

INTERLAKEN BRIDGE

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

Spring 2016



CIL Committee

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

Past Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs

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

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

REFORM JEW, CONSERVATIVE JEW, CAMP JEW

by Sheryl Rubin, Camp Committee Chair

I have such strong feelings about the time I spend at camp. It is a haven, an escape, a utopia, a step back in time, a glimpse into the future ... a religion. In many ways I've come to think of camp as my religion. It's where I feel at peace, most spiritual and enveloped by my Judaism. Camp has been a refuge during some of my darkest moments. It's a place where everything is simple and predictable, where your only problems are camp problems and you can block out the real world if only for a few days or weeks. Camp has also become the venue of some of my greatest personal accomplishments where I am praised for my efforts and dedication. It's where I'm always greeted with the warmest hugs and the brightest smiles. Camp has taught me great life lessons over the years and it has also allowed me to become the teacher.

So many of us wear a talisman to express pride in our Judaism- a Chai or a star of David. I have my own- a small bar on a delicate chain with the coordinates that lead me to Interlaken.

I've come to feel quite differently about my two Jewish communities. In the real world, coming together with my synagogue community is a circle of life. From cooing infants to the elderly couple that must support each other to rise for the Torah service, it is both a wonder and a sobering reminder of where I am on this journey. Ever since losing my mom, it has been hard for me to embrace God in this setting. When I experience my Judaism at camp I'm surrounded by our future- the

loudest, most ruach filled disciples. So much of what goes on there and absolutely everything that happens during Shabbat at camp regularly brings me to tears. They are tears of joy and pride with maybe a little nostalgia thrown in. Just thinking about the sea of campers together lakeside at sunset, arm-in-arm for Havdallah, gets me every time. You can't help but experience these feelings and be so secure in the knowledge that these young people will carry us into the future. It's amazing and humbling to be a part of that.

As I spend this last year as the Camp Committee Chair, I know this was a true labor of love. I love everything that camp stands for. I cherish everything camp has given me as well as our own children and all the children past, present and future who will be blessed to call camp their second home. I have come to love a few extra-special camp people as much as I love my own family. I love how our

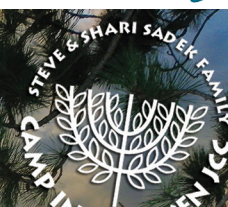
community embraces camp and makes it a priority in our lives.

I will always be a Reform Jew that became a Conservative Jew that will remain forever a Camp Jew.



Sheryl

ALUMNI WEEKEND
JULY 8 & 9, 2016
DETAILS INSIDE!



It's Erev Shabbat, and the Ozrim are gathered in the Ulam (Rec Hall) to partake in their first "Shabbat by Candle Light" – a late night song session for the Ozrim. Papa Hunter and I felt that singing together would be both a fun and meaningful way to kick off our first Shabbat as an Ozo group. We go through our thoughtfully chosen song list, singing every lyric on the page, and prepare to close the night. Hunter and I give a quick shpiel to sikum (wrap up) the last couple of days, and with a reminder of curfew, we say goodnight our kids. The Ozrim don't move an inch; instead, they continue to sing any and every song that pops into their heads. The acapella song session turns into a dance party, the dance party leads to a multitude of hilarious moments, and these hilarious moments turn into a treasured memory.

This, to me, is the essence of Camp Interlaken. I had the tremendous opportunity of being Mama Ozo this past summer for a very special group – a group I have been with since I was an Ozo myself and they were little Shoreshim. As their counselor, I woke up every morning with the goal of helping them achieve the happiness and sense of belonging I have always felt at camp. As their mama, I woke with the goal of giving them the confidence and tools to do the same for their children. The best part of every day was witnessing the outstanding moments of my kids achieving milestones, such as water skiing around the lake or performing in the talent show. First session, the Ozrim spent their time in various workshops and training sessions to transition them into a leadership role at camp. Second session, the Ozrim were placed into cabins to learn alongside our creative and inspiring staff. The experience for me was truly surreal. I witnessed an Ozo take another camper on a walk to talk through a sad moment. Together, they later told me our session on homesickness gave them some great tips on how to handle the situation.

