

INTERLAKEN BRIDGE

THE STEVE & SHARI SADEK FAMILY CAMP INTERLAKEN JCC ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Vol. 6 No. 1 • Spring 2014



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Past Camp Directors:

Howard Wagan	2000-2007
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Jon Levin	1992-1995
Kevin Bukatman	1990-1991
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Steve Mirowitz	1977
Ateret Cohn*	1971-1976
Jack Weiner*	1968-1970
Shel Goldstein	1967
Jack Weiner*	1966

*of blessed memory

WHERE WILL YOU BE JUNE 19-21, 2015?

Please save the date to join us on the shores of Lake Finley as we celebrate

THE 50TH BEST SUMMER EVER!

Reunite with old Camp friends • Shabbat Walk
Song Session • Israeli Dancing • Lake Swim
Campfire • Havdallah Lakeside
And More!

© Jonah Wagan

Come join us with your family and friends as we gather together for one incredibly special weekend to honor Camp's past and celebrate Camp's future.

This is going to be a reunion of epic proportions and we need your help –

Do you have Camp friends who don't get the Alumni Newsletter? Get us their info!

Do you want to help us plan this exciting weekend? Let us know.

Do you have a great idea you'd like to share? We want to hear it.

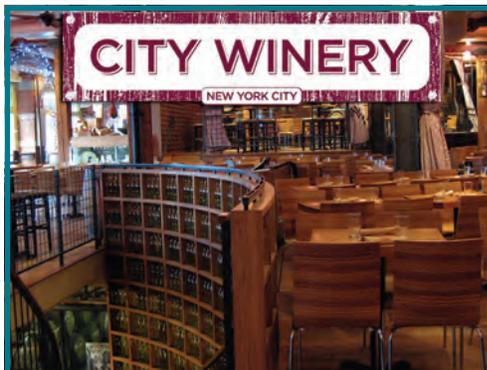
Planning is underway and we have many ways you can help.

See you there!!

Sheryl Selby Rubin
Camp Committee Chair

Questions? Want more information? Want to get involved? Contact Grace Fantle, Program Director and Alumni Engagement Coordinator, (414) 967-8196/gfantle@jccmilwaukee.org

CALLING ALL NYC CAMP INTERLAKEN ALUMS!



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL CAMP
INTERLAKEN ALUMNI EVENT IN NYC!

MARCH, 22ND • 8PM

CITY WINERY 155 VARICK STREET NY, NY 10013

*Appetizers will be served, and your first drink is on us!

RSVP to Grace Fantle by Wednesday, March 19th
gfantle@jccmilwaukee.org or (414) 967-8196

CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!

This past summer, I got to live the dream of every adult who has ever been a camper. I went back to camp as a real adult! Yes, we all thought we were adults when we were staff in our early 20s, but now I am way beyond my early 20s which qualifies me as a real adult! I met Toni, the Camp Director, at an LA Alumni gathering, and I jokingly told her that I would love to go back to camp. She responded by sharing that she was looking for a “Village Director” and that I could bring my kids to Camp with me! Well, that’s all I needed to hear; I was immediately in and didn’t need to hear details or even know what being a “village director” meant!



I was only a camper for one year, but I returned years later as an Ozo and as a counselor twice. I feel like it’s so cliché to say that Camp made me the person I am, but it’s so true. Interlaken allowed me to find myself, my personality, my confidence, my Jewish identity, and my husband. Mitch and I met when we were on staff together. Camp has always been our place, our connection. When given the opportunity to bring our children to Camp, it was a no brainer.

Being back at Camp took an initial adjustment. In my head, I was still 17 years old. I was still one of the counselors. Mitch kindly reminded me that I was now in my late 30s and a mother of three! I didn’t expect to be so emotional about being at Camp without my best friend, Susan; I had never been there before without her. As Mitch was about to leave my children and me there, I was a little emotional, but I wasn’t going to take this opportunity for granted. I was there; I was finally back at Interlaken.

Camp looks different today. So many things have changed since I was last there. There are new buildings, renovated cabins, new faces, so much less lake water, and a beautiful

pool (which, by the way, is totally awesome)! But as I walked around those first few days, I immediately remembered what someone had said to me months before: “The stars are still the same.” They were so right, not only are the stars still the same, but Interlaken is still the same. Campers are still having the most amazing summers, developing incredible skills, and making meaningful friendships.

Throughout the summer, I got to take part in so many of the essential Interlaken experiences: campfires, evening programs, K’Far Noar, Maccabia, chugim, lake swim and Shabbat. Not only was I a part of these incredible things, but so were my children. I was able to witness my children falling in love with Interlaken. I watched my 3 holding hands all summer - sometimes with each other and sometimes with their new camp friends: on the Shabbat walk, during song session on Shabbat, running around the Mach, and walking over the bridge. On Zoe’s, my oldest, first Shabbat, I Face-Timed Mitch from the Chadar Ochel so he can see her learning to Israeli Dance with her counselors while I cried a little as I stood behind her.

Physically being at Camp and being a part of Camp is so natural for me. It is a part of me, and now it is a part of my children. To anyone who hasn’t been to Camp in years or wonders about the Interlaken of today, I assure you, Interlaken is an even better version of itself. The magic is still alive and stronger than ever. To Toni, I can never thank you enough for giving me, my children, and our family the gift of rediscovering and reconnecting with Interlaken. You are never getting rid of us now!!! L’Dor V’Dor!





