

The Wise Times

Fall 2011 | Volume 5, No. 2

Camp News!

1. It's official! Sean Morgan named the next director of Camp Wise!

Sean is no stranger to CW—he has served as the Camp Wise Assistant Director for the past 3 summers learning the ins and outs of all things Wise. Prior to his time at the “Home of Happiness,” Sean was the Assistant Director at the Buffalo JCC’s Camp Lakeland and the St. Louis JCC’s Camp Sabra, where Sean grew up as a camper and counselor. Sean has his undergraduate degree in education from Southeast Missouri State University and is currently earning his Master’s degree in Camp Administration and Leadership- how cool is that?! Not only does Sean bring serious waterskiing skills and a professional announcer’s voice to the table, but he brings a love and passion for overnight camping that is unsurpassed. Join us in wishing him the best of luck in Summer 2012 and beyond!

2. Ahhh! Camp is almost full for Summer 2012! This fall’s registration will go down in the history books—we have over 600 campers registered, with 85% of last summer’s campers already signed up! We have barely 100 spots left and many of our age groups are full with waitlists. Thinking about camp for next summer? Hurry and call us today! We have been recruiting all over Ohio this fall, and we’d be happy to come visit you for an info session too.

3. Sledding, snowball fights, and snowmen, oh my! This past January, we hosted the very first Ohalim Winter Wonderland Weekend out at camp! We invited all 2010 Ohalimers to reunite with us in the snow over Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend. We spent Sunday afternoon out on the Noar rec, sledding down the hill onto the ultimate Frisbee field and throwing snowballs at each other. Sunday night we pretended like it was summer and had an indoor beach party! Campers played volleyball and limbo in the chadar, and even got to dig out some summer shorts and tees to wear for the occasion. Sunday morning was the great “Snowlympics” complete with a snowy Maccabiah-style great race. We concluded the day with a celebration of Tu B’Shevat, the Israeli birthday of the trees. This MLK weekend we will host the 2nd annual Ohalim Winter Wonderland Weekend, so 2011 Ohalimers should mark their calendars today! Bring on the snow, Cleveland! ★



New Camp Wise Director, Sean Morgan, celebrates with staff members Sivan Lotan and Adi Azar.



A group of 2010 Ohalimers plays in the snow at the first-ever Ohalim Winter Wonderland Weekend.

the best of the best: the 2011 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! Each summer staff members nominate their peers who go that extra mile- Camp Wise style. Those nominated are always there to lend a helping hand, constantly full of energy and enthusiasm, and leaders amongst the group. During the closing summer staff banquet an auction is held with donated items, like the historic red wagons that have been used to bring canteen to our campers and a night on the town complements of some of our Columbus-based staff. Auction proceeds are divided between the staff scholarship recipients.

In 2011 we had five winners with a portion of the proceeds going towards camper scholarship. This year's winners were: Jonathan Zamudio, Sara Federman, Ethan Goodman, Ben "Stallz" Stallsmith, & Maor Avneri

Jonathan Zamudio is studying restaurant management at the Universidad del Valle in Puebla, Mexico. Jonathan came to camp for the first time in 2010 to work in our kitchen and returned this year as the Dining Hall Manager. Jonathan always had a smile on his face, and he sang a song session version of "La Bamba" that brought the chadar down.

Sara Federman has been on the pool staff since 2009. Currently, Sara is spending her junior year studying pre-med at the



From left to right: Ben Stallsmith, Maor Avneri, Sara Federman, Jonathan Zamudio, and Ethan Goodman

University of Salford, via the University of Toledo. Sara was a leader at the pool this summer, mastering the art of the world's best swim lesson and craziest night swim.

Hailing from Mansfield, Ohio **Ben Stallsmith** is a junior at The Ohio State University studying education. "Stallz," as his campers affectionately call him, was selected to be one of 6 Cornerstone fellows for this past summer. He shined as a counselor and helped plan the spooky Scooby Doo Maccabiah!