I've had people ask me why I, at 25 years old, still choose to return to camp year after year. My answer is simple. I am my best version of myself when I am at Interlaken. If

I can be any part of a camper or counselor finding his or her inner best, then to me, there is no higher calling. I have worked harder and longer hours at camp than I have ever worked, but the joy that I experience is unequivocally the greatest joy I have felt in my life. The internal rewards are too precious to measure. I feel blessed to have had a rare job where I can see the difference I am making in such a potent way. It was a beautiful full-circle experience to spend my summer guiding the group that made such a powerful impact on my own camp story. As Ozrim, they constantly dazzled me. I believe that ruach (energy), patience, and a positive attitude are the ingredients of the ideal camp staff, and this group has an abundance of these qualities. They also have a passion for camp that reaches from the shores on infinitely to the stars. You may think I'm biased (I am their mother, after all), but I know that each one of those kids will make a great impact, both at Interlaken and



out in the world. Looking back to that first Shabbat with the Ozrim, I felt this amazing sense of comfort and happiness. After 16 sweet summers, I am saying lihitrahot (until next time) to Interlaken with the biggest of smiles. I know that camp is in the greatest of hands. Ozo XV – continuing the legacy. L'dor va Dor.

OZO SUMMER

by Jake Stein



One chofesh early last summer, I was approached on the floval by a scared camper. It was his first year at camp, and he had become separated from the rest of his cabin. We talked, walked, and found his friends and counselors just around the lakeside corner of the Chadar. The smile immediately returned to his face, and he ran to be back with his cabin.

To be honest, I was as scared as he was.

It was the first time I had ever been approached by a camper who viewed me as a counselor. I thought back to the counselors I've had, who have been role models of mine since my first day of camp in 2009. Since my first day at

Continued, next page

COME BACK TO CAMP

ALUMNI WEEKEND

JULY 8 & 9, 2016



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.

Friday 4:30 PM Welcome reception

6:00 PM Shabbat walk, services & dinner

Sing & dance the night away with our first session campers

Saturday 10:00 AM Morning services, kiddush & dedication

Camp tours will be followed by picnic lunch & family open swim.

6:00 PM Optional Dinner in town (details to follow) • Advanced reservations required.

9:20 PM Havdallah Lakeside, followed by a campfire

Minimum donation \$36 per person or \$72 per family • Space is limited to first 100 people

Optional Saturday dinner \$20 per adult, \$10 per child (under 10 years old)

Hotel reservations on your own

Please respect our visitation policy: Families with first session campers are not eligible for this event and 2015 staff are not allowed to visit in 2016.

Register by May 15, 2016 at <http://tinyurl.com/CILAlumni2016>

Questions to Beth Alling 414-967-8240/balling@jccmilwaukee.org

OZO SUMMER, continued

camp, I wanted to be like them. I was in constant awe of my counselors; I could always rely on them to plan programs that were better than I could have imaged, make perfect jokes, and provide the constant ruach (spirit) that gives Interlaken its indescribable culture. Above all, I never had a doubt in my mind that, despite all of the campers under their supervision, they genuinely cared about my feelings. This is why I was so scared; I wanted the campers to view me the way I viewed my counselors.

Fortunately, I was able to apply some of the skills the Ozrim had learned several days prior to make sure that the camper felt comfortable and appreciated. The entire experience

showed the beauty and necessity of Camp Interlaken's Ozrim program; it is the only summer where members of the Interlaken family have the irreplaceable opportunity to complement traditional counselor training with actual experiences. Although we could rely on the safety net our amazing Mama and Papa Ozrim (Tova Blasberg and Bryan "Hunter" McManus), we were trusted with the responsibilities of a counselor. My Ozo summer provided a perfect environment to learn and grow in order to help campers do the same. I'm excited to see the positive impact that my grade's Ozrim will bring to Camp Interlaken in the years to come.

