

The Wise Times

April, 2009 | Volume 2, No. 2

Camp News!

Don't be fooled by the April Cleveland snow...summer is just around the corner! Here are some highlights of what's going on as we plan for 2009 - what is sure to be the best summer EVER!

1. We have more campers than ever before for 2009!

Some villages have had waitlists since September, and over 82% of last summer's campers and over 160 new campers will be calling Camp Wise home this year! We have limited spaces remaining, so send any interested friends our way.

We are honored and humbled to see that despite difficult economic times, our families have chosen to prioritize Camp Wise when faced with difficult financial choices. In response to the extenuating needs in our community, we have committed to giving out more scholarship dollars than ever before. Thanks to those of you who have called to see how you can help and have made contributions. As needs continue to grow, any help from you – an important member of our camp family - is greatly appreciated. Your contribution (of any size) could mean a summer at camp for a child. Please be in touch if you can contribute to our Camp Wise Scholarship Fund for this summer.

2. As you may have seen on the "returning staff list" on our website, we have TONS of staff members coming home for another incredible summer!

What you may not know, is that several of them have been selected to participate in elite national programs that recognize their stellar work and train them to give back to camp in a meaningful and substantial way. Jason Wachs, Abby Kaufman, Ramie Schneider, Phil Friedman, and Lauren Rubin will be Cornerstone Fellows, a Foundation for Jewish Camp (FJC) program for experienced bunk



counselors who will have elevated responsibilities of Jewish education and leadership programming in camp. Jessie Bruder (a Cornerstone alum), will be in Launch Pad, a FJC program that gives professional-level management training to first-year camp supervisors. Mara Berde, our Jewish Program Director, has been chosen as a Chizuk Fellow through the JCC Association, aimed at high-level Jewish educators working in JCC camps. Two of our year-round staff have also been selected for national 2-year fellowships! Sean Morgan is one of 20 Assistant Directors at Jewish overnight camps across the country chosen to be a Yitro Fellow, and Jon Gerst has been named a Merrin Teen Fellow, for JCC professionals who work with teens. We are thrilled to have such an esteemed group at camp this summer! ★



Confessions of a Camp Nurse

Jen Costello is so excited to be returning to Camp Wise for her third summer as our Head Nurse! Jen is a school nurse during the year at Park Elementary in Chardon, Ohio. We recently sat down with Jen to talk about camp...

Q: How did you get started as a camp nurse?

A: I saw a flyer advertising for camp nurses and it sounded interesting. I called Jodi to set up a meeting and I'm glad that I made that call! Camp Wise has been a great experience.

.....
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 check us out on Facebook!

Q: We're glad you made that decision too! So what do you like best about being a camp nurse?

A: There are so many things I love about this job, but in general it's the work environment. All of the kids and staff are great! It's really a rewarding experience.

Q: I'm sure you've seen a lot over your time as a school nurse and a camp nurse. What illness or injury do you treat most during the summer?

A: The most traffic we see is giving out meds. We also see a lot of allergy and common cold symptoms and stomachaches. Usually with a little rest we'll have them back out to their activities pretty quickly.

The staff do a great job helping the campers take care of themselves, like reminding them to drink water and wear sunscreen.

Q: As a nurse and mother of three your natural instinct is to be comforting and caring. How do you use this skill when you're at camp?

I treat all of the campers and staff as if they were my own children. Sometimes that's all a camper needs to feel better!

Q: During the summer you talk to a lot of our campers' parents. If you could speak to parents before the summer too, what would you want them to tell you?

A: I would ask parents to be as open and honest as possible on their child's forms. Parents have generally done a great job keeping me informed, but the more information the better!



Our Head Camp Nurse, Jen Costello

Q: What would you like to tell parents before the summer?

A: One of the most important things campers can do to avoid getting sick at camp is washing their hand regularly. So I would ask parents to please get their children in the habit of washing their hands before camp. Also, if your child isn't feeling well before camp think about holding them back for a day. Nothing is worse than starting the summer sick in the infirmary. That goes for lice too. We check all of the campers' heads right when they arrive but you'd save them some embarrassment by checking them before coming so we don't have to send them home on the first day.

Q: Before we wrap up, what's your favorite story from your time at Camp Wise?