Ethan Goodman earned his 7-year shirt this summer. After two years as a counselor, Ethan made the switch to teva specialist. Ethan brought many

new ideas to our nature program this summer, including his most popular addition: pickle-making from the Camp Wise garden!

With a smile that can light up the entire chadar, **Maor Avneri** returned to camp for his second summer as a trips specialist. He is known for his wacky lunchtime skits and crazy Israeli shenanigans. Thanks to Maor, our overnights and trips are more popular than ever.

Camper Scholarship: The staff chose to divide the auction proceedings six ways, with the sixth portion donated on behalf of the 2011 staff to Camper Scholarships. This is one way the camp staff chose to "Live Wise" again this summer. . ★



Nitzan Goldzweig and Emily Newman show off their hand-made tallitot! This summer in Ohalim, each camper had the opportunity to make their very own tallit with our Jewish Educator, Mara Berde.

Noar girls (Isabelle Perla, Brianna Weisman, Maris Isenberg, Aviva Isakov) enjoy a break on the brand new swing set built by the 2011 SITs. The SITs built four swings to create a new area in camp for cabins to enjoy their together time!



a camp wise matriarch – the ruth baker story

By Jennie Post

Ruth Baker is the matriarch of an intergenerational Camp Wise family. Ruth, her mother, her two sons, and her two grandsons are all Camp Wisers. I have known Ruth as a Camp Wise nurse and grandma extraordinaire since I started working for Camp Wise five summers ago. This fall I was lucky enough to get to know her in another light – Camp Wise alumna. Ruth invited me to her home in Beachwood to share her personal Camp Wise story with me, and from the moment I walked in I knew I was going to hear something special.

Sitting on Ruth's dining room table was a stack of Camp Wise items: The book *The Camp Wise Story*, written by Albert M. Brown, bookmarked to the page that describes Ruth's mother, Shelley Blondes, one of the very first Camp Wise nurses. Under that was a Camp Wise brochure featuring Ruth and her grandsons, Sam and Gabe Baker, current Camp Wise staff. Underneath it all was a huge old photo album, carefully labeled with perfect typewritten headings and captions. Ruth spent the morning flipping through the photos with me, sharing detailed anecdotes about each photo. Her pride for her summers at camp filled the room, and I found myself daydreaming about what Camp Wise was like almost 70 years ago.

The early days

Ruth was a camper at Camp Henry Baker in 1942 and then Camp Wise from 1943-1946. Camp Henry Baker was the camp of the Council Educational Alliance, one of the predecessor agencies of the Mandel Jewish Community Center. Henry Baker was located across the stream from Camp Wise at its Painesville site, and the two camps merged in 1943. Ruth spent her elementary years at camp with her mom and was so excited when it was finally her turn to go to camp on her own.

In the summer of 1942, Ruth hopped on the bus with her neighborhood friends, learning the traditional Camp Wise songs on the drive out to Painesville. Across the street from the Painesville site was a new and bustling rayon factory. Ruth recalls that "the smell of the rayon factory was gross, but we loved it because we knew it

meant we were close to camp." The rayon factory's pollution is one of the reasons Camp Wise left Painesville for its current home in Chardon.

Ruth can't remember all the details of her days at camp- just that she loved every minute of it. "I know we didn't have a pool, or horses, or heaven-forbid a jet-ski! But whatever it was we had, the people, the spirit—it was wonderful." She'll never forget who her counselors were, which girls were in her cabin, and which boys were considered the biggest dreamboats. "Some things never change," says Ruth.

"Beans, beans, lotsa lousy beans!"

Some of Ruth's most cherished memories are from the days of the U.S. Crop Corps. During World War II, as farmworkers headed overseas to fight, farms faced a serious lack of labor to help keep up with growing demand for food. Camp Wise stepped up and participated in the government's Crop Corps, which gave locals the chance to help the war effort while learning farm skills as well.

