Inside this issue:
- Upcoming Events
- Teen Health Center Renovation in memory of Sheila Pollet
- Why I Joined the 1902 Society
- Florida Reunion
- Alumni Day & Swim-a-thon
UPCOMING EVENTS

June 8th-9th • Alumni Spring Party

July 28th • Alumni Day

August 4th • 1902 Society BBQ & Intergenerational Activities

August 31st-Sept 2nd • Family Camping Weekend

September 30th • Rosh Hashanah

For more information and registration, please visit our full Calendar of Events at surpriselake.org/events

GET YOUR FEET WET

Wrap up your 6- to 10-year-old’s summer with Get Your Feet Wet. This mini-adventure helps your child dip their toe into the magic of sleepaway camp. Campers will experience a hike, a Shabbat program, a campfire and s’mores, daily swims in our lake or pool, an ice cream sundae party, singing, ballfield activities, boating, arts & crafts, drama, and much more! The 5-day program ends with a special Show/Graduation & BBQ lunch for families.

Rookie Day! (2 days available)

Try camp for a day! Prospective campers ages 6-12 get to sample fun activities for a whole day (including lunch) with a buddy. Parents take a morning tour, with plenty of time for Q&A with the Camp Directors. It’s the perfect way to get a true taste of camp, for siblings of current campers and for families new to SLC. The camper experience runs 9:15am-4:40pm. No cost; you’re our guests!

For more information about either program, please visit our Future Families site.
Executive Director’s Message

This past February, during President’s Week vacation, my family went on a cruise. Within minutes of boarding the ship one of my daughters recognized a friend from SLC.

Over Passover my family was having dinner at my in-laws. My mother-in-law introduced me to a friend. Within minutes of getting to know each other I learned that her father had attended SLC in the 1920s.

Last week I attended a professional development conference. During a session about the history of Camp, the presenter (not knowing that I would be attending) made significant mention of SLC when sharing about the impact that Jewish camping has had on the larger Jewish community.

Over the past three summers I have witnessed countless examples of all that we are doing NOW to change the lives of our current campers. We are introducing our campers to the power and meaning found in a creative Jewish community, our campers are learning about independence, self-confidence and are growing by taking nurturing risks.

One of the most powerful experiences has been when we get to connect the richness of SLC’s history, tradition, and past with the power of the current camper experience. This past summer there were two examples when this happened at Camp. Moe Bordwin, a former camper and former SLC Board member, came to visit on Shabbat. At the conclusion of services, I got to introduce Moe to the entire SLC community. It was powerful for Moe and his family and friends and it was powerful for our current campers and staff. Later in the summer we had the chance to honor Stan Josephson as the Alumni Association’s annual honoree at the All Camp Show. Stan was a Winter Camper and is currently a dedicated SLC Board Member. When Stan addressed the campers you could hear a pin drop in the Eddie Cantor Theater. Lastly, the dedication and commitment of our “younger” generation of alumni is equally inspiring, as witnessed by Ilana Sussman’s 1902 Society article within this issue.

The experiences we have during our time at SLC stay with us for our entire lives. The relationships we form to the people and to the place are life changing and life affirming. As I have learned in a very short period of time, the ripples from Lake Surprise extend way beyond the borders of Camp – no matter where you go you are likely to encounter someone who has been touched by the power of SLC.

We are looking forward to adding another chapter to the history books this summer. We look forward to seeing you up at Camp and reconnecting there.

We remain grateful to camp’s former Directors who have helped us achieve greatness and have brought us to where we are today.

- Max Oppenheimer: 1919–1954
- Jerry Mark: 1973–1984
- Carol Seigel: 1985–1986
President’s Message

Dear SLC Alumni,

Welcome to the spring issue of Re-Echoes!!!

As the cold days of winter taper off, the warm days of spring bring new life and renewal and the excitement that the summer of 2019 is just around the corner!

As always, Surprise Lake Camp embraces the seasonal change with many new changes of our own. We have a brand-new website and an updated Alumni Store, which I hope you will visit. In addition, there will be numerous upgrades to Camp facilities and we cannot wait for everyone to see them this summer!

