

# BARNEY'S ARK

the alumni newsletter of

## Camp Barney Melintz

Volume 17

www.campbarney.org

SPRING 2016

## What's Happening at **CBM!**

We are excited to have **1,200 campers** already registered for **Summer 2016**, and we're busy preparing for all of them! While most are enrolled in our four-week sessions, many are taking advantage of our two-week sessions, offered for campers completing 2nd-6th grades.

For Summer 2016, we have introduced a **new two-week option** in June for campers completing 4th-6th grades, **Magnivim**, designed for older campers who have never been to overnight camp or who want to experience CBM for two weeks. We've also brought back **CBM LIVE!**, our specialty theater camp in June for campers completing 5th-7th grades.

And **lots of construction!** This year, we've demolished cabins in Village 2 (for girls ages 10-12) and constructed **10 brand new cabins** for this summer. Cabin upgrades include more storage space, larger sleeping areas, new beds and mattresses, two decks, and more! Other exciting additions to CBM include **new inflatable activities** on the beach, **new ropes course elements**, the double luge, and improvements to bath houses and many activity areas throughout camp, and an awesome "treehouse!" Additionally, new trips, programs, guest artists, musicians, and chefs are all being planned for Summer 2016!



SKIP THE INTERNSHIP:

BE A SUMMER CAMP  
COUNSELOR INSTEAD!

*Improve your future while having  
the best summer of your life.*

*If your college community is anything like mine, you're probably surrounded by peers who find themselves stressed out this time of year as a result of internship applications.*

'Tis the season for figuring out what you're gonna do this summer. In today's cut-throat world, everyone seems determined to get one step closer to the promised land of corporate America by doing some sort of summer internship

that will "advance their career" or "flesh out their resume". With all due respect to the employers out there looking for summer interns, I believe there's something better you can do with your summer to prepare yourself for the real world - go work at summer camp.

I wholeheartedly believe that the best thing you could do to improve yourself as a human being, and future employee out there in the real world, is to be a summer camp staff member! What does living in a cabin in the woods have to do with professional development, you ask? Why should you waste your time hanging out with kids, when you could be hobnobbing with adults all summer, making connections that'll pay off once you're in the real world? The simple answer is this: at camp, you learn how to interact with others. You learn to understand employee management and behavior. Whatever you do in the real world, the ability to connect with people will be of paramount importance. You could have all the book-smart knowledge in the world, but if you lack emotional intelligence, then (forgive my bluntness) you'll be worthless in the workforce. Certainly, there are other ways to hone these skills... but just think for a second about what working at summer camp entails. Every day, you wake up having no idea what will happen! As a counselor, your sole

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## SKIP THE INTERNSHIP *(continued from page 1)*

responsibility is the happiness of children. Though that job sounds easy enough, the unpredictability of each day causes you to think on your toes in ways that you're not required to do for most jobs--but in a way that most employers would love for prospective employees to be able to do. The job requires improvisation and empathy. You must balance the individual wants and needs of a variety of people, in an effort to form them into a cohesive group. Where else can you work on these skills in such a concentrated, intentional environment?

Admittedly, I'm speaking from a place of bias. I've had the unique pleasure of being a summer camp staff member for the past six years, and I have grown both personally and professionally in a multitude of ways. I've aided children in conflict resolution, improvised rainy day activities during unexpected pop-up storms, and helped children through intense emotional situations. All of this and more has prepared me to go out into the real world confident in my ability to bridge gaps between human beings and to think on my feet. When you're considering what you should do this summer, and you feel like you have to get an internship in a metropolitan office in order to advance your professional career, think twice--and consider applying to be a summer camp counselor instead. It'll change your life, as you simultaneously change the lives of others.

- *Ryan Erickson in 500 Words On on Feb 2, 2016*  
(Copied from Facebook)



## First-Annual Camp Barney

# FIX + FUN DAY!

### An amazing opportunity for CBM Alumni!

Scheduled for **Sunday, May 8th**, the First-Annual Camp Barney "Fix & Fun" Day will be a fantastic opportunity for alumni and families to spend the day prior to this summer helping our CBM facility look awesome in the morning, then relaxing and playing in the afternoon!



We'll help alumni and families organize and work on several simple and fun projects that will make a big difference for campers, such as painting signage all over camp, planting flowers, etc.



