

# The Wise Times

November, 2008 | Volume 2, No. 1

## Camp News!

Camp may have ended in August, but the fall has been full of excitement! Here are some highlights of what's been going on...

- 1. Over 550 campers are registered for next summer!** In fact, over 80% of last year's campers are already signed up! That means there are only about 100 spaces left, and many age groups are already full with waitlists. If you have friends considering Camp Wise, give us a call! We're traveling to all different cities this winter to talk about camp, and we're happy to come visit to do a presentation about Summer '09.
- 2. We're open for winter business!** The only thing better than being at camp in the summer is being at camp in the winter! We now have heated and winterized facilities, so for the first time ever, Camp Wise is open for retreats all year long. We've already hosted several synagogues and BBYO, and we're looking forward to seeing many of our campers at upcoming synagogue retreats. We'd like to start some cool winter camp programs next year, so let us know of any great ideas you have! You thought mud sliding was fun on the Noar rec field...try sledding down the hill!
- 3. So many staff will be returning for 2009!** Last summer was so much fun that many of our staff have already applied to come back. We'll be posting a list of returning staff online as the summer gets closer, but among the first to be hired for next year are Marty Shankle, Matt Ortman, Jennie Post, Beth Young, Phil Friedman, and Jeff Greenwald! ★



# B'nai Mitzvot — Camp Wise style:

## Having your Bar or Bat Mitzvah at camp

Each summer, many of our Ohalim and Noar campers spend countless hours studying and practicing for their upcoming Bar or Bat Mitzvah. Well, maybe not countless hours, but they do spend time each week with our great tutor Larry Solomon! These campers are preparing to go back home to celebrate, but three of our campers have chosen to do things a bit differently, and have returned to camp in the fall to celebrate their simcha — Camp Wise style!

Samantha August says she chose to have her Bat Mitzvah at Camp Wise

because, "It's a special place for me and my family and I just love camp!" Samantha's Bat Mitzvah included a service in the Chapel and special gifts for guests that said "Samantha" in the shape of the camp logo. For Samantha, having her party in the Chadar Ochel was "really cool!"

Gabe Baker says having his Bar Mitzvah at camp, "was just more special than having it in my synagogue. Camp is so special, and has a different meaning to me. It's just an awesome place to have a Bar Mitzvah," he adds. Gabe's

special day included time for guests to play at camp activities, a camp-style service, and a campfire with s'mores.

Zeke Spira chose to have his Bar Mitzvah at camp because it was cool and different. "Going back to camp in September was something that not many people get a chance to do, and to be able to lead a service in the Chapel was really cool!" After the service, Zeke and his friends tye-died their "Zeke's Bar Mitzvah" t-shirts, something Zeke says was, "a lot of fun!" ★

## be in touch!



Where to find us in the fall, winter & spring:

Camp Wise  
The Mandel JCC of Cleveland  
26001 South Woodland Rd  
Beachwood, OH 44122

Ph: 216-593-6250  
Fax: 216-831-7796

wisekids@clevejcc.org  
www.campwise.org

You can also become a fan of  
Camp Wise on Facebook!

## Shalom to Sean!

Earlier this month we welcomed our new Assistant Director Sean Morgan to our team!

Already, he has been sighted dancing in his office and singing camp songs, so we have no doubt he'll fit right in. He's looking forward to jumping into things and getting to know all of the traditions of Camp Wise. Whether meeting campers, planning trips, or hiring staff, Sean always has camp on his mind, probably because he's spent more than half his life at JCC overnight camps!

Sean started his camping career with Camp Sabra, the St. Louis JCC's overnight camp. He spent 14 summers there, starting in 1990 as a camper and ending as the full-time Assistant Director in 2006. For the last two years, Sean has been the Assistant Director of Camp Lakeland, the Buffalo JCC's overnight camp.



Along with 16 summers in camping, Sean has teaching experience as well! He earned his BS in Education from Southeast Missouri State University.

Sean's looking forward to our post-Thanksgiving Camp Reunion, where he will have an opportunity to meet many of our campers and staff. Sean can be reached at (216) 593-6293 or smorgan@clevejcc.org. ★

# wise alumni — where are they now? from the camp stage to Broadway

Lee Wilkof, who grew up in Canton, Ohio, was a camper at Camp Wise for only one summer, but what a memorable and important summer it was!