A: A staff member from Australia came to me and said, "Can you give me something for my high fever?" I had no idea how she knew that she had a high fever and I asked her, "How do you know you have a high fever?" This went back and forth for a while until I realized she was talking about hay fever and her sinuses were stuffed! These types of moments happen all of the time, and they keep me on my toes! ★

wise alumni – where are they now? Rabbi Marc Wolf

Anyone who's ever spent a Shabbat at Camp Wise has felt the magic of a camp Shabbat. From Shabbat walk to services to the Shabbatones and spirit circle, you can't help but be moved by the magic in the air of our community all coming together in celebration. For Marc Wolf, the recently-appointed Assistant Vice-Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary, it was the beauty and uniqueness of Shabbat at Camp Wise that planted the seed for him to become a Rabbi.

"I credit most of my professional life to my time spent at Camp Wise," says Wolf, who now lives in Manhattan with wife Rebecca and young sons Jacob and Alex. "Camp made me love Judaism on a very deep level, not because we were hit over the head with it, but because it was such a natural part of camp." Wolf, whose career is now dedicated to the field of Jewish education, believes that Jewish overnight camp is a crucial component of creating meaningful and positive Jewish identity. "Building a strong Jewish identity is all about immersion," Wolf says. "Camp is an experience that is high immersion, and the ripple effect of creating identity there is more intense."

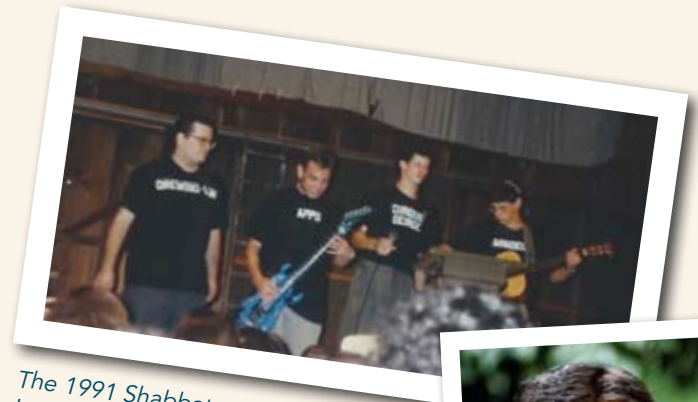
In his 12 summers at Wise, beginning in 1981, Wolf says that aside from Shabbat, his favorite memories from camp were evening programs. "There was an energy at camp that was infectious, and it inspired people to create programs that were really memorable," he says. "The innovation brought to programming was so unique, and I've never seen anything like it at other camps."

Once on staff, Wolf was able to bring his own creative juices to his various roles.

Over the years, he was a counselor, Judaic programmer, all-camp programmer, and song leader. Wolf laughs as he recalls one summer as all-camp programmer, when he and Andy Cohen were charged by director Joel Stovsky to, "do whatever would be fun," which resulted in the building of a 15x15 mud pit by the Noar tennis courts!

As a counselor, Wolf loved being a part of carrying camp traditions to the next generation of campers. "As a camper, the Shabbatones had a big impact on me, and then as staff, Jon Steiger and I helped bring that back," he remembers. The Shabbatones' songs still hold an important place in his heart, and Wolf plays them now for his own children.

The 1991 Shabbatones: Andy Cohen, Lee Appel, Jon Steiger, and Marc Wolf (from left to right)



Rabbi Marc Wolf today

It's no wonder that performing with the Shabbatones was a highlight for Wolf, because he remembers his days as the Camp Songleader fondly. "Hands down, that was my favorite camp job," he says. "I was exposed to so much great music at camp." In addition to Jewish music, Wolf would play songs by The Barenaked Ladies, The Cure, and Billy Bragg. Many of Wolf's favorites are still sung in the dining hall today, and a current CW night staple, Queen of the Soldier, was brought to Wise by Wolf. ★



CW campers reuniting at our 2008 camper reunion with counselor Amy Saltzman.

the village all-stars:

summer 2009 village supervisors



Jacob Gown
Chalutzim Boys'
Supervisor
Hometown:
Seattle, WA
During the year I am: A graduate student in education

and biblical literature at the American Jewish University, graduating in 2009.

Undergraduate: BS in Environmental Studies, University of Washington, graduated in 2004

of Camper Years: 7 (At other camps)

of Staff Years: 11 (1 at Camp Wise)

Favorite Camp Song: There is So Much Magnificence In The Ocean

Something funny about me: "I am a fish whisperer"

What I want to be when I "grow up": A camp director/owner

What I'm most looking forward to this summer: "Kicking it with the kids"



Jennie Post
Chalutzim Girls'
Supervisor
Hometown:
Youngstown, OH!
During the year I am: A graduate student in science education at the

University of Florida, graduating in December 2009.

