

BARNEY'S ARK

the alumni newsletter of

Camp Barney Melintz

Volume 04

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SPRING 2009

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CAMP?

Well, to sum it up, a lot! For one thing, camp registration finally went electronic this year! Parents have been asking for it for a while now and seem to be happy with the change. For more on that, be sure to read Nancy Levine Blumenfeld's article "Loving the New Online Registration" on page 3.

As far as construction projects go, I think most of you know that Lake Wendy's dam had to be completely bulldozed and rebuilt. That project, costing around one million dollars, is on track for opening the lake back up in time for 1st session this summer. In addition, we've completely rebuilt two bath houses (bigger, better and warmer!). We were able to build an awesome addition to "Sababa" (our Israeli culture space) at the Benator Cultural Center, thanks to the Horesh family from Atlanta (see article on page 2 about the Two Families). It includes a "Sifria" Library, media center, "Western Wall" and adjacent koi pond! We have also added new adult lodging for more Artists-in-Residence and a very special place called "Sam's Deck", thanks to the friends and family of Sam Lapidus (see article on page 2 about the Two Families), which will be near the Zaban Chapel and overlook Lake

Wendy. There is also a new "Food Network-like" Camper Kitchen, new rope courses, jet skis, mountain bikes, and scooters, and another new beach adventure near the Blob, Iceberg, Log Roll, "Hurricane" water slide and "Rave" water trampoline!

We are all aware of the economy's effects on how we each determine where our money is spent. At Camp Barney, we are cognizant of the fact that parents choose to send their children to camp and look for the value just as they would in any other purchase in pursuit of "wants and needs". As in years past, we've searched for resources for families seeking financial assistance in any and all possible ways. We are hopefully doing something right because we are defying the trend for all overnight camps in North America (based on recent surveys from the American Camp Association and the Foundation for Jewish Camp). We are currently at 100% of capacity for this summer. Barney's aim is still to provide the "most meaningful and exciting Jewish overnight camping experience"!

*Fran Harrell, Alumni Coordinator
Camper 1972*



PHOTO ALBUM

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS
to fran@campbarney.org



DO YOU GET TOGETHER WITH CAMP ALUMNI IN YOUR AREA? PLEASE TELL US ABOUT IT!
fran@campbarney.org • 678.812.3846 • www.campbarney.org

TWO FAMILIES CREATE A LEGACY AT CAMP FOR 2009 AND BEYOND

Billy and Susan Lapidus and their children from Birmingham, Alabama have been part of Camp Barney for many years. Billy is our 4th-week Doctor-in-Residence, Susan works in our Camp Office during our First Session, and Sam, Noah, and Clara have literally grown up at Camp Barney each summer.

On November 5th, after a long and extraordinarily courageous battle with cancer, **Sam Lapidus** passed away at age 14. His family, friends and Camp Barney "community" were among the more than one thousand people from throughout the Southeast who expressed their grief and celebrated Sam's life during his memorial service in Birmingham. Billy and Susan Lapidus and Camp Barney have chosen to create a special place at Camp Barney Medintz this summer to celebrate the life of Sam Lapidus.

Thanks to the wonderful gestures and generous contributions from so many kids and families (including the sales of a cool bracelet created by his friends), we are building "**Sam's Deck**" which will be perched on a hill near the Zaban

Chapel overlooking Lake Wendy and Horserange Mountain. Campers will be invited to plant trees nearby at the beginning of each session as a living tribute to this remarkable young man.

Michelle and Joseph Horesh of Atlanta have sent their daughters, Stacy and Maya to Camp Barney for several years. Very sadly, Joseph passed away in May of 2008. Because of their family's genuine passion for Camp Barney, The **Horesh Family** has chosen to build an extraordinary space adjacent to "Sababa" (our Israeli Culture place) that is part of the Benator Cultural Center.

The Horesh center will include a "Sifria" Library and Media Center, Israeli and other cultural activities, have a massive replica of the "Western Wall" and "Gates" similar to the old city in Jerusalem. We created an adjacent koi pond cascading down the middle of the Benator Center.

We are so grateful to the Horesh Family for their very thoughtful gift which will be quite special for campers and, of course, honor the life of Joseph Horesh.



