp doctors' debriefing, for many years in her living room. In the spring, Laurel thoroughly went through every camper's paper health forms and identified anything and everything that could possibly be a concern for Camp from allergies to emotions to illnesses. She knew every camper and knew exactly how Camp needed to care for each one of them. "[My mom], along with all the doctors who give their time to this beautiful place, truly embodies the values of camp. Thinking back to the twenty

years of my life at Camp Interlaken, it warms my heart to know that my mother was such a significant part of my journey." - Michaela (Micki) Bear, daughter



Cool, Calm and Collected

During the summer, Laurel was always present in the health center with the nurses even though the doctors are only asked to attend two hour-long sick calls each day. When Laurel wasn't at Camp, like Dr. Paul said, she was behind the scenes in Milwaukee talking constantly to the doctors and nurses at Camp. One of Laurel's best traits is that she is able to stay very calm in an emergency. Dr. Sharyl Paley, who has volunteered at Camp for many years, said, "Whenever a problem comes up at Camp, Laurel tells everyone to take a deep breath, and we talk through many different solutions to make sure that we were acting in the best interest of the campers and the entire camp community. This always helped us to calm down and reevaluate what was going on."

Outside of her work at Camp, Laurel is a board certified pediatric specialist who has lead the Neonatal Developmental Follow-up program at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin since 1998. She also established the Herma Heart Center Developmental Follow-up program in 2006. This program is the first in the nation to routinely follow the development of infants with complex congenital heart disease who have had surgery in the first year of life. Aside from her professional work

and her work with Camp Interlaken, Laurel has served on the Nicolet School Board, the Harry and Rose Samson Family Jewish Community Center Board, and she is an International volunteer with Global Medical Brigades providing medical service in Honduras and Nicaragua. In 2012, she received the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Distinguished Alumni award for her commitment to her profession, domestically and internationally. She also received the 2014 Humanitarian Award from the Medical College of Wisconsin, and with her husband, Brian, the World Citizen Award from the International Institute of Wisconsin for their work with Global Medical Brigades,.

How Far We've Come...

Today, the health center at Camp looks a lot different than it did Laurel's first year. In 2001, the health center left the old mercaz and moved to the top of the hill at Camp, and it even had a renovation during the Bridge to the Future Preservation Campaign as well. Laurel's involvement was instrumental in both building the new health center in 2001 and building the addition in 2011. Alex Bear is following in both of her parents' footsteps in the medical field; maybe she will volunteer her time in the future as a camp doctor: "It has been such an incredible opportunity to see camp grow and evolve throughout the years. Seeing how the camp doctors can really positively impact the overall experience for campers has really allowed my camp experience to come full circle."

It's pretty amazing how far we've come, and we are so grateful to the amazing woman who carried us through the last 25 years! Dr. Bear's shoes will certainly be hard to fill. We are thrilled to honor Laurel's twenty-five years of incredible service this summer.

It is a fact that Camp Interlaken JCC has had a fundamental impact on many lives throughout its history, and if you asked someone who attended Camp in the past 29 years, they would most likely have a memorable story about Sharon "Camp Mom" Cohen. Sharon has been a cornerstone of Camp Interlaken, and this year we gather to celebrate her 30th summer.



Summer of 1987

If you know Sharon, you know that she loves children. It's because of that love, and a little bit of happenstance, that led to Sharon's many years at Camp. Just prior to her first year she was having a conversation with David Friedman, Camp Director at the time, and she whined (we all know what this sounds like) about how he could not take away her goddaughter, David's daughter Adena, for the summer months while he was at Camp. David responded by proposing that Sharon come up to Camp to be able spend time with Adena, but Sharon was unwilling to leave her son, Simcha, at home for the summer. When David said that she could have the best of both worlds and spend the summer up at Camp with Adena and Simcha, she was sold. In 1987, she spent her very first summer in the Northwoods of Wisconsin at Camp Interlaken. Simcha was two years old.