My wife Sara and I grew up spending our summers at Camp. It was on Lake Finley that we learned how to sail, water ski, wind surf and swim (especially to the Peckarsky's for Oreos). It is at camp where music and friendships turned into lifelong experiences. Interlaken gave us the opportunity to find ourselves, step out of our comfort zone and find out that (even if we can't carry a tune) nothing was better than a song sessions with friends.

It had been over 15 years since we had been to camp. Last winter, Sara suggested we bring the kids to family camp as she had done as a kid with her family. I had never attended family camp but just the idea of giving my kids the opportunity of Interlaken and be a part of their experience was a no brainer.

To say things were amazing would be an understatement. This was everything we had imagined it could be and more. Driving into camp was as magical as when we were kids who had ridden a bus for 4.5 hours from Milwaukee. I would be lying if I said both Sara and I weren't extremely emotional as we saw the boys faces light up at the athletic field, pool, lake, boats etc. Everything from the opening campfire to sailing/skiing and playing tushball was beyond what we could have hoped for. We all ran ragged all day, laughing, playing, making new friends and experiencing camp as Sara and I both did as kids. For us the most remarkable part was watching as a parent the amazing positive effect this place has on people. In such a short period of time our kids became Camp Interlaken campers.

We as a family haven't been able to stop talking about the experience since we got back. After only two days both kids were asking to come back next year, as campers and family campers. There are so few things in life that touch a person so deeply that the memories bring smiles, tears, happiness and joy at their thought; to experience this with your children as a parent is one of the most special opportunities. We thank Camp Interlaken and the entire staff for giving us this bonding opportunity as a family.



Josh & Sara with Charlie & Jonah

INTERLAKEN ABROAD

by Hannah Samson



Pictured left are (L to R) Hannah Samson, Sophie Burton, and Marissa Korte. We met in Shoreshe and have been best friends ever since! Camp Interlaken friendships are forever!

So, of course, while we were all abroad in Europe this semester, we had to meet up in Interlaken, Switzerland! While it is beautiful, it cannot beat Camp Interlaken and Lake Finley's beauty.



MACKENZIE WAGAN CIL STAFF SCHOLARSHIP

The MacKenzie Wagan CIL Staff Scholarship was set in place as a way to reward returning staff for making the hard choice to come back to be a staff member at Camp Interlaken when there are other opportunities. Knowing that high quality returning staff is sometimes an area of challenge in camping, The Wagan/MacKenzie family set up the scholarship to reward a staff member each year who chose camp over their other options.

Zane Gayle - Recipient 2015

Hello, I'm Zane. I am a junior studying architecture and urban planning at UW-Milwaukee. Camp Interlaken has been a part of my life for over 11 years. I was a camper for 8 years, I was an Ozo in 2012 and then a staff member since 2013. This past spring, I had been presented with several options as what to do over the summer. While some of the options would have been beneficial to my professional career, in reality there was only one option for me to choose. Once I made my decision for what to do for the summer I felt confident of my choice. When I was notified that I received this scholarship, it came as a reassuring feeling that I was making not only the right decision professionally but also personally. Returning to camp this past summer gave



me the chance to once again be a part of an amazing staff that is dedicated to creating "a summer of fun, a lifetime of memories." It was another chance to work to give back to a community that gave me countless memories, made me into the person that I am today and introduced me to people who have since become friends that I will have for the rest of my life.

TONI'S TAKE

by Camp Director, Toni Davison Levenberg

We have finally transitioned and hit a turning point from Summer 2015 to Summer 2016. I have to be honest that with the high of our 50th summer celebration, I wasn't that anxious to leave our fiftieth year, and I hung onto it for a long time! But, here we are; it's March, and we are doing everything that we normally do to walk into another great summer!