Every morning, two trucks came to camp to take the teen campers out to the local farms to pick and package crops. Ruth and her friends loved feeling like they were helping to win the war—they felt incredibly proud and patriotic. They used to lie down between the rows of beans, taking in the joy of being out in the fields, gossiping about boys and their favorite camp activities the same way campers do today. Ruth's favorite camp song is even about her farming days, "There are beans, beans,



Camp Wise campers and U.S. Crop Corps members head out to the fields in the back of a truck.



Ruth Baker (bottom row, far right) and her cabin mates pose at the edge of the Camp Wise lake in 1945

lotsa lousy beans at the store, picked by the U.S., Crop Corp!"

The Next Generation

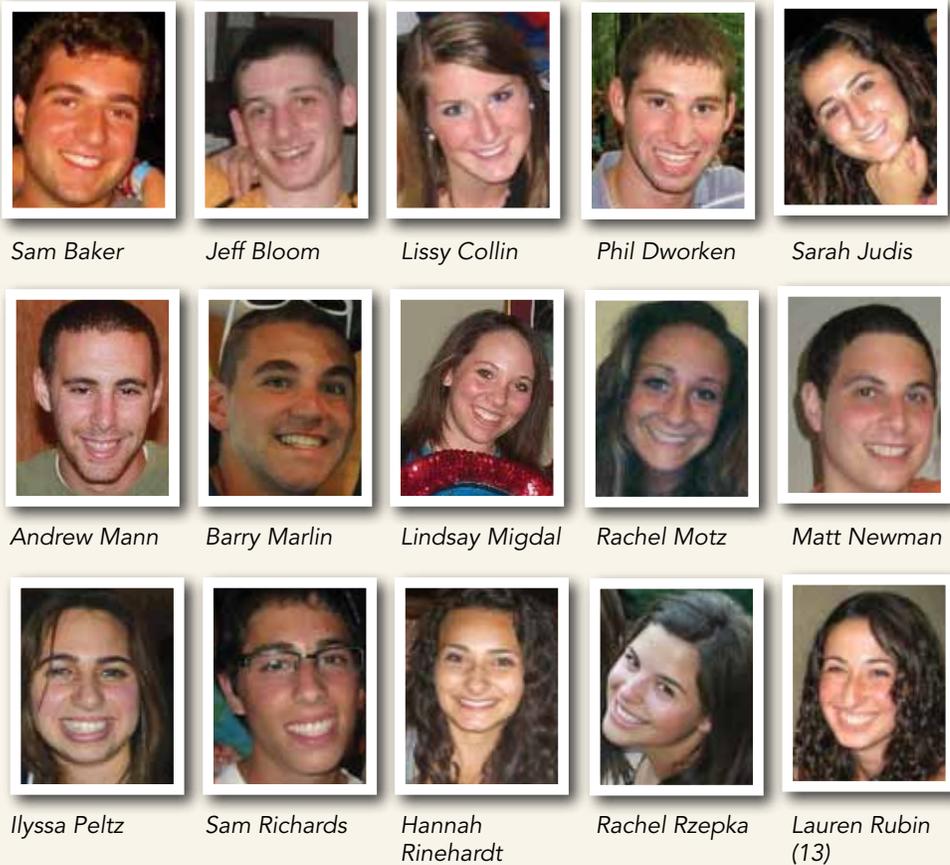
Ruth carried her camp memories with her into motherhood, and she knew when her boys were old enough they would go to Camp Wise too. "How could they not," she said. "Some things you just expect. It's like going to college and having your bar mitzvah- you just go to Camp Wise." When it was time for Ruth's grandsons to go to Camp Wise, it was the same thing. "Camp Wise is an important part of our family's life! It is remarkable to me that my grandsons feel the same way about camp as I did. They still count down the days."

Ruth loves that her kids and grandkids look forward to camp during the year just as she did. She thinks one of the most amazing parts of camp is that, "despite all the increased opportunities and distractions in their young lives, they still hold Camp Wise above all else." Sam Baker, Ruth's grandson, added, "Camp Wise is one of the most important aspects of my upbringing, and it is an amazing thought to know that camp has been precious to not only my brother and me, but my father, my grandma, and her mother too. It's strange, yet comforting, to realize that four generations of my family have shared the same ruach for over 100 years."