Projects will occur from 10:00am - 12:00pm, then a B-B-Q lunch in the Dining Hall, followed by fun activities at the beach, down the water slides and in the swimming pool.

To sign up as alumni, individuals or families, contact Michael Drucker, CBM Operations Director at [michael@campbarney.org](mailto:michael@campbarney.org).

# LIFE·CYCLE EVENTS

## engagements / marriages



**Ilana Davis** (camper 1998-2005, staff 2007-2012) will marry **Jonathan Lind** on March 20th in Atlanta. Jonathan is in sales at Solomon Brothers Fine Jewelry and Ilana is a recruiter for Syzygy Solutions.

## FUTURE CAMPERS

### Dylan Joseph Levy

was born on November 10, 2015 to **Michelle** (nee **Krebs**, camper 1989-95, staff 1996-2004) and **Rich Levy**. Dylan weighed 7 lbs, 3 oz and was 20.25 inches long.



## DEATHS

Our deepest condolences to the family and friends of **Wendy Morton**, former CBM Camper and Staffer, who passed away on October 28, 2015.

# TWO CAMP BARNEY ALUMNI REFLECT ON THE STRENGTH OF THE STAFF

*(Copied from the Atlanta Jewish Times)*

It's only mid-February, but alumni of Camp Barney Medintz are likely having visions of cabins, lakes, trails and dining halls.

Summer camp registration time is upon us – the time when families of returning campers and those with children who may be going to camp for the first time are thinking about summer plans.

A former camper looking back on the Camp Barney experience and a current camper looking forward to the upcoming summer talked about their time on the 540 wooded acres around two lakes 75 miles northeast of Atlanta. Both were so inspired by their experience as campers and the counselors that they wanted to become counselors to give back to the place.

**Jacob Meyer**, 18, a premed major at UNC, spent 11 summers as a camper and counselor. "When you're at camp, it seems like forever; it's like a paradise," he said. "Those memories are products of the staff – the environment they create and the impact they made."

**Jayme Dinnerstein**, 16, a junior at Alpharetta High School, is looking at spending more summers at Camp Barney, including becoming a counselor, but her experience is similar. She also touted the staff as one of the things that make Camp Barney so special.

"So many staff members have inspired me, one being Rosie Arkin. Rosie was my counselor in Giborim and Alufim, and she was also my SIT (staff in training) unit head this past summer. She is the most optimistic and selfless person I've ever met and is a perfect example of what a Camp Barney staff member encompasses," Dinnerstein said. "She is so concerned for others, which is a quality about her that I truly admire. I have become close with her beyond camp, and I am so grateful for her."

She said Camp Barney teaches lessons about community, friendship, love and happiness. "I can honestly say that I feel happiest when I am at camp and that it has showed me how to be a better person in every way possible."

Meyer said it is important for Camp Barney executives to "continue to teach the staff that one summer is so much more than one summer; it is a forever that is full of memories, rolled in to just one month for these kids. When these campers grow up and become staff, their forevers will shape how they impact the new generation of campers."

Camp Barney is fortunate that many campers go on to become staff members. It is not unusual for a Barney staffer to be at the camp for a ninth or 10th summer. Approximately 80 percent of Barney staff members are returning staffers and/or former campers.

"Our staff return to Camp Barney each summer because it is the place that holds incredible memories for them, they enjoy working with children, and they want every camper to thrive, grow, and have even more fun than last summer," Camp Barney Director Jim Mittenthal said.



Jamie  
Dinnerstein



Jacob Meyer  
(at right)

The Camp Barney experience has taught Dinnerstein how essential Judaism is in her life and how to embrace it.

"Before I went to camp, I went to synagogue and Sunday school, but Judaism never really clicked for me there," she said. "Something about the way Barney operates – the services under a beautiful chapel overlooking the mountains and being able to sing meaningful songs with my friends – made me realize how incredible my religion is."

Jewish customs and culture are woven into everyday life at Camp Barney. Campers enjoy Jewish music, learn about Israel and Israeli dance and culture, and take part in Shabbat rituals. "My Judaism has been strengthened in every way because of Camp Barney," Dinnerstein said. "My camp friends began signing up for BBYO, so I did too, and BBYO has become a major part of my life – something I would not have been introduced to without camp."