We just returned from both the Foundation for Jewish Camp's (FJC) Leaders Assembly and the American Camp Association's (ACA) TriStates Conference, and we had the opportunity to spend time with other leaders in the field of camping, talk about trends in the industry and spend some serious time visioning for this summer ahead.

At the two conferences, there were many important topics covered. We talked a lot about the affordability of Jewish camps now and in the future. Teens are a hot topic for everyone; it seems that Jewish camps are retaining their teen participants a lot longer than we have in years past, and we want to make sure that we are providing the best possible experiences for them so that they are learning 21st century skills while staying connected to Jewish life. Gender is another topic that we are talking a lot about at camping conferences as we are providing residential experiences for our campers, and we want everybody to be comfortable. There are always great sessions about staff retention, training, programming, standards, israel education and Jewish life at camp. We always walk away with our heads spinning as we think differently about communication,

programs, training, policies, and hiring. This year both the FJC and ACA hosted exceptional conferences with valuable content and meaningful takeaways.



Walking through the large exhibit hall at the ACA conference, we stopped and talked to all of our vendors from the companies that fill our canteen with branded merchandise, sell us sunbutter, distribute the large bottles of sunscreen that we have at the pool and lakefront, pre-package our campers' medications, help us hire amazing nurses, recruit qualified international staff for Camp, built and maintain our website, bring entertainment to Camp (like The Brain Show), supply our walkie talkies and our pool vacuum, and so many more. It is great to put faces to names and connect with the vendors who are such an integral part of us having a successful summer at Camp.

Continued, back page

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)
Adam Allenberg
Michele & Steven Boal
Diane Boland
Elizabeth & Philip Branshaw
Deb Carneol
Simcha Cohen
Randie & Shelby Collier
Jerome R. Cornfield, MD
Jill Eder & Michael Mazur
Jonathan & Debbie Eder
Marc & Robyn Eiseman
Rebecca Eisenberg & Curtis Smolar
Grace Fantle
The Feldmesser Family
Jordan & Phyllis Fink
Bryana & Seth Fishman
Adam Genecov
Barbara & Mark Glazer
Robert Goisman & Jeanne Traxler
Les Goldsmith & Dale Kunin
Mara Gollin-Garrett
Larry & Geli Golopol
A. Renee Staton & Steven Grande

Graham Hoffman
Tom Hymanson & Vickie Siegel
The Ichilov Family
Beth & Scott Inbinder
Reuben Jacobson & Mara Karlin
Craig & Wendy Joseph
Josh & Ali Jubelirer
Maureen & Gary Kavalor
Joan & David Kazan
Howard & Paulette Kirschner
Leo & Donna Kleiner
Gail & Martin Komisar
David Korenthal
Elizabeth Leshin
Harvey & Dawn Loeb
Paul Loewenstein
& Jody Kaufman Loewenstein
Richard & Roberta London
Julie & Tedd Lookatch
Maureen Luddy
Marvin & Ann Margolis
Adam Mitz
Amy Opad
Brad Pivar & Rod Escobedo

Jay & Jill Plavnick
Steven Rosenmutter
Randi, Eric & Jordan Schanchter
Andrew Sehler
Laura & Joel Shapiro
JoAnn Share
Abram Shulruff
Anna & Jason Shurak
Roberta Siegel Hancock
Myron & Teresa Silberman
Robert & Rachel Slavkin
Tracy Stein & Marco Masotti
James Stein
Gary & Amy Stein
Martin Steren
Gerald Swarsensky
Robert & Marilyn Teper
Debbie Toizer
Jonah Wagan
Cameron 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.