Today you can still find Ruth out at Camp Wise, working as a substitute nurse. She loves being able to keep up her own connection with camp, not to mention checking in on many of her camp friends' grandkids! And someday many years from now, you will see Ruth's great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren running around Camp Wise. For after all, that is the Baker way. ★

a milestone summer

The last night of each session, on CW night, we recognize staff and campers who have been at camp for 5,7,10 and 13 years. Five years are recognized with a 5-year bag, 7 years earns you a cool 7-year shirt, after 10 years you receive a sacred Camp Wise Crazy Creek Chair, and 13-year staff are honored with a giant CW sweatshirt blanket. Mazel tov to our 2011 10 and 13-year staff:



we love our parent volunteers

Todah rabah to our wonderful camp families who donated their time to camp this summer. Our volunteer doctors helped to keep camp healthy and happy, and our host families showed our international staff warm, Cleveland hospitality on their days off. If either of these opportunities sounds like something you'd like to try in 2012, let us know!

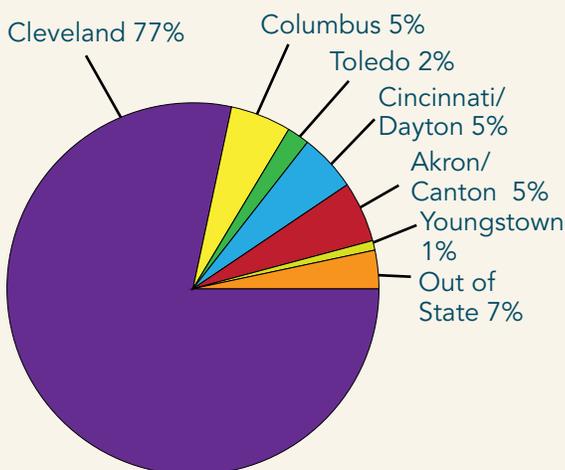
Doctors

- Deborah Gold
- Julian Peskin
- Scott Singer
- Chris Young
- Rob Zimmerman

Host Families

- Anne and Steve August
- Seth and Jodie Bromberg
- Jennifer and Jason Drasner
- Ann and Scott Flamm
- Erica and Larry Goldstein
- Becky and David Heller
- Jodie and Jon Herbst
- Lisa and Michael Kaufman
- Ellyn and Larry Klein
- Pam and David Kleinman
- Debbie and Richard Lewis
- Michelle and Matthew Levy
- Sharon and Marvin Rotblatt
- Roberta and Allen Roth
- Sonni and Steve Senkfor
- Edie and Steve Shafron
- Diana Shall
- Deb and Scott Singer
- Darby and Jon Steiger
- Deb and Scott Singer
- Peggy and David Sugerman
- Amy and Mitch Zlotnik

campers by city



wanted:

Trucks to be donated for use as camp maintenance vehicles. A fondness for gravel and carrying heavy loads required. Will be rewarded with long drives down to the beach, and soapy car washes.

A very special “**Todah Rabah**” to all of our most recent Camp Wise donors!

In addition to our annual contributions to camp, this past year we held a special capital campaign called Live Wise. Our Live Wise campaign partnered with the Grinspoon Institute for Jewish Philanthropy (GIJP). Through this partnership we were able to raise over \$100,000 and the GIJP matched a portion of the money donated.