Undergraduate: BA in Biology, Dartmouth College, graduated in 2008

of Camper Years: 6 (At other camps)

of Staff Years: 5 (2 at Camp Wise)

Favorite Camp Song: One Tin Soldier

Favorite Camp Cheer: The Toasted Cheese Song

Something funny about me: "I still tie my shoelaces with bunny ears."

What I want to be when I "grow up": A science teacher and a camp counselor forever!

What I'm most looking forward to

this summer: "Seeing all of my camp friends and campers, and helping Chalutzim to be the best village in camp! Hooray!"



Lisa Rosenberg
Ohalim Girls'
Supervisor
Hometown:
Toronto
During the year I am: A psychology

student at Queen's University, graduating this June!

of Camper Years: 6 (At other camps)

of Staff Years: 5 (1 at Wise)

Favorite Camp Song: Save Tonight

Favorite Camp Cheer: Any Ohalim cheer!

Something funny about me: "I never want to stop going to camp but every summer since I was a camper I get a little nervous and a little scared to go back to camp, and then I go and have an even better summer than the one before!"

What I want to be when I "grow up": A school psychologist

What I'm most looking forward to

this summer: "Spending another amazing summer in Ohalim and getting to hang out with the coolest campers in camp!"



The Red Wagon

has rolled into town!

Hey CW Campers... check out the Red Wagon page on our camp website just for you! You'll find pictures, surveys, contests, announcements, and more! We update the page every couple days, so be sure to check regularly to see what The Red Wagon is bringin' around!



Marty Shankle
Ohalim Boys'
Supervisor
Hometown:
Canton, OH
During the year I am: A

public relations and sports marketing student at The Ohio State University, graduating in June 2010.

of Camper Years: 4

of Staff Years: 4

Favorite Camp Song: Brown-Eyed Girl

What I want to be when I "grow up": A movie advertisement producer

What I'm most looking forward to this summer: "Ohalim theme days!"



Jeff Greenwald

Noar Boys' Supervisor

Hometown: Shaker Heights, OH

During the year I

am: A 6th grade world history teacher in Baton Rouge, LA, as part of the Teach for America program.

Undergraduate: BS in Economics and English, University of Pennsylvania, graduated 2007

of Camper Years: 7

of Staff Years: 4

Favorite Camp Song: Brown-Eyed Girl

Favorite Camp Cheer: Have You Got That Spirit?

Something funny about me: "I

shaved my head into a mullet last summer when I lost a bet to Jon Gerst."

What I want to be when I "grow up": I don't know, can you tell me?

What I'm most looking forward to this summer: "Hearing how loud the Chadar gets on the first meal of each session."



Jessie Bruder

Noar Girls' Supervisor

Hometown: South Euclid, OH

During the year I am: A human

development and family science student at The Ohio State University, graduating this June!

of Camper Years: 8

of Staff Years: 4

Favorite Camp Song: Closer to Fine

Favorite Camp Cheer: The Prune Song

Something funny about me: "My nose moves when I talk and I hate

ketchup."

What I want to be when I "grow up": A social worker

What I'm most looking forward to this summer: "EVERYTHING!"



Ben Pargament

Solel Supervisor

Hometown: Sylvania, Ohio

During the year I am: A history education student

at Eastern Michigan University, graduating in April 2010

of Camper Years: 7

of Staff Years: 7

Favorite Camp Song: Father and Son

What I want to be when I "grow up": A high school teacher

What I'm most looking forward to this summer: "I can't wait to be a

mentor for the Solel campers and watch them bond. I want them to have the best summer of their lives in and out of camp." ★

Summer Packing Top 5

Top Five Items that are often forgotten

1. Toiletries... gotta stay clean!
2. Your own sports equipment (baseball glove, roller blades for hockey, lacrosse stick, etc.)
3. Hat, sunscreen, and water bottle
4. A camera... you don't want to forget all the cool moments!
5. A few books and magazines



Top Five Items that should be forgotten

1. Your cell phone... these are not allowed.
2. Your handheld video games... no PSP, Nintendo DS, or any Ipods with games or movies!
3. Any fancy high heels... c'mon, camp roads are all dirt and gravel!
4. Your nicest clothes... it's camp, so everything could get dirty and no one cares about labels at camp!
5. Food... With Larry's cooking you won't need any other food!

A very special "Todah Rabah" to all of our 2008-2009 Donors so far!

We are honored to recognize the families and individuals who have chosen to make thoughtful and generous contributions to Camp Wise. Please let us know if your name was inadvertently left off of the list.