This past summer we had the opportunity to visit Camp and help facilitate a program with the campers in K'far Noar (the teen village). As the group ages out of Camp after their K'far Noar summer, we helped with the "Alumni Induction Ceremony," and we presented them with pins commemorating this benchmark. It was great to see several K'farniks who are the children of former fellow campers or staff members from the 70s or 80s. The underlying theme of our program was that even when your summers as a camper are finished, Camp can always be a part of your life. The relationship with Camp Interlaken changes, but it definitely does not end. It is important for us as parents and camp activists to foster and nurture this in the older campers because the prospect of losing such an important part of their life is very emotional for them. They need to know that they can be a part of camp (and it a part of them) throughout their entire lives. It was special for us to share our stories with them and theirs with us, as we are now all part of each other's ever-evolving camp experience. It seemed so natural for us to be at the K'far Noar fire-pit

just outside of the Bayit participating in a Saturday night program with the campers. They were blown away to learn our story: although we both went to Camp for many years at different times, it was in typical Interlaken fashion that we were set up as adults on a blind date by a mutual friend whom we both met at Camp, and have been together since that first date almost 16 years ago.

The old adage "everything changes, nothing changes" could not be more true for our weekend at Camp. Although there have been significant changes and upgrades to the property and facility since we were campers, the overall patina of the place, the North Woods aroma, the spectacular night sky and just the vibe of Camp remain untainted by time. Befitting our evolving camp experience, a new chapter begins this summer when our 8 year old daughter Talia becomes a first time camper at Interlaken and starts her camp journey on the shores of Lake Finley along with her cousins Isaac and Noah, representing the second generation of our family to make Camp Interlaken an integral part of our lives. Rad Hayom...

Best wishes for a happy and healthy year!

TONI TALKS

by Camp Director, Toni Davison Levenberg

As many of our alumni know, "change" is a hard word to swallow for Interlaken people! Having been at Camp Interlaken for the last 8 summers, my first big experience with the "c" word was this winter when our Assistant Camp Director of 5 years announced his plans to move on to his next big camp-venture, and it was time for us to fill the position with someone new. I quickly pulled together a thoughtful job description and posted it on every logical board for Jewish professionals. A shocking number of resumes flooded our offices including those from Camp Alumni, applicants with a lot of camp experience, and applicants with no camp experience. During this 6 week period, I perfected my interviewing skills while I met and talked with 20 or so candidates, narrowed down the pool to a more manageable number, and welcomed 4 applicants in person to our Milwaukee offices for interviews. While each candidate was impressive in their own ways, passionate about Jewish camping, and eager to start this new adventure, our best candidate by far was Jonah Wagan; it was a no-brainer! I am thrilled to introduce (or re-introduce) all of our alumni to Jonah Wagan, our new Assistant Director.

Jonah will be spending his 21st summer at camp and his 7th as a part of our staff. Most recently, Jonah was Camp's Aquatics Director in the summer of 2013. He has served as the Unit Leader for K'far Noar, Tech Director, Water Ski Director, counselor and camper at camp. Jonah also has intimate knowledge of the inner workings of Interlaken while it

was under Howard Wagan's leadership, Jonah's father and my predecessor. Before joining the Interlaken team, Jonah was the Interim Aquatics Director here at the JCC. After graduating from the University of Minnesota with a Master's Degree in Education and a Bachelor's Degree in Art & Jewish Studies, Jonah moved to Boston to be an Experiential Jewish Educator at the Gann Academy for 2 years.



During our planning for this summer, reminiscing about summers past, and strategically thinking about future summers, there are a lot of attributes of a successful team that can describe us: camaraderie, laughter, thoughtfulness, respect, idea sharing, and most importantly, passion. Grace, Jonah and I are a natural team whose dedication to Camp Interlaken will continue to make it a better place, even with "changes" here and there, each and every day that we are lucky enough to call Camp Interlaken our home. We couldn't be happier that Jonah has joined our team, and we look forward to helping with his transition into his new role this summer at Camp. You can contact Jonah at jwagan@jccmilwaukee.org or 414-967-8197.

Toni



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.



LIFECYCLES

START 'EM YOUNG! MORE FUTURE CAMPERS

Elana Rudman Rosen
Vanessa Irene (Pictured)

Leslie Goldman Pinto
Ava Belle

Becky (Schwartz) Pearson & Matt Pearson
Maximillian Vaughn

Jennifer Zweben
Alexander Micah

Anna Shurak
Tova Beatrice



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

A FISH CALLED “FINLEY”

Do you have a pet named “Finley?” Send us a picture of him/her/it! We'll put the best ones in the next Alumni Newsletter!

Email photos to Grace at gfantle@jccmilwaukee.org.



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! Thanks to all of our wonderful Chai Match donors, Camp Interlaken has succeeded in meeting JCamp 180's Chai Match. That's a \$54,000 grant!

View our campaign brochure at: <http://tinyurl.com/preservationcampaign>

LEGACY CIRCLE PROMISES

The Steve & Shari Sadek Family Camp Interlaken JCC has secured 52 Legacy Circle promises from alumni and friends. These generous supporters have promised to leave a portion of their estate, insurance policy, individual retirement account or other investment to ensure a bright future of memories on Lake Finley. Fifty-two legacy promises have been made since the Legacy Circle Campaign began two years ago. We've received \$20,000 in incentive grants from JCamp 180 and are on track to receive an addition \$5,000 Interlaken when we reach our goal of 16 more Legacy Circle members this year.



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.

Each will be presented with a commemorative work of art to remind them of their caring tzedakah.

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Samantha Bear
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Toni Davison Levenberg & Jonah Levenberg

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Alli & Brad Zall Family
Avie & Adrienne Zarem
Ellen & Albert Zickmann

* 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 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 _____

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

To make your gift online, go to campinterlaken.org