"NEAR FUTURE" PROJECTS & FACILITIES

- Infirmary/Health Lodge
- Roller Hockey Court & Trail
- Enclosed/air conditioned gymnasium
- Swimming Pool #2
- "Tree House" Nature Center
- Staff Housing/non-summer Retreat Lodge
- Golf "Course"
- Endowments for a garden/farm, the Israel Program, musicians/artists-in-residence, Israel Trips, & Out West Trips

Throughout the years, families have asked for an opportunity to make a tax-deductible gift to Camp Barney Medintz. Such gifts of kindness and generosity are deeply appreciated as an expression of Tzedakah – a truly significant Jewish value. They will be acknowledged in our Camp Barney newsletters.

"TODAH RABAH"

Enclosed please accept my donation of:

- \$18
- \$50
- \$100
- Other \$ _____

Name of Contributor

Telephone: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip _____
 Given: In honor of: _____
 In memory of: _____
 Occasion: _____

Please send acknowledgement to:

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____



CAMP BARNEY TO RECEIVE ALUMNI GRANT

"Today I'm a camper, one day I'll be on staff, and then I get to be an alumnus!"

Camp Barney Medintz was established in 1963 - that means, of course, we're beginning our 47th summer of meaningful and exhilarating experiences. Over 38,000 campers, staff, families and supporters comprise our Camp Barney Medintz alumni!

Camp Barney was just chosen as one of only a handful of Jewish overnight camps to receive a generous grant from the prestigious, Massachusetts-based Grinspoon Foundation to help us identify and reach out to alumni, receive and provide updates, establish an Alumni Association, and provide a match of gifts of at least \$25,000. Thanks to this grant, we are beefing up our alumni efforts. Our first Alumni Day last year was very successful and we plan to make it an annual event. We are now focusing on other potential alumni activities.

Although we have substantially increased the size of our alumni database, we know there are lots of alumni that we haven't found yet. If you are in contact with anyone who went to or worked at camp, please have them contact fran@campbarney.org.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!

Please email a brief caption and photo for just about any of your life's happenings.

fran@campbarney.org

REMEMBER WHEN... ?

As a nine year-old, I was fortunate enough to be a charter camper at CBM in 1963. Driving through the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains in a Greyhound Bus was the beginning of an innocent yet exciting time away from school, parents and chores. Of course there were no cell phones, no digital cameras, and no laptops. It truly was an age of learning about myself and others. There was no contact with my comfort zone. What is easy to remember is the almost primitive feel of the buildings in the woods that made up the Camp. My first year at CBM, I was assigned to Village 1. My cabin seemed like a large room with maybe eight bunk beds. The counselor quarters were in the center of the cabin as I recall. My counselor was Arnie (I think that was his name). Arnie became the surrogate parent who was "cool". We had so much fun at archery, riflery, canoeing, arts and crafts (I made my Dad an ashtray), and of course the ski-doodler. Since I was a camper at CBM again in 1964 and 1965, the memories tend to blend with one another.

How can I forget the outdoor camping trips that we took? One of the favorite

stories that I like to tell to this day is the time we took one of these outdoor camping trips; we were to dig our own latrines. There was no toilet paper and one of my fellow campers accidentally used poison ivy. Oops! It was on one of these camping trips that I became a charter member of the One-Match Club. To have your name on the wall in the dining room was one of the hottest things that you could do during camping season. Another memory includes hikes through the woods where wonderful stories were told about real or imaginary civil war battles that took place. Or about the "Roadrunner" (similar to the cartoon variety) that had just passed by. I was re-introduced to Israeli dancing at CBM. Dancing with girls!!!!!! I loved it!!! Truthfully, my regret is not having kept a journal. But can you expect an excited nine-year old to be thinking of that? I will simply have to rely on my fifty-five year old brain to supply me with those wonderful memories. If any of you charter campers are out there and reading this please contact me to reminisce.

*Ivan Sherman
camper, 1963-1965*

LOVING THE NEW ONLINE REGISTRATION

I was a camper, a staff member and even met my husband at CBM. Our children have been going to camp since the summer of '98. I guess you can say that the Blumenfelds are a camp family! Our daughter is about to start her 3rd year on staff, our son gets his 7 year t-shirt this year and our other son will be at camp for his 3rd summer. Registration this year was terrific!!!! I loved the online process. It was so much easier than the old paper process of years past. Thanks for making the change and I hope you will continue using the online registration process.

CBM is truly "Our Summer Place".