I ♥ CW Staff Fund

Heidi and Loren Chylla
Tammy & Aaron Caplan
Jennifer & Jason Drasner
Joni & Todd Giterman
Meredith & James Grosser
Naomi & Jeremy Grunzweig
Heidi Kamins & Andrew Shupp
Jamie & Ben Light
Beth & Lawrence Pollack
Carrie & Steve Rudow
Shani & Scott Spiegle
Darby & Jon Steiger
Peggy & David Sugerman
Shelly Grieve-Zerkel & Danny Zerkel

In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Stein
Sharon & Sanford Stein

In honor of Rabbi & Mrs. Daniel Stein
Sharon & Sandford Stein

In honor of Adam & Nancy Levin Family
Beth Nicoson

In honor of Jessica Linden's awesome counselors
Lisa Linden

Camper Scholarship

Cheryl & Todd Bendis
Lynn Berg & Howard Bram
Tammy & Aaron Caplan
Mary Lou Capichioni & Bob Chaikin
Jennifer & Benoit Cohen
Paula & Kenny Cohen
Eileen Davis
Sharon & Robert Dizenhuz
Stacie Ettinger
Jane & Doug Furth
Hayley & Marc Feldman
Heidi & David Freilich
Jodi & Jon Herbst
Elise Jaffe
Heidi Kamins & Andrew Shupp
Shelia & Kevin Margolis

Debra & Kirk Migdal
Susannah Muskovitz & Steven Izen
Leah Sass
Melissa Shamis
Tobie Silver
Shani & Scott Spiegle
Darby & Jon Steiger
Peggy & David Sugerman
Harriet & Neil Schor
Leslie Wachter
Marla Zafft
Michael Zoldan

In memory of Irene Tishler
Howard & Donna Sperber
Kathleen & Paul Yates
Western Reserve Kennel Club

In memory of our dear son Steve
Carol & Bill Goldman

In honor of Jamie Semel's Bat Mitzvah
Alison & Michael Arkin
Marlene & Harold Blumenthal
Jessie Bruder
Bonnie & Mel Dolin
Dubin Family
Lillian & Zeyd Ebrahim
Elizabeth & William Edgerton

Lynn & Bruce Goodman
Jerry & Clay Granoff
Jodie & Jon Herbst
Pricilla & Robert Horst
Susan & Michael Hyman
Geoffrey James
Joseph Kornfeld
Liz & Brett Krantz
Carol & Marvin Lader
Sharon & Larry Newman
Jason Outcalt
Cantor Misha Pisman
Jennie Post
Tamar Preminger
Dr. Tena Rosner
Andrew Seidel
Susan Semel
Ray Sharrow
Peter Shick

Deb & Scott Singer
Jeffrey Solomon
Mary Solomon
Sloane Stack
Sarah Tibbits

In honor of Jonah Ricanati's Bar Mitzvah
Matthew Warshawsky
Kitty Warshawsky
Lee Warshawsky
Tim, Sarah and Daniel Tibbits

In honor of Keeva Schneider's Bar Mitzvah
Jeremy Pappas

In honor of Don Kaufman's 80th Birthday
Pam & Mark Goldfarb

In honor of Scott Brown
Karen & Neal Brown

In memory of Mr. Fever
Sherri Koppel

In honor of Sophie Alter's Bat Mitzvah
Jamie, Ben & Hannah Light

In memory of Lillian Grossman
William Kress

Camp Operations

Jessica Auerbach
Sheryl Berman
Sherri Koppel
Leah Sass

In memory of Barbara Gilden
Bernda Temsey

In honor of Dr. Harold Mars
Audrey & Albert Ratner Family Foundation

Live Wise Campaign

Cathy & Paul Becker
Joel Beren
Julie & Robert Bloom
Toby & Norm Bresky
Michael Broida
Jane & Scott Brown

Ellen & Jonathan Brown
Kaye & Mel Chavinson
Heidi & Loren Chylla
Lisa-Karyn & Larry Davidoff
Hayley & Marc Feldman
Amy Filzer
Julie & Michael Frayman
Phillip Friedman
Mark Gersman
Dan Goodman
Alvin, Lottie & Rachel Gray Fund
Elyse & Kenneth Gustafson
Dolores Kleinman
Brett Krantz
Frances W. & H. Jack Lang Philanthropic Fund
Jim & Robin Levine
Kevin Levine
Julian Peskin
Kelly & Gil Rubanenko
Jon Rubinstein
Fredell Schnee
Keeva Schneider Philanthropic Fund
Kyla & Mitchell Schneider
Jessica & Alan Semel
Marcy & Brett Shankman
Michael Shapiro
Elizabeth & Brad Sherman
David Shifrin
Deb & Scott Singer
Marvin & Judy Solganik
Jason Sperling
Patty & Richard Sperling
Shani & Scott Spiegle
Darby & Jon Steiger
Edie Ungar-Shafron
Carol & Yair Weinstock
Michael Weinstock
Marni Weinstock
Wolinsky Trust
Beth & Chris Young