Always the Camp Mom

In years past, Sharon has held many titles: Driver, Canteen Manager, Mashgicha, Simcha's Mom, Assistant Director, Hazzi's wife, Camp Mom, Camp Bubbe, Cornerstone Liaison, and I am sure I am forgetting some others; however, those who have been

impacted by Sharon know she is much more than any of the things that her various titles insinuate. Being an early childhood educator, one of Sharon's many passions is getting to know and spend time with the young campers at camp. She loves seeing them grow up, helping shape who they are, inspiring their amazing Jewish journeys and then seeing them send their children to Camp.

Camp's History Preserved

I was recently on the phone with Bruce Sherman, talking about his son's first summer at Camp. While Bruce isn't new to Camp, he asked a lot of questions about how Camp has changed since he was a camper and what he should expect for his son that may be different from what he experienced himself. Like some alumni who are a little shocked by Camp's physical evolution, he was suddenly at ease when I assured him that Sharon Cohen would be there. Bruce has visited Camp a few times over the last decade specifically to visit with and walk around with Sharon. This is not the first time that I have heard this sentiment since becoming the Assistant Director. During closing campfire at a recent family camp, an alum shared that he was so happy and comforted when he arrived at Camp and saw Sharon there greeting him; he knew that Camp was still being taken care of by someone he knew and loved and by someone that he knew loved the camp as much as he did.

L'dor V'dor...

Over the years, Sharon has continued to have the most positive impact on Camp, and she and her family have become a significant part of the fabric of Camp Interlaken. Sharon's mother, Jean Rubin, lovingly known simply as "Bubbe," spent many summers on the machaneh running the canteen. When Bubbe retired from the canteen, she continued to spend the next few sum-



mers at Camp, knitting, and enjoying watching her daughter and grandson shine at Camp! Sharon brought her husband, Carey Cohen, lovingly known by all as "Hazzi," to Camp with her, and he spent many years as a part of Camp's executive leadership team as the Administrative Director. Simcha continued working at Camp in many different administrative roles, including Unit Leader and Village Director. Following in his mom's footsteps, Simcha is now the Assistant Director of Herzl Camp in Minnesota; this will be his first summer in this role. Clearly, Camp Interlaken made an impact on the entire Cohen family!

Today, in her 30th summer, you will find Sharon in the new canteen, in the kitchen overseeing kashrut, on a ski boat in Lake Finley (her happiest



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HOW MY MOM'S LOVE FOR CAMP IMPACTED CAMP INTERLAKEN (AND IMPACTED ME!)

by Carly Rubin

The earliest I can recall being with my mom at camp is about 15 years ago.

She was the Omanut Director at the time, so my memories involve a great deal of Mod Podge, tie dye and friendship bracelets. In all honesty though, I don't remember much due to the fact that I was often relegated to our cabin to eat donut holes and watch Disney VHS tapes with the babysitter.

For many, however, their memories of her date back to K'far in 1983, a time when the hair was bigger, the lake was higher, and the office was smellier. This was my mom's first summer at Camp Interlaken: a summer that would alter her life for the better.

Following this year she took some time off, later returning as a counselor in 1986 and 87. She spent the majority of this time at the Omanut and the swim docks. Yet, when she wasn't making lanyards or teaching swim lessons, she could be found out on the "flectangle," ballroom dancing with Jim Stein. In fact, her friends claim that Camp is the only place on earth you will ever see her dancing.

Imagine Tushball on Your Roof

After these two summers, she joined the ad-staff team as Program Director, then Special Activities Director, and later Program Director again. During this time, she moved out of the cabins and into the present-day staff lounge with her co-director, Tami Kelber. Even today, she remembers those blissful mornings waking up to campers playing tushball on their roof.



Micah, Sheryl, Carly & Jon Rubin

It's the Circle Game...