This is an extremely busy time for the entire staff of SLC. The office is finalizing registrations, rounding out the hiring of staff and preparing an exciting summer program for all the campers. The caretakers are working around-the-clock to put the final touches on the campsite so everything will be perfect for opening day.

Even the SLC Alumni Association is hard at work! I am often asked what it is exactly that the Alumni Association does. As our motto atop of our letterhead states, “Established in 1961, for the betterment of Camp,” we strive to improve Camp. We accomplish this mission, essentially, in two ways. The first is through vital, year-round fundraising. The majority of the money raised by the Alumni Association gets donated to Camp for the Annual Scholarship Drive. Last year, we contributed $20,000 to scholarship for the 2018 campaign which raised a record total of $260,948! We also provide additional funding to capital needs at Camp, such as ongoing maintenance needs, which are never-ending with a Camp 117 years old. The SLCAA also sponsors the Eddie Cantor Ice Cream Fund. Who doesn’t remember enjoying ice cream during intermission at the All Camp Shows? The SLCAA raises money throughout the year by hosting numerous events. Please take a look at the events calendar in this issue for more details. Additionally, the SLCAA operates the Alumni Store. This is where you can purchase exciting SLC clothing and knick-knacks. The final component to our yearly income, and one of the most important, is YOU....our membership. Annual dues are $36 per person and a Lifetime membership is $250, so if you are not currently a member, please consider joining today!

The second way by which the SLCAA enhances camp is by nurturing the everlasting relationships between our Alumni, SLC and the future generations of campers. A perfect example of this is the annual Alumni Day in camp. In my opinion, there is no better way of ensuring that the traditions of SLC continue than to have our Alumni return to camp year after year to reminisce, relive and revisit the one place that is so near and dear to all our hearts. We know it works... just look at how many of our Alumni have their children now enrolled! We hope to see you on Alumni Day this summer, Sunday, July 28, 2019.

Now that you have a better understanding of the crucial role the SLCAA plays, I invite you to join with us, in our historic mission with a powerful network of alumni and help secure the future of SLC for generations to come. Your first step in supporting Camp is to join the SLC Alumni Association as an annual or lifetime member. Check out our upcoming events and attend one, or even a few! You can even volunteer with us at events! Please know, we are always seeking new leadership to join our committees and Alumni Association Board of Directors. If you want to get involved, make a difference, volunteer on a deeper level, and share new ideas, please reach out to me, or anyone on the Alumni Association Board.

As always, I welcome your comments, ideas, and participation. I look forward to another great summer and who knows...maybe THIS will be the year that I see you in camp!!!

Joe Goldberg
President, SLCAA
Member, SLC Board of Directors
goldnglich@aol.com
Let us know, so we can share with the entire SLC Family!
We want to hear about new babies, jobs, engagements, graduations, anniversaries, celebrations, reunions, and more!
Email alumni@surpriselake.org at any time to have your news included in a future issue of Re-Echoes.
Also, if you have SLC nostalgia, pictures or anything that could be included in the SLC Museum, please let us know.

Mazel Tov

Henry Shay Franklin, born January 9, to Lauren (Rollman) & Lenny Frankel

Henrietta Rae Grubler, born February 22, to Amanda & Matt Grubler

Dylan Frederick Berk, born April 18, to Emily & Jeff Berk

Sera Galit Tenenhaus, born January 30, to Jenna (Pfeiffer) & Bret Tenenhaus

Logan Jacob Tenenhaus, born March 14, to Alli and Michael Tenenhaus

Mae Joy Haber, born February 10, to Carrie & Ben Haber (grandparents Robin & Gordon Krompier)

Max Ryder Nitkin, born March 14, to Dana & Stephen Nitkin

Whammy’s daughter, Aviva Maya Kaufman, on her April 6th Bat Mitzvah

We apologize
...for an error in the original wedding post from last issue
Danielle Rifinski & Eran Fineman, married March 16, 2018 (Danielle pictured with Father, Zvika)