*Nancy Levine Blumenfeld
Camper 1980-1982 Staff 1984*

LIFE CYCLE EVENTS

FUTURE CBM CAMPERS

- Jordan Dana Jockers was born on August 16, 2008 to **Alan and Mara Jockers**. She weighed 3.5 pounds. Her big sister Madison Leah, who was born on May 11, 2006, welcomed her to the family. Her grandmother, **Sue Jockers**, is also a camp alumnus.
- Joel Ari Levin was born on March 31, 2008 to **Susan (Lasensky) and Jordan Levin**. His big sister Zoe Libbie welcomed him into the family. His grandmother, **Dorothy Lasensky**, was a camp nurse with the famous Dr. Butch Frank and his lovely wife Cookie.
- Spencer Gray Leftoff was born on September 10, 2008 to **Amy (Stahl) Leftoff**. He weighed 9lbs 5oz and was 20" long.



- Dylan Libowsky was born on December 16, 2008 to **Staci and Joel Libowsky**. He weighed 6 lbs and was 19 inches long. Dylan was welcomed into the family by his older brother Noah who was born on August 10, 2006.
- A correction to our last newsletter: In Scott Silverman's birth announcement (parents are **Suzanne Reznick and Donnie Silverman**), it stated that his brother Samuel was born on March 31, 2006. Samuel is actually Scott's cousin. Scott's brother is Frankie, who was born on March 21, 2006.

DEATHS

Our condolences to the family and friends of **Joseph Horesh** who passed away in May of 2008.

Our condolences to the family and friends of **Sam Lapidus** who passed away at age 14 after a long and extraordinarily courageous battle with cancer in November of 2008. Sam's mother, **Susan (Schulman) Lapidus** is a camp alumnus.

SAVE THE DATE

Our next **Alumni Day** at camp will be held Sunday, August 23rd. Details coming soon.

OVERHEARD FROM ALUMNI

"As I look back now, most certainly some of the best times of my youth. I saw myself grow, battle personal issues, and become the person I am now. And the opportunity to be on staff for four years was just the same. Cheers! "

Rebecca K.

"I have the most amazing memories from Camp Barney that I wouldn't trade for the world. I only wish I could go back! Can't wait to send my son there some day. "

Colette S.

"CBM has grown in amazing ways. I picked up a newsletter while at the JCC and was impressed. Camp was so much fun and I have great friends and memories, but enjoyed reading about the thought that goes into camp beyond the activities. "

Jill G.

"So much of who I am now I owe to my years at Camp Barney."

Matthew G.

"I have the most wonderful memories and have made life long friends from my times at CBM"

Michael H.

"I really enjoyed my experiences at Camp Barney and I have great memories of many camp outings, people and the campers. It was truly a special time!"

Nada J.

"Loved camp! Still have fun talking to people about camp, thinking about the camp fires, and sneaking out, and all that good stuff!"

Margo M.

"...was a wonderful, meaningful period of my life- met caring staff committed

to social justice who helped shape me in important ways... the friendships I made with other campers and with staff were a central part of my growing up years..."

Donna N.

"I recently returned to CBM for a Bar Mitzvah for the first time since I was 14! It was a magical weekend and I was so excited to share it with my husband (who never went to summer camp. can you imagine!?). While Arts & Crafts is now a compound and there were crazy fun things in the lake, it felt exactly the same. Full of love and fun!"

Marnie S.

"I wish that I did not grow up so that I could still go to Barney. I wish Benny was still with us. Also I remember that it never rains at Barney - always liquid sunshine!"

Mark G.



WHERE IN THE WORLD IS...

Thanks to you, we were able to track down 27 of the 43 people on this list in the last newsletter. The rest are still here and are joined by some additional people whose contact information is no longer valid. If you know how to get in touch with any of them, please either send their contact information to me or have them e-mail me at fran@campbarney.org. Thanks again for all of your help with the last list!

Lisa Abend
Mark Adelman
Rachel Handler Adler
Debbie Block
Lisa Bluestein
Jessica Braunstein
Adam Bressler
Michael Broudy
Ken Brown
Marcus Buchis
Jeffrey Cohen
Laurie Cohen
Lauren Diamond
Jeff Ehrlich

Jennifer Feldman
Lori Feller
Lisa Field
Staci Francombe
Dale Freedman
Terry Furie
Sandy Garfinkel
Eric Glass
Steven Gold
Jeff Horowitz
DeAnne Jacobson
Lisa Karesh
Karen Klaus
Erika Kleigman

Helaine Lasky
Kimberly Laterveer
Joshua Levine
Robin Lubin
Russell Manes
Anna Morine
Mindee Nodvin
Lisa Rose
Jennifer Rosenberg
Elissa Graham Saperstein
Jeffery Tully
Erin Warner
Erica Zuckerman