Wilkof, now a professional actor, says that while brief, his time at Camp Wise had a lasting impact on his life. It was a role in a Camp Wise production- a puppet show about "Goulabatchery"- that turned him on to the idea of performing! The camp stage laid the foundation for his 35 years on Broadway, television, and film. Some

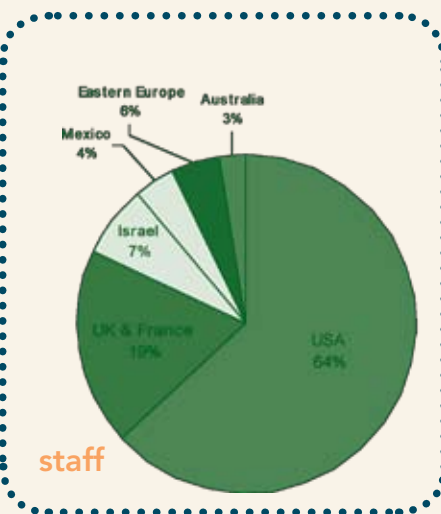
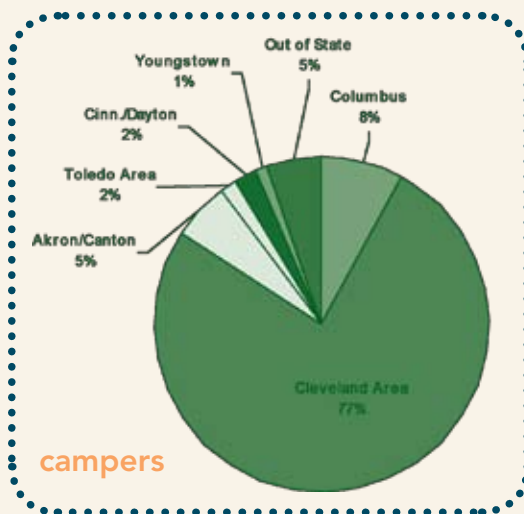
of Wilkof's memorable roles include playing Seymour in the original off-Broadway production of *Little Shop of Horrors*, a part in the newest revival of *The Odd Couple*, and a role in the film *The School of Rock*. You may even recognize Wilkof from his most recent role as the Wizard in the national touring company of *Wicked* that brought him to the Cleveland stage last February. In 2000, Wilkof was nominated for a Tony for his role in the revival production of *Kiss me Kate*.



Wilkof says that while the play was an important part of camp for him, his most memorable experience at Wise was his first kiss — although he can't remember who that girl is anymore! ★

## where do we come from?

Have you ever wondered where all of our campers and staff come from? Here's your answer!



## Top Ten Favorite Chugs

1. Boating
2. Horseback Riding
3. Outdoor Cooking
4. Mountain Biking
5. Tower
6. Tennis
7. Basketball
8. Arts and Crafts
9. Radio
10. Pottery



## Todah Rabah to our summer volunteer doctors!

Scott Singer • Chris Young •  
Rita Cydulka • Jeffrey Shall

If you are a physician or nurse and you'd like to be a part of our 2009 summer medical team, let us know! Our paid nurses live at camp, and our volunteer doctors make themselves available to us on-call, and visit for "clinics." ★

## the best of the best: the 2008 staff scholarship winners

Staff Scholarship is the highest honor we award our staff each summer. Actually, it's the highest honor they award each other! At the end of the summer, staff members nominate their peers who go that extra mile — always there to lend a hand, constantly full of energy and enthusiasm, and a leader amongst the group. A committee made up of previous Staff Scholarship recipients reads all the nominations and selects the summer's winners. The committee then organizes an auction of items donated by staff. This past year's items included a set of t-shirts made by our Israeli staff and a night out in Cleveland. The money raised is awarded to the scholarship recipients, as a way of saying, "We think you're awesome!" Camp matches the scholarship amount the following year as a bonus added to the Staff Scholarship winners' salaries.

In 2008 we had five winners:

**Matt Ortman** was a counselor in both Solel and Ohalim this summer and just completed his 10th summer at camp and 3rd summer on staff. Matt is a junior at Ohio University majoring in Physical Therapy. His favorite memory of this past summer

*Our staff scholarship winners from left to right: Megan Garrett, Abby Kaufman, Matt Kaufman, Matt Ortman, Jessie Bruder, and Dan Reed (front)*



was going down a Class 5 rapid with Solel - Trip 1!

**Jessie Bruder** was the Head Counselor for Noar this past summer. This was Jessie's 12th summer at camp and 4th on staff! She is a senior at The Ohio State University studying Human Development and Family Science. Jessie says that this entire summer was incredible, "especially hanging out with Noar campers all day!"