Our deepest condolences to the following SLC Alumni, Friends and their Families
Andrew Kominik and his family, on the loss of his father.
Erica and Joshua Karron, on the loss of their grandmother, Rhea Rochlin.
Jonas Vogelhut, on the loss of his mother, Ruth.
Michael and Jaclyn Friend on the loss of their grandfather.
Steve Sommer on the loss of his father, Ken Sommer.
Elyse, Max, Paige and Mariel on the loss of Jerry Robkoff.
Robin and Gordon Krompier on the loss of Gordon’s brother, Barry.
Ivy Elyse Forray on the loss of her husband, and former SLC Farmer, Alan.
Teen Health Center Renovation

Since the untimely passing of Sheila Pollet in 2016, there has been an outpouring of love and desire to honor her memory in some meaningful way. Surprise Lake Camp is proud to announce that we will be renovating the Teenside Health Center as a most fitting way to recognize her love of Camp and what she meant to the SLC community.

Sheila started at Surprise Lake Camp as a camper in 1968. In addition to several roles Sheila played as a staff member at SLC over 25 years (counselor, sports specialist, unit supervisor, division head, assistant director), she is well-known for her exceptional talent, leadership, and passion as a Camp nurse, providing compassion and skilled treatment. While we do not need a building to remember Sheila, as she is always on our minds and forever in our hearts, we are excited to announce plans to recognize her impact on Camp with a tribute that will provide a legacy to be enjoyed by all who knew and loved her.

Health care for both campers and staff has always been a top priority at Surprise Lake Camp.

While the Mainside Health Center, renovated in 2016, serves as the full-service health facility for the entire camp community, the Teenside Health Center is a critical component of care for Teenside. It provides a sense of pride and community, as well as peace of mind, to teensiders.

The Teenside Health Center is long overdue for a major renovation and is in critical need of upgrades. Specifically, the building needs:

- Its foundation to be evaluated and repaired
- A new roof
- All floors, walls, windows and ceilings to be replaced
- Renovation of the health center portion of the building including a reconfigured reception area, examination area, bathroom and storage areas
- Provision for up to three staff members’ summer housing (including the Teenside nurse) including a full bathroom

We are excited to announce that we have already raised over $180,000 toward our goal of $225,000. This will pay for the renovation and future maintenance of the Teen Health Center. In addition, in partnership with the Pollet Family, it will be used to create the Sheila Pollet Program Endowment Fund, which will fund annual programmatic needs in camp that were significant to Sheila.

If you would like to support this meaningful project, at any level, please call David Rosner at 646-582-0144, email david@surpriselake.org or visit surpriselake.org/donate and scroll to special funds to make a gift online. Donors contributing $1,800 or more will be recognized on a building plaque.

Additionally, we welcome anyone and everyone to submit Sheila stories, which we will use in a variety of ways including social media, the Teen Health Center dedication and for a keepsake for the Pollet Family. Feel free to edit your Sheila stories to make them publishable, if necessary. Please submit them to alumni@surpriselake.org.

Renovations on this project are anticipated to begin in fall 2019.
Florida Winter Reunion  
by Howie Berk, SLC Alumnus and Board Member

Not even the cold winter can keep SLC friends from getting together. However, it’s much more fun when the reunion is held in sunny Florida! This past December, we planned a reunion that was held in Delray Beach at the Mellow Mushroom, and thanks to Mark Zuckerberg for providing the free platform to organize the reunion. (Did you know his dad attended SLC for one summer?)

Unfortunately, a few days before the December 23rd get together, only 4 people had clicked “going,” the Facebook method of an RSVP. But as SLC’ers, we could have fun anywhere, so we never even thought to cancel it! As the evening went on, more and more people showed up, and eventually we totaled 30 strong! The restaurant was accommodating. They kept adding more and more tables, lots of delicious food and we had a great time!

It was wonderful to see alumni of all ages, ranging from their 40s up to the 90s, including Floridians as well as vacationers. Catching up with friends you haven’t seen in years or even decades is always precious and having SLC in common is always an instantaneous ice breaker for those who didn’t know each other. I think we all came away with some new friends, even if just “Facebook Friends” for now.

