

# Barney's ARK

## Camp Barney Medintz ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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## Still Amazing After All These Years!

So many of the things that made "Camp Barney" so amazing in the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s remain what is so amazing in this millennium. First, it's the staff. Always was, always will be. And while social networking websites, cell phones, digital cameras, HDTV, iPods and laptops (instead of Smith-Corona typewriters) and are part of virtually every kid's life these days, none of these things matter when they get to camp.



*"The Lure" of Camp Barney Medintz!*

**IT'S SO HARD TO STAY AWAY FOR VERY LONG FROM THIS AMAZING PLACE.  
HERE ARE JUST A FEW EXAMPLES:**

**Jim Mittenthal** was a Unit Head for 3 years in the 1970s, moved to Colorado until 1992 when he returned to become our Director. Jim is in his 16th summer as CBM Director in 2008.

**Susan LeVine Berger** was on the Horseback Staff and Horseback Director in the 70's. Now married with 3 kids, Susan begins her 2nd year as one of our Assistant Directors.

**Mark Balsler**, after years in the kitchen, as Food Service Director as Assistant Director for 14 years, continues supporting Camp Barney as a regular "consultant."

**Mike Wolff** was J.I.T. Unit Head in the mid 80's and Assistant Director in the early 90's. After a long "break," Mike assumes his role as S.I.T. Unit Head for the 4th consecutive year in 2008.

**Bo Frankel Lefkoff** (wife of Brian Lefkoff), was the Arts & Crafts Director in the mid-90's and returned in 2007 and again this summer with their son Carter as our Arts & Crafts Director.

**Debbie Medintz Jacobs** was a counselor and Unit Head in the 90's and returns in 2008 with their sons Harris and Justin to help us in the CBM office this summer.

**Butch Frank, MD** has served as one of our physicians-in-residence for about 33 years. Todah Rabah to Dr. Butch who just retired from his medical practice and CBM. Literally thousands of campers and staff are grateful for your professionalism and presence throughout your years at CBM. The fish in both lakes will miss you, too.

**Josh D'Agostino**, who was a camper, teen village counselor and J.I.T. Unit Head in the 90's and, when not immersed in his day job or with his wife and 2 daughters, serves now as our Camp Barney Medintz Volunteer Alumni Coordinator.

**PLUS literally dozens and dozens of former campers and staff who have one or more children who are current campers or staff.**

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# Moving Targets?

When you were a camper or on staff, do you remember where these places were located? (They've probably moved somewhere else since then!)

- The Canteen
- Arts & Crafts
- The S.I.T. Lounge
- The Teen Village
- The Staff Lounge
- The Village Bathrooms
- The Barn
- The Tennis Courts
- Ballfields
- Archery
- The High Ropes Course
- The Dance Center
- The Amphitheater
- The J.I.T. Village



## Many of What Was...Still is!

Despite the numerous facility and programming changes and enhancements, 45 years of tradition flows through CBM. As you look at the list below, you may fondly (or not so fondly) recall many of the events that are still present at Camp even today.

- "If I were not a J-I-T, someone else I'd rather be..."
- Faking sick to go to the infirmary for air conditioning
- Capture the flag
- Mount Yonah and Yonah Burger
- 4-Day (then 5-Day, now 6-Day)
- Jumping the ditch between Village II & Village III
- Tubing on Deep Creek
- Sneaking out
- Sabbath Concert
- Staff Auction
- Georgia red clay
- CBM-Coleman basketball game
- Throwing your Arts & Crafts project in the lake
- Appalachian Trail
- Free Swim
- "When the light of each summer's day reaches its end..."
- Milkline with not just regular milk, but chocolate milk
- Using airline blankets to catch your friends at the end of the zip line

# WHAT'S IN A NAME?

At Camp Barney Medintz, a lifetime of special memories! Thanks to the generosity of so many families throughout our history, about 38,000 campers and staff have at one time or another learned activity and life lessons in one of these incredible major facilities at camp:

- Zaban Chapel
- Alterman Lodge Dining Hall
- Halpern Center Gymnasium and Sports Complex
- Arogeti-Wynne Teen Village
- Jacobs Family Swimming Pool
- Babbit Center
- Brill Equestrian Center
- Marcus Family Foundation Cultural Arts Complex
- Shirley Halpern Arts & Crafts Center/ Ceramics Studios
- Benator Family Cultural Arts Center
- "Chippie" Alterman Amphitheater
- Lake Louis (Kuniansky)
- Lake Wendy (Orkin)
- Bart and Lupin Families (New Orleans)
- "Hurricane" Waterslide
- Eichel Tennis Center
- Zalkin Softball Field
- Shubin Ski Docks
- Melnick Staff Lounge
- Maslia Family (outdoor sculpture/gazebo)
- Glass Family Sukkah on Lake Wendy



## DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

You should. He's perhaps the only person in history to attend Camp Barney Medintz in every decade of its existence. In fact, Camp t-shirts from the 60s and 70s remain the centerpiece of his wardrobe selection. Who would have guessed that he turned out to be a fashion aficionado? He was just way ahead of the curve with the 70s look back in style and fashion history currently repeating itself.