But the seasons went round and round a few too many times, and she did not return to her Northwoods home until 2001. An unexpected job offer as Omanut Director surfaced during a lunch date with Sharon Cohen. That sum-

mer she brought Micah and me along for the first time. This was the summer that I spent a lot of time eating donut holes and watching TV with the babysitter, but it certainly launched my love for Camp Interlaken.

If You Can't be at Camp, Join the Committee

In 2004, my mom joined the Camp Committee so that she could help support and advocate for the place she truly loves so much! In 2010, she was appointed Camp Committee Chair after serving for one year as Assistant Chair under Sylvia Winter.



K'far Counselor Sheryl (far right, in red dress)

L'dor V'dor

Now, as I approach my Ozo summer, I look back on my mom's past, and I am filled with nothing but happiness. Her decades of dedication have proved to me that one's ties to Camp do not always weaken with age, and in some special cases they actually strengthen. She has shown me that if I try hard enough, my connection to Camp will live on. Even after time away, there will always be enough Mod Podge for one more clipboard, always enough dye for one more shirt, and always enough string for one more bracelet. I can't wait for my Ozo summer, and I am thrilled to see where my camp story takes me; it's definitely not anywhere near complete.



Sheryl (4th from Left) with Leadership Team, 2014

L'HITRAOT, SHERYL!

by Toni Davison Levenberg

I have had the pleasure of working with Sheryl

Rubin during her tenure as the Camp Committee Chair. During the last seven years, we have accomplished so much with Sheryl at the helm. Under Sylvia Winter's leadership, we began a strategic planning process with a new master site plan and fundraising goals that Sheryl took over and got to carry out upon her appointment as Chair.

On the Road Again

Sheryl and I have travelled a lot together over the last seven years. We have hosted alumni events in New York, Los Angeles and Boston. We have travelled to conferences together in Springfield, MA; Jersey City and New Brunswick. I have loved spending time with her, and I will miss her



Sheryl & Toni at JJC

partnership at Grinspoon and Foundation for Jewish Camp conferences. Actually, I hope she will continue to attend the conferences without being the chair of the committee.

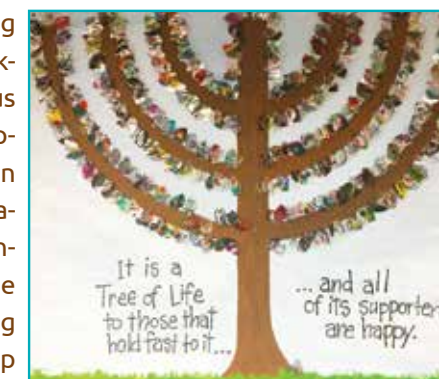
The learning that we've experienced together has come at an essential time in the camping field, when the industry has become more professional. Sheryl and I have worked together to change the functionality of the Camp Committee to have a more structured role in policy, fundraising, alumni engagement and camper care. As Carly shared with us in her article, Camp Interlaken is in Sheryl's blood.

While I am losing a partner in Sheryl as the Camp Committee Chair, I know that she will continue to be involved in Camp; she can't get rid of us that easily! Her shoes will be very hard to fill!

Essentially One of the Team...

Every summer, Sheryl spends some time at Camp; there have been summers that she's spent more time at Camp than others. This summer, in addition to being at Camp for Committee and Alumni Weekend, she will also spend a week at Camp when her husband, Jon, is the camp's volunteer physician. Sheryl has led multiple training sessions for staff and Ozrim over the years. She also worked with each camper as they created their own leaf, which Sheryl would affix to the Tree of Life (pictured) that hangs in our year-round office in the JCC. Sheryl has built her own connections with many of our staff today, who she keeps in touch with throughout the year as if they were her camp friends. Whether making

a sign board, visiting the Omanut, checking in with various counselors and campers, helping Sharon in the canteen, facilitating a training or sitting on the white chairs holding court with her "camp friends," Sheryl is essentially a part of our staff family at Camp, and we love sharing the summer with her.