As always with an SLC reunion, there was a lot of name dropping, memories that were shared, and stories told. One cool reunion moment was a drama counselor from the 1970s who reconnected with a cast member from that summers’ all-camp show, for the first time in over 40 years.

As kids and staffers, we had magical summers, and this was a special night to relive that magic, and we look forward to next winter and making more magical memories!

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**We are bringing back the SLC Community Corner!**

If you would like to advertise in an upcoming issue of Re-Echoes, please submit your business card or advertisement to alumni@surpriselake.org.

Please call for information on rates and dates.
Lower Your Taxes!
by Jim Meyer, SLC Alumnus and Board Member

This story is for our “older” alumni who should choose to use their IRA assets for charitable purposes. We urge you to send gifts to SLC from your IRA rather than sending checks or using a credit card. Remember, that in December 2015, the Qualified Charitable IRA Distribution (QCD) provision was made permanent. What does this mean? For a donor who is over the age of 70½ and has the means to gift some or all of his or her IRA assets up to $100,000, the IRA distribution can be a tax efficient way to benefit an eligible charity such as Surprise Lake Camp (SLC). This distribution to an eligible charity incurs no income tax as long as it is distributed directly from the IRA to the charitable organization. Of course, because there is no income tax incurred on the transfer, there is also no charitable deduction allowed for it. However, while there is no charitable deduction, the QCD does lower your income tax because the amount of tax is based on the total distribution you take, but any gift(s) to SLC are not included. This benefit may also be used to satisfy the required minimum distribution from an IRA for individuals over age 70½, again as long as it is distributed directly to the eligible charitable organization. Just reminding you that SLC is such an eligible charitable organization and we are always grateful for the philanthropic support of our alumni and friends. That is why we are strongly recommending to anyone over 70½ to do their gifting to SLC, or another eligible charitable organization, by using QCD’s.

As always, we urge you to speak with your accountant or professional advisor for guidance on financial matters.

SLC Tribute Fund

A gift that continues to give to others is truly the ultimate gift, and a donation through the SLC Tribute Fund will help us to continue our historic mission. We believe that a SLC experience should be accessible for every Jewish child, regardless of their family’s ability to pay. The Tribute Fund supports the SLC Scholarship Endowment program.

By acknowledging a special person, a memorable occasion, an outstanding achievement, or honoring the memory of a loved one, you are supporting a commitment that has been core to our mission since 1902. In addition, an acknowledgment will be sent in your name to the person of your choice. Please visit www.surpriselake.org/donate at any time to make a Tribute gift.

Lessons learned from my Camp Mentor!

If you are interested in writing a future story for our new series about favorite camp mentors, please email us at alumni@surpriselake.org
Think about Surprise Lake Camp for a second or two… Do you feel your “heart smile?” Do you feel that sense of “home?” Do you feel a rush of memories? I feel all of this and more. SLC has shaped my life in so many ways.

Today, I am a mom, a wife, an educator, a Jew and a friend. I owe so much of this to SLC. I joined the 1902 Society so I can contribute to the SLC family and ensure future generations have the same opportunities that I enjoyed.

Not many people can say that they returned to camp after an 18-year hiatus, but I can! In the Summer 2017, I came “home” to work at SLC, with my 2 little girls alongside as campers. Over time so much had changed, but much to my delight, so much had stayed the same. I discovered that Surprise Lake Camp was still the place that gave me butterflies as I drove up the camp road. The strong Jewish connections that campers developed, along with the Jewish values and encouragement to live your best life, were still a prominent part of camp. SLC was continuing to put enduring relationships and transformative experiences first.

My girls are 3rd generation SLCers. My parents met at SLC in 1969 while counselors on Teenside. I began my own journey at SLC in 1988 as a camper in Unit I (Idyllwood), at 10 years old. My sister (Shira “Lambert” Greenblatt) began her journey in 1990. Then, naturally I wanted to and became a staff member in 1994, moving up to a unit supervisor in 1998 and 1999. After a short break, I returned to run the 2-week program in 2002.