**Dan Reed** spent his first summer at Camp Wise this year as our basketball specialist. Dan hails from Sheffield, England, where he just graduated from Keele University with an honors degree in American Literature and English. Dan absolutely loved going to Geauga Lake with Ohalim.

**Abby Kaufman** was an Ohalim and Noar counselor this summer — her 4th year on staff and 12th at camp. Abby says she will always remember the night activity she led for her Ohalim cabin when they walked to the covered gym blindfolded! Abby is a junior at The University of Michigan majoring in the Program in the Environment.

**Megan Garrett** hails from West Virginia University where she is a freshman studying Child Psychiatry. This was Megan's 3rd year at camp and her 2nd year on staff as a Chalutzim counselor. One of her favorite camp experiences was when her cabin created their own superheroes and dubbed Megan "MarvelMeg, the counselor who makes campers feel marvelous!" ★

## top 10 meals of '08

Did you know that each day last summer Chef Larry and his kitchen staff produced nearly 1,500 meals?! That's a lot of food! Here are some of our campers' favorites:

1. Toasted Cheese (Grilled Cheese)
2. Spaghetti
3. Pizza
4. Chicken Fingers
5. Mac-n-cheese
6. Shabbat Chicken
7. Potato Bar
8. Chicken Wings
9. Tacos
10. Cookouts



# camp wise goes to Israel “the best experience of my life”

By Rose Miller, SIT 2008

This past summer I went on a trip to Israel sponsored by the JCC Association and Camp Wise. Before arriving I was extremely nervous, but excited at the same time. After spending four weeks there I can say that it was the best experience of my life.

Some of the highlights included meeting some really incredible friends and going to places that were just breathtaking. The staff members on the trip were amazing. The counselors, the security guard, the tour guide, and even the bus driver were possibly some of the most fun people I've ever met! Even the Israelis we met who weren't part of our trip, were all extremely nice and extremely welcoming.

We toured the entire country, visiting all of the important and well-known sites, but we also visited many sites that are not extremely well-known

but are very important to our Jewish history. We snorkeled in Eilat, shopped in Tel Aviv, and visited the Kotel. Each day was another really fun adventure!

We were also able to explore the beauty of Israel from the many nights we spent camping, including one night in the Negev. That night we went stargazing and because the sky is so clear in the desert I was able to see millions of stars, and I also saw so many shooting stars! Just seeing those stars is an unforgettable experience, and one that I wish to be able to do again.

My favorite part of my Israel trip was living on a kibbutz for five days. We

lived with kids our age and saw how they lived. It was so cool to be able to meet teens from another country, who were just like us. One thing I found out quickly was that there is not much of a difference between teens in the U.S. and teens in Israel! We liked a lot of the same music, and do many of the same activities.

I will always remember the teens I met on this trip, and I still keep in touch with friends from the group.

My advice to any teen thinking about going on a trip to Israel: Go with Camp Wise! This trip was something that I will remember forever, and it really gave me a new view on Israel. ★



*Small world! SITs Rose Miller and Hannah Wolfson run into camper Ari Bluestein on the top of Mount Masada!*



## CW and BBYO team up: we're going to ISRAEL!

We are excited to introduce an opportunity for our teens to experience Israel in a whole new way!

For the first time, we're joining forces with the BBYO-Ohio Northern Region (ONR) to offer a community Israel trip that will be open to all Clevelanders, ONR BBYOers and Camp Wisers! Previously, the Camp Wise Israel Trip was only offered to 11th graders, but for 2009 the Israel experience will be open to both 11th

and 12th graders. The experiential program will include sightseeing, outdoor adventures all over the country, and time with Israeli teens. Tentatively, the four weeks in Israel will be from June 21-July 19. If also selected to be an SIT or Junior Counselor, the program will also include second session at Camp Wise!