L'dor V'dor

Last summer, Sheryl's hard work culminated in an amazing 50th summer celebration at Camp. With 400+ people in attendance, Sheryl had a great weekend connecting with old Camp friends she had lost touch with. She was so proud of what Camp Interlaken is today and how the camp has continued to prosper over time. She loved being welcomed into the tent for Shabbat dinner by her son, Micah, and his other counselor friends. However, what Sheryl loved most from the weekend was the shrieking that came from a group of girls hugging, embracing and crying as they saw each other at Camp. The shrieking was coming from her daughter, Carly, and all of her friends. Amidst the most successful event – her successful event – amidst the more than \$3 million raised for our capital campaign, and amidst the launch of a new annual campaign, Sheryl reveled most in the friendships that Carly has made and the impact that her favorite place in the world has had on her daughter. That is truly l'dor v'dor!



Zander Steichen, Sheryl & Toni at the 50th Reunion

B'NAI HE ATID

CHILDREN OF THE FUTURE

בני העתיד



B'nai He Atid (Children of the Future) is Camp's new Annual Appeal that we kicked off at the 50th Best Summer Ever Celebration last June. We have learned, from the success of the Bridge to Our Future Preservation Campaign, that Camp's alumni and friends desire the opportunity to support Camp, to invest in the future of our beloved home in Eagle River, to give back to the place that has provided life-long friendships and rich, lasting memories.

WE THANK THE FOLLOWING CHARTER MEMBERS OF B'NAI HE ATID FOR THEIR GENEROSITY AND FORESIGHT

Anonymous (3)
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 Debbie Toizer
 Jonah Wagan
 CJ Wagner
 & Danielle Sectzer-Wagner
 Jodi & Dan Weber
 Rachel White
 Susan & Mark Wichman
 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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 Daniel N. Baer
 Drs. Brian & Laurel Bear
 Samantha Bear
 Adam, Karee, Shayna & Jacob Bilsky
 Tova Blasberg
 Mark Brickman Family
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 Sylvia & Michael Winter
 Evan Michael Wool
 Tracey Wool
 Diane & Eric Zall
 James* & Eve Joan Zucker

As of May 31 2016

**of blessed memory*



**A SPECIAL WEEKEND FOR ALUMNI (21 & older) & THEIR FAMILIES
 FRIDAY, JULY 8 & SATURDAY, JULY 9, 2016**

Join us to honor Laurel Bear's tenure as Medical Chair, Sheryl Rubin's tenure as Camp Committee Chair, and Sharon Cohen's 30th summer. **Details at www.campinterlaken.org**



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FUTURE CAMPERS

Eyal Seth, son of Sami (Stein) and Brian Avner

Simon Mitchell, son of Brad and Sarah Komisar

Andrew Scott, son of Judy and Brian Parrish

Levi Harrison, son of Joel and Stacy (Weinberg) Rozansky



Levi Rozansky



Eyal Avner



Henry Enders

SHARON COHEN, continued

place), or reading bedtime stories to our youngest campers. Sharon's role in Camp may have changed over the years, but she still gives us her all. Sharon's greatest gift is that she is able to make everybody feel like they are at home at Camp, and she truly believes that they are. Her genuine approach to our campers and staff is what makes Sharon so popular.

My Camp Mom

When I think of my Camp Interlaken experience, Sharon is a big piece of that. She has been at Camp every year for each of my 24 years. She has always acted as a mother, a mentor and a friend to me. She has challenged me and helped me develop my skills. Sharon has had a large influence on developing my character: who I've, who I am today, and who I will be in the future. I am proud to get to spend the summers learning and growing with her, day in and day out. I cannot wait to honor and celebrate Sharon Cohen's 30th summer, and I am so lucky that I get to spend each day with her at Camp!



Sharon, Simcha, & Bubbe, in front of the old office