As life got in the way of camp, I married my husband Mike in 2003 and we started a family. As soon as my girls were born, we began to attend many “Alumni Days” each summer. When Abby and Ella were ready for sleepaway camp, there was no question as to where they would go… SLC of course! Mike,
who attended another camp as a child, understood my unique and deep connection with SLC, and we agreed to send our girls to my “summer home,” way before they were even born.

Fast forward to the summer of 2017 and 2018. I returned to SLC and had the honor of being the supervisor of the oldest girls on Mainside. Coming full circle, with my two girls as campers, gave my life a whole new dimension. I was now an adult, watching my own children create their own memories that will surely last a lifetime. I was able to see SLC through their eyes. I was able to create new friendships myself too, with amazing people of all different ages, who helped me feel both young and old at the same time (LOL). I even got to re-connect with people who I grew up with, some of whom were my own counselors, some as visiting alumni, part-time staff or even those who were blessed to find a profession in Jewish Camping.

There are so many layers to SLC. It means so much to so many people. Simply put, the 1902 Society will ensure that this iconic agency, which is home, a camp and a family, continues on for future generations.

A major component of Judaism is passing on traditions “L’Dor V’Dor”, from one generation to the next, to keep them alive. The 1902 Society will keep SLC alive.

Thank you SLC for all you have done for my family and for those individuals and families I know will transform in the future. If you are not already a member, I urge you to please consider joining the 1902 Society as I have!

“Sussy”/Ilana (Lambert) Sussman
Camper: 88-93
Staff: 94-99, 2002, 2017-2018
Current Camp Parent

Hear/See video testimonials from 1902 members at https://surpriselake.org/ways-to-give/1902-legacy-society
Members of the 1902 Society  
As of May, 2019

We are extremely grateful to the following individuals who have included Surprise Lake Camp in their estate plans. Your commitment may inspire others, making your impact even greater!

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Gary Spielvogel  
Seth Stein  
Charles Stendig  
Adelle & Henry Stern  
Brittany Sternberg  
Denis Sternberg  
Matthew Stollerman  
Elaine & Paul Suchow  
Joshua Suchow  
Jennifer Russell  
Ilana (Lambert) & Michael Sussman  
Audrey & Mark Tenenhaus  
Bret Tenenhaus  
Lisa Tenenhaus  
Mike Tenenhaus  
Alice & Steve Terner  
Jennifer Anne Toback  
Allison Tratner  
Susan & Matthew Tratner  
Jared Tyler  
Marlene & “Ranger” Barry Vegter  
Jordan Waldman  
Charles D. Wasserman  
Wendy & Stu Waxman  
Lisa & Steve Weinberg  
Diane* & Allen Weiner  
David Weintraub  
Julie & Neil Weintraub  
Tommy Wills  
Jennifer & Benjamin Wind  
Abbe Wittenberg & Rob Schneider  
Cheryl & David Wolff  
Anne & Joel Zbar  
Barbara & Michael Zbar  
Elise & Corey Zbar  
Jordana Zbar  
Richie Zbar  
Steven Zbar  
Arthur Zil  
Jaime Zuckerberg  

*This person reached beyond his/her own life to enrich the future. They left the world a little better than they found it. May their memory be a blessing.
The 1902 Society was created to help fulfill our mission of providing the magic of summer camp to every child, regardless of ability to pay. This is critical to who we are and the vision of our founders. Through the 1902 Society, we acknowledge the philanthropic intent of individuals who have made provisions in their estate plans or other means to benefit Surprise Lake Camp, which was founded in 1902.

“Just as my parents planted for me, so do I plant for my children.”

☐ I/we would like to be listed as a member(s) of Surprise Lake Camp’s 1902 Society.

There is no minimum planned gift amount to become a member. Your membership will be completed with this signed and returned form. You may decide at a later date how you wish to fulfill your Letter of Intent.