Camp Wise Scholarship Fund

Iris and Mark Edelman
 Edie and Steve Shafron
 Dr. Susan and Dr. Brian Kirsh
 Hillary and John Rinehardt
 Janet and Keith Voigt
 Julie and Joel Falck
 Betty and Dr. Kevin Trangle
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 Lisa-Karyn and Larry Davidoff
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 Dr. Sigel and Dr. Darren Wohl
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 Susan and Paul Shapiro
 Rubanenko Family and their 2nd Seder Guests

Camp Wise Fund

Sheryl and Howard Kohr, *in memory of Lenny Rubin*
 Nancy Slate, *in honor of Jenny Slate Grischkan's birthday*
 Jodi Sperling, *in memory of Sam Semel*

I ♥ CW Staff Fund

Donna and Gordon Hecker
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 Tammy and Mark Gersman
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 Debra and Kirk Migdal

Ellen Gelles and Steve Ricanati
 Tami and Aaron Caplan
 Jennifer Rich and Jason Drasner
 Darby and Jon Steiger
 Rhonda and Marc Saunders

Special Funds

Dee and Jim Kleinman
 S. Lee and Margery S. Kohrman
 Diane and Harvey Scholnick
 David S. Stein Foundation



The Temple-Tifereth Israel's 3rd grade had a great time on their winter retreat!

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.

"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: _____

Groove is in Noar



By Beth (Weinstock) Young

CW Camper- 1981, CW Staff Member- 16 years and counting

During the summer of 1991, a 25-year old radio specialist named Andy Cohen, in only his second summer at Camp Wise, turned programming on its ear and became the unofficial spirit spokesperson of camp. To promote the concepts of love and unity within the village of Noar, Andy and the Noar campers penned a theme song, "Groove is in Noar," a reworking of the lyrics to the fun and catchy tune "Groove is in the Heart" by Dee-Lite. In this photo, campers, staff and Andy groove to their theme song during a lunchtime skit. ★

hey Camp Wise, how do you like your eggs? SCRAMBLED!!!!

Try to unscramble these letters to make a famous Camp Wise word or phrase.

abcni endacl _____
This is a huge honor at camp and is handed out at CW night

telter tirwgni yad _____
This happens every Monday and Thursday

bastabh klaw _____
We do this before dinner on Friday

kober vot _____
Good Morning

mtnaonencus _____
Try not to use this word unless you want to hear a long cheer

hey Alumni!

- **Want to send your child to CW for the first time next summer?** Alumni have PRIORITY REGISTRATION! That means you are able to register your future campers in advance of other new campers. Registration opens in September, so check the website in early fall to reserve your space.
- **Want to connect with your old camp friends?** Join us this fall for our first Camp Wise Alumni Pancake Breakfast! Planning is currently underway and as soon as a date is set more information will follow.
- **Want to help plan future alumni happenings?** Join the CW Alumni Committee! For more information contact Jon Steiger, at jmsteiger2000@yahoo.com.

stay fashionable with
CW Gear

Spring 2009 Featured Item:



Our best CW hat ever! This fashionable item will not only keep you cool but you will look cool wearing it!

Special offer!!! Receive \$5 off when you mention the CW Spring Newsletter when you order yours!

Don't forget to check out the rest of the CW gear at www.campwise.org/store.

Calling all Alumni: Come help us get camp ready for the summer!

Alumni Spring Clean-up Day!

May 17 at Camp Wise, 1-6 pm, includes dinner.

Alumni and their families are invited to come spend the afternoon helping to prepare camp for the summer. A variety of hands-on projects will be available, and we welcome all helping hands ready to get dirty!

Please RSVP to Jon at (216) 593-6218 or email jgerst@clevejcc.org, by May 1. Be sure to let us know if you have a special skill that could come in handy! ★

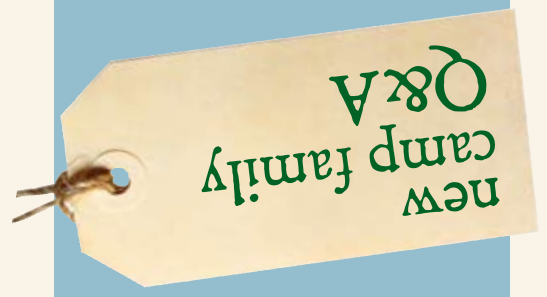


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New campers and parents are invited to attend our New Family Meeting, **Thursday, April 30, at 6:30pm at the Mandel JCC in Beachwood.** Come meet our directors, walk through the first 24 hours of camp, and hear what camp will be like in 2009! RSVP to Cathy Becker, Camp Registrar, by April 24. You can reach her at 216-593-6250 or wisekids@clevejcc.org.

the mandel jewish community center of cleveland
26001 south woodland road • beachwood, ohio 44122



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