If you are interested in this exciting program, please contact Jodi at the camp office as soon as possible. ★

# camp wise word search

A I P L O I M Z L H G F C L D I  
 A T T Z H T T D C S C E A O P C  
 T P W E A I F O U O H G G M N Q  
 P N W T L E T H A L A H E K A L  
 E E E E I F E Z M E D D I Y B C  
 I T N D M I Z T U L A H C S E E  
 G F E E L R O F S T R C N W P C  
 U R R T H G I N R E V O S T D F  
 R E C W T I B R O P D U N R R N  
 K L A N Y R E H C R A N N U F E  
 P S M T C C E H A R S S P N I W  
 D K P G C E O H E G T E N T S L  
 H R A O N F C E F K H L R M N I  
 W T S X E M H H Z W A O A O S E  
 A J J S I C W R E O P R D R M M  
 C S H E S H E T R M T N E L E S

## Here's the list of hidden words...

chardon	soccer	solel	fun	smores	counselor
chadar	ohalim	noar	camp	tents	chofesh
lake	chalutzim	cheer	overnight	archery	



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Blue Zip Sweatshirt-  
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 Available . . . . . \$40

Red Pullover Sweatshirt-  
 Adult & Youth Size  
 Available . . . . . \$40

Grey Sweatpants-  
 Limited Sizes Available . . . \$30

"Future Camper"  
 Baby Onesies. . . . . \$20

Baseball Hat . . . . . \$20

Camp Wise Songbook . . . \$20

Green Nalgene  
 Waterbottle . . . . . \$12

**We appreciate the kindness** of those who have honored a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, birthday, achievement, recovery or the memory of someone special with a gift to Camp Wise. Please fill out and send back the card below to make a gift to Camp Wise.

## "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 my acknowledgement to:  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



## Camp Wise Rock(s)!

*Jon and Darby Steiger stand with the "Camp Wise Rock." The infamous rock sat at the old Painesville camp site until our 100th anniversary last year, when a couple of alumni got together and had the rock moved to our home in Chardon! When camp was moved in 1966 the rock remained in Painesville, but the plaque that was affixed to it was taken off and put on the camp office wall. Last summer when the 28 thousand pound rock was moved home to Camp Wise, the plaque was put back on the rock!*

# Top 4 Ways we're going to be healthier this summer at camp!

Have you noticed that dessert after lunch is always fruit instead of sweets? What about sugar cereals only being offered every few days? Have you taken a look at our salad bar lately? Do you know that there are always protein sources like chick peas, hard-boiled eggs, and sunflower seeds available? Or that on the salad bar at breakfast every day there is fresh fruit? These are just some of the changes we've made over the past few years to make Camp Wise a healthier place to be. Here are four more ways we're going to make the food at camp this summer even better – and healthier!

### **New Canteen Variety**

Don't worry, we're keeping canteen, but this summer we'll be alternating candy and non-candy days, and introducing some new and healthier choices.

### **Nutritionist-Approved Menus**

All of our favorite meals will still be around, but we'll be working with a team of nutritionists to make sure we have balanced meals with lots of great choices.

### **New Menu for Vegetarians**

Chef Larry is whipping up some new vegetarian recipes for the summer that will ensure great-tasting veggie options!

### **New Breads**

Do you know how much nutritional value there is in a piece of white bread? None! So this summer we'll be scaling back on the white bread and switching it up with some whole wheat and multi-grain options. ★



## join team wise!

Refer a friend to Camp Wise and become a part of Team Wise!  
Here's how it works:

1. You tell your friends how much you love camp!
2. They sign up for camp and complete a session, and tell us your referred them to us.
3. You (the camper) get a sweet Team Wise long-sleeve special edition t-shirt!
4. You (the parents) get a great savings for '09:  
\$100 off if the friend comes for 3 weeks,  
4 weeks, or 7 weeks,  
\$50 off if the friend comes for 1 week or 2 weeks!

# “Our Best Family Vacation Ever!”

By Kelly Rubanenko

After two years of attending the fabulous Camp Wise Mom’s Retreat, I wanted the chance to share the Camp Wise experience with my family. What a thrill for Gil and me to watch our children (ages 2, 5 and 8) help lead Shabbat services at the beautiful chapel in the woods. As a family, we participated in skits, cheered in the moadon, slept in bunk beds, swam in the lake, and disconnected from our busy lives.

Family Camp was the best vacation our family has ever taken! We got to PLAY as a family and connect with other families in a meaningful Jewish way. From rock climbing, tie-dyeing and jet skiing to outdoor Sabbath services, yummy Kosher food and Havdalah, we couldn’t get enough. At night time, while the kids enjoyed time with their counselors, the adults learned how to make sushi, played CWGL (a special Camp Wise invention that combines gaga and soccer), engaged in competitive BINGO, relived camp memories, and made new ones. Our family is counting down the days until next year’s Family Camp! ★



*The Rubanenko family has a blast at Family Camp.*

## family camp 2009 registration opens soon!

Dates: Friday, August 28 – Sunday, August 30 or Friday, September 4- Monday, September 7

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