In honor of Jim Levine's Milestone Birthday
Heather Ross-Lowenstein & Irwin Lowenstein Philanthropic Fund

here's a big CW cheer

When someone at camp celebrates a big day we all stand on our benches and cheer about it! Here's a big C.W. cheer for all those campers and their families who have celebrated their B'nai Mitzvah since our last newsletter. Please let us know if we missed you and we'll include you in our next issue.

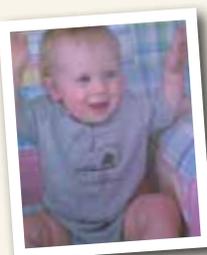
Also, tell us how you are "Living Wise" by emailing us at wisekids@mandeljcc.org about your bar mitzvah project and we'll highlight it on our website!

Zach Beder
Ari Bluestein
Brooke Bulmash
Claudia Gill
Parker Goodman
Hallie Howard
Greg Israelstam
Ryan Kaplevatsky
Alex Kaufman
Eli Kaufman
Alex Krasnow
Marcus Leavitt
Zachary Levin
Stella Moss
Jonah Ricanati
Max Rosenthal
Emma Saks
Philip Schnee
Keeva Schneider
Jamie Semel
Max Shall
Ella Silverstein
Samantha Starkoff
Gabe Sugerman
Jason Wasserstrom
Skylar Wittenberg
Kendall Yulish
Blake Zaffiro

C.I.T.s (Campers-in-Training)

Camp Wise Alum	Years At Camp	'Future Camper'
Karla Topper Lang	1988-1995, 1996-2001	Chuck Gunnar Lang
Becca Gruenspan	1981-1991	Trey Gruenspan
Eric Gerber	1985-1990	Eyal Gerber
Candace Levy Meyers	1988-1991	Brady Meyers
Cori Solomon Bloch	1993-1998	Aron Mitchell Bloch
Jonah Levenberg	1992-1995, 1996-1999	Jaron Isaac Levenberg
Franklin Malemud	1984-1991	Lux MacCartney Malemud
James McConnell	1990-1991	Hjalmar McConnell

Please let us know when any Camp Wise alumni welcome a new baby, and we'll send them a Future Camper onesie, pictured here on Chuck Lang and Aron Bloch.



Chuck Gunnar
Lang



Trey Gruenspan



Eyal Gerber



Brady Meyers



Aron Mitchell Bloch



Jaron Isaac
Levenberg



Lux MacCartney
Malemud



Hjalmar McConnell

be in touch!

Summer:

13164 Taylor Wells Road
Chardon, OH 44024
440.635.5444

www.campwise.org
wisekids@mandeljcc.org

Fall, Winter & Spring:

26001 South Woodland Rd.
Beachwood, OH 44122
216.593.6250

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on Facebook



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PERMIT NO. 1279

2nd annual ohalim winter wonderland!

Sunday, January 15 –
Monday, January 16

*Calling all
2011 Ohalimers!*

Come play at camp in the
snow!

Save the dates —
Details coming soon.

wise wednesdays

Last fall, we started a new tradition at Camp Wise! Every Wednesday, the year-round team wears Camp Wise gear to work and we encourage our campers, staff, alumni, and supporters to wear CW stuff too! If you participate in Wise Wednesday, take a picture and email it to jpost@mandeljcc.org and we will add it to the Wise Wednesday photo album on the Camp Wise Facebook fan page!



Becca, Jamie, Jessica, Kari (and her cardboard cutout), and Alan Semel celebrate Wise Wednesday together as a family!