In the 1960s and early 1970s, Mark attended CBM as a camper. In the later years of the 1970s, he worked in the kitchen on staff, as the Kitchen Steward, and as the Kitchen Manager. He also spent some time on horseback staff. In 1989, Mark led the JITS out West trip and came back to Camp in the 1990s and 2000s as our Assistant Director.

Today, he's still pitching in for CBM working part time.

Mark Balsler, camper, counselor, kitchen specialist, trip packing expert, facial hair guru, Assistant Director, and all around good guy, knows more about Our Summer Place than any other. He still has the t-shirts to prove it.

# REMEMBER WHEN...?

## CBM IN THE 1980s

A time it was, and what a time it was...as I try to think back on all the things that happened at Camp during the 80s, my mind is racing with vivid details. Unfortunately, this great decade began on a sad note as we lost our long time caretaker, Benny Caudell. However, his legend lives on as those great "Benny Stories" are continually passed down through the years. Incidentally, Charles Rogers took over for Benny in 1980 and begins his 28th year as our Head Caretaker in 2008.

In the early 1980s, three facilities were built that changed camp in a major way. The first one was the Shirley Halpern Arts & Crafts Center, which, at the time, was quite an expansion. If not for this wonderful new addition, how would it have ever been possible for Ross Shapiro to sleep in the rafters?

We also thank the Halpern family for the building of the multi-purpose Bernard Halpern Activity Center. It's really hard for those attending Camp today to think about what it was like without the BHAC. That's right! Basketball was played on the tennis court closest to the road! The BHAC also gave Camp a new venue for Shabbat Concert..."Stop playing with the rocks!"

The 80s also saw the creation of the Teen Village just behind the chapel. The new village really spread Camp out more than ever before, and it was a pretty cool place to live in those early years. Remember all the new wood chips that lined the paths?

The bathrooms actually had hot water, and there was even a mirror above the sinks!

There were some interesting characters that worked at Camp in those days, too. Do you remember our Judaic specialist Dov Kentoff? He and his wife decided to have a little swim at Dobbs Creek on a day off and were surprised by a group of our campers on a day hike. It wouldn't have been such a surprise if our camp rabbi and his wife had their swim suits on at the time (I'm sure it was a big hit on letter writing day). Do you remember Kip Cohen from Pittsburgh? This guy dressed up in a garbage bag and transformed himself into a big Fig Newton for Shabbat Concert. An act that will never be forgotten! Do you remember when Stevie Slotin and Gary Lind took lounge chairs down to the Poo Pond and laid out in the sun while the rest of camp was walking to the chapel for services? Lastly, and one of my favorites, when I was JIT Unithead in 1985, Greg Reish and Brad Cohen decided that for their day off they wanted to do their laundry.....in Arkansas!!! Well, they actually made it to Arkansas and back, and weren't late returning from their day off either. Unfortunately, they didn't get their laundry done. That was a long road trip with smelly bog clothes.

It's hard to believe that 27 years have passed since 1980, but to help you remember, the next time you're deciding what to have for lunch, why not have a pitcher of red bug juice to go along with your barbecued bologna?!! By-the-way, Brian Goldman still holds the record at 63 pieces!

Submitted by Mike Wolff  
1982 - 1993 and 2005 - present



# Life Cycle Events

## ENGAGEMENTS/MARRIAGES

- Barry Medintz, brother of Debbie (Medintz) Jacobs, married Allison Gregge of New York in New York City in May of 2006.
- Michael Medwed is engaged to Lindsay Bearman and they are planning a Labor Day Weekend 2008 wedding in Atlanta, GA.
- Orit Reisman married Scott Berliner October 28, 2007 in Atlanta, GA.
- Beth Halpern (the Golden Camper) married Gavin Brown Labor Day of 2007 in Atlanta, GA.
- Betsy Babbitt married Andy Perkel December 31, 2006 in Atlanta, GA.
- Jennifer Babbitt married Steven Bodner in May 27, 2007 in Greensboro, GA.
- Jennifer Reingold married Michael Buczyner on May 27, 2007 in Atlanta, GA.

## FUTURE CBM CAMPERS

- Davis Judson Seitz was born on July 1, 2007 to Tracy (Kaplowitz) and Brian Seitz. He weighed 8lbs, 3oz.
- Lindsey Sophia Mirsky was born February 13, 2007 to Lisa (Levine) and Scott Mirsky. She weighed 7lbs, 7oz.
- Heather Lindsey Grant was born September 28, 2007 to Tracey and Sammy Grant. She weighed 7lbs, 11oz.
- Noah Hadley Flome was born February 7, 2007 to Traci (Weinroth) and Jeff Flome. He weighed 7lbs, 2oz.
- Hailey Genna Fields was born in May 2007 to Jill (Finkelstein) and David Fields.



### SEND US YOUR NEWS!

Please e-mail a brief caption and photo for just about any of your life's happenings!

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