Anonymous (2)
 Jamie Lyn Adashek
 Beth Alling
 Steve & Joy Appel
 Daniel N. Baer
 Drs. Brian & Laurel Bear
 Samantha Bear
 Adam, Karee, Shayna & Jacob Bilsky
 Tova Blasberg
 Mark Brickman Family
 Peggy Brill
 Shoshanah & Joshua Bruesewitz
 Deborah Carneol
 Haley J. Carneol
 Stephen & Jane Chernof
 Jack Chorowsky
 Hazzan Carey & Sharon Cohen
 Simcha Cohen
 Randie & Shelby Collier
 Rebecca Eisenberg & Curtis Smolar & Family
 Andrew Enders
 David & Catherine Fantle
 Grace Fantle
 Larry, Melissa, Emily & Jane Feldmesser
 Mara Gollin-Garrett & Jon, Ellie & Abby Garrett
 Larry & Geli Golopol
 Paul & Rachel Greenspan
 Harold Grinspoon
 Graham Hoffman
 Paul & Betty Jacobs
 Debra & Moshe Katz Family
 Hannah Katz
 Jake Kavalor
 Maureen S. Komisar
 David Korenthal
 Wes & Michelle Lafferty
 Toni Davison Levenberg & Jonah Levenberg
 Jordy & Jessie Loeb

Tedd & Julie Lookatch
 Jori Marcus
 Stephanie Marks
 Ronald & Fran Meyers
 Hans & Donna Moser
 Mitch & Cheryl Moser
 Steven & Stacey Nye
 Sharyl & Bob Paley
 Richard A. Peal
 Jill & Jay Plavnick
 Meredith Rich
 Sophie Rosen
 Harriet & Stuart* Rothman
 Mitch & Emily Rotter
 Sheryl & Jonathan Rubin
 Alyssa Rubnitz
 Alicia & Bryan Sadoff
 Dick Selby
 Abigail Sellman
 Joel, Laurie, Julie & Scott Shapiro
 Sharon, Mark, Carli & Sophie Shapiro
 Diane & Gary Sobel
 Alex Strnad
 James A. Sweet Family
 Philip Tavill
 Jessica Tolkan
 David & Jenna Turner, Jocelyn Kalkman & Josh Turner
 Ian Wagan
 Jonah M. Wagan
 Dara Winter
 David Winter
 Sylvia & Michael Winter
 Evan Michael Wool
 Tracey Wool
 Diane & Eric Zall
 James* & Eve Joan Zucker

As of February 17, 2016

**of blessed memory*



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.



MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION



Greater Milwaukee
& Waukesha County



FUTURE CAMPERS

Maya Ellie Swerin, daughter of Jon and Ilana (Goren) Swerin

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

Millicent Rose Badt, daughter Rachael (Friedman) and Marty Badt

Lucy Joy Frissora, daughter of Dani (Bresnahan) and Joe Frissora

Emery Skye Wichman, daughter of Matt and Aree Wichman

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



Lucy Frissora



Maya Swerin

TONI'S TAKE, continued

As of today, we are ninety-nine percent staffed for the summer, and we've reached ninety-five percent of our camper recruitment goal. We are still meeting with families and potential campers in both Milwaukee and beyond to talk about the summer of 2016. We are even booking meetings and conversations for the fall for campers who are interested in the summer of 2017! We still have some openings for Family Camp, and we are excited to spend the week with some alumni who are bringing back their families as well as families who are new to Camp Interlaken! In our office, we are spending a lot of time working on staff orientation for our leadership week, our specialty staff training, and our staff week. We are also spending time thinking about purchasing for the summer: everything from art and sports equipment to new small crafts for Lake Finley.

To say the least, I am excited! I am excited for our Fifty-first Best Summer Ever! I am excited to experience my 11th summer at Interlaken through the lenses of our 100 first time campers. I am excited for an amazing staff led by a strong leadership team. I am excited to continue to inspire the Jewish journeys of our campers and staff. I am excited to train the Ozrim, many of whom have been campers since my second summer of Camp. On those beautiful beginning-of-spring Milwaukee days, I can smell summer, and I just cannot wait!

Toni