Studies show that a Jewish overnight camp experience is the greatest indicator of a connection to Jewish identity throughout life. Camp Barney inspires and solidifies a camper's lifelong connection to Jewish heritage.

Mittenthal said the fondness with which Dinnerstein and Meyer speak about their camp experiences directly relates to Camp Barney's essence. "For over five decades, Camp Barney has shown campers the magic of summer camp and the joy of making lifelong friends while challenging them with new activities that increase their self-confidence and independence – benefits that will last for a lifetime. Along the way, our campers develop and solidify their connection to their Jewish identity, and so many ultimately become leaders in their Jewish community."

# NATIONAL PARK HISTORY and JEWISH AMERICAN HISTORY

**Alanna Sobel** (Camper 1993-2000, staff 2001-2) now works at the National Parks Foundation and shared this interesting information about 7 national heritage sites that honor Jewish-American history.

*National park history and Jewish-American history have frequently gone hand in hand. From the founders of Touro Synagogue – the oldest synagogue in the United States – to the Jewish immigrants who passed down their agricultural knowledge at Hyde Park, Jewish-Americans have had a significant impact on shaping our country's landscape.*

## Touro Synagogue National Heritage Site

(Newport, Rhode Island)

Dedicated in 1763, **Touro Synagogue** is a testament to the religious freedom sought by many of America's earliest settlers. From its unassuming homelike exterior, one would never know that the building holds a massive main worship hall encompassed by an overlooking second-story balcony. To this day, it continues to host an active congregation, along with more than 30,000 visitors each year.

## Jewish Shelter Home

(Portland, Oregon)

The **Jewish Shelter Home**, built in 1902, has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1984. The home provided an invaluable service during the 1920s and 1930s, offering shelter and medical care for those in need. Most importantly, Jewish children with disrupted family backgrounds received an otherwise unavailable religious upbringing here.

## Beth Sholom Synagogue

(Elkins Park, Pennsylvania)

The **Beth Sholom Synagogue** is an architecturally-stunning structure tucked away in the small Philadelphia suburb of Elkins Park. Shortly after being built, the synagogue was singled out for preservation in 1959. It is significant not only for its many years of service to Pennsylvania's Jewish community, but also for its designer – the great American architect Frank Lloyd Wright. The Beth Sholom Synagogue represents Wright's only non-Christian ecclesiastical design.

## Hyde Park

(Burkeville, Virginia)

The flood of Jewish refugees who escaped Nazi Germany in the 1930s and 1940s made a wide range of contributions to the evolving fabric of the United States. At **Hyde Park**, a historic home and farm in southern Virginia, these contributions were crucial to the Jewish people's transition to America. During and after World War II, Hyde Park provided shelter and work opportunities for Jewish immigrants, who in turn kept the 18th-century farm active well into the 20th century.

## Jewish Center of Coney Island

(Brooklyn, New York)

Built between 1929 and 1931, the **Jewish Center of Coney Island** provided a much-needed focal point for the growing community of Jewish immigrants settling along the southern edge of Brooklyn during the early 20th century. Modeled in part after Christian establishments like the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), the Jewish Center of Coney Island combined for the first time three institutions that had traditionally been kept separate: the synagogue, school, and community center.

## St. Thomas Synagogue

(Charlotte Amalie, Virgin Islands)

The **St. Thomas Synagogue**, known as Beracha Veshalom Vegemiluth Hasidim, is the second-oldest synagogue in the United States. The structure was built and held its first congregation in 1833 for Spanish and Portuguese Sephardic Jews, which also gives this synagogue the distinction of being the longest in continuous use.

## Louis Brandeis House

(Chatham, Massachusetts)

Louis Brandeis was appointed to the Supreme Court of the United States in 1916, making him the first Jewish person ever to serve on the Supreme Court. His ethnicity and reputation for progressive politics made Brandeis a controversial appointee, but he provided a strong moral compass for the court, often arguing for free speech and the right to dissent. The **Louis Brandeis House** on Cape Cod, where Brandeis spent much time with his family during his tenure on the Supreme Court, was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1972.

DO YOU GET TOGETHER WITH CAMP ALUMNI IN YOUR AREA? PLEASE TELL US ABOUT IT!

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