☐ I/we intend to include Surprise Lake Camp in my/our estate plans by the following date:___________

☐ I/we have already made provisions for the following planned/deferred gift(s) to SLC: (✓ all that apply)

- Bequest in a Will
- Life Insurance Policy
- Real Estate
- Retirement Plan/IRA
- Bequest
- Charitable Gift Annuity
- Life Insurance Policy
- Charitable Lead Trust
- Other: __________________________

(Optional)

The amount of my/our planned gift is $__________ OR _________% of estate or appropriate planned gift.

☐ Preferred name(s) for display/publication OR “Anonymous”? _______________________

By signing this Letter of Intent, I/we reaffirm my/our commitment to Surprise Lake Camp.
I/we understand that this commitment is revocable and can be modified by me/us at any time.

Full Name: __________________________________________ Date of Birth: __________

Spouse’s Full Name (where applicable): __________________________ Date of Birth: _________

Street Address: __________________________________________

City/State/Zip: __________________________________________

Phone Number: (____)____________________ Email Address: __________________________

Signature: __________________________ Date: __________

Spouse’s Signature (where applicable): __________________________ Date: __________

Please complete and return this form to:
Surprise Lake Camp, 520 Eighth Avenue, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10018
PHONE: (845) 265-3616 • FAX: (646) 582-0138 • EMAIL: david@surpriselake.org
Use this form or give online at surpriselake.org/donate

Your Name
Name(s) as you’d like to appear in donor list

Address

Preferred phone
Date of Birth
Email

Our Gift

$________ Annual Scholarship Drive for this year’s campers

$________ Site Maintenance Fund
to sustain and improve camp facilities

$________ Wherever my gift is needed most.

Have a different gift in mind? Please contact David Rosner at (845) 265-3616.

Please also:

☐ Add my SLC Alumni Association Membership Dues: ☐ Annual: $36 ☐ Lifetime: $250

If paying by check, please remember to add in this amount!

☐ Contact me about joining the 1902 Society for Legacy Giving. I’d like to consider joining the hundreds of families who have chosen to include Surprise Lake Camp in their estate plans.

So that SLC can apply my entire gift toward Camp, I’d like to:

☐ Cover the credit card company’s transaction fee: Please add 2% to my gift.

☐ Save paper & postage: Please email my acknowledgement letter.

I’d like to make:

☐ Full gift now

☐ Monthly gifts of $____ each month for #____ of months for a total gift of $____

Credit card required. SLC will charge only the first monthly gift upon receipt of this form.

I’ll pay by:

☐ Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ Disc. Card #: ____________________________ Exp. Date: ___ /___

☐ Enclosed check: Payable to Surprise Lake Camp. Mail to 520 8th Ave., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10018

Thank you for your Generosity!
Surprise Lake Camp is pleased to invite our Alumni & their families to Alumni Day. This event is held annually, rain or shine, from 10am until 4pm. Enjoy a BBQ lunch and (weather permitting) swimming and boating.

Alumni Day is about visiting, reconnecting, reminiscing, and giving back. Registration coming soon!

Swim-a-thon
A Call for Swimmers

Surprise Lake Camp is excited to be hosting its 5th Swim-a-thon, Sunday July 28th, on Alumni Day. This is a true FUNdraising event. It gives participants the opportunity to enjoy Camp, get back in the SLC docks, pass their deep-water test, and feel like a kid again. More importantly, it raises vital endowment funds to support camper scholarships, which has been a part of SLCs historic mission since 1902! We have a great group already committed and we are looking for a few more participants. For more information, or if you are interested in taking part in this event, please contact david@surpriselake.org or call 845-265-3616. We will provide you with a website to collect gifts and pledges from your family and friends and assist with your fundraising and outreach efforts. Please note that space is limited so act today!
2019 Volunteer Day

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who made the day a success, despite the cool, rainy weather. From gardening, painting, raking, cleaning, sweeping, wood-chipping, and so much more, your efforts helped us tremendously as the first day of camp approaches! We hope you had fun! Please click here to see more pictures of the day or visit surpriselake.org/events.