

The Wise Times

Spring 2012 | Volume 6, No. 1



around the campfire with Sean

Hello to all of our wonderful camp families,

Time to dust off those duffle bags and haul out the hiking boots, in a few short months camp will be in session! Our maintenance crew is hard at work sprucing up camp for the campers' arrival, while our year-round staff is feverishly packing our bags to move out to camp. This year has flown by and we can already "feel the air reverberating with our mighty cheer!" (Did you just sing that last line? I did). Make sure to read inside about new and exciting additions to CW for summer 2012.

As many of you know, there was a tragic event at Chardon High School on the morning of February 27. A student opened fire on unsuspecting classmates and sadly, lives were lost. We ask that you send your thoughts and prayers to everyone involved. Camp Wise considers itself an important member of the Chardon community. We have been connected to them for almost 50 years.

This incident reminded me of part of our mission and what we try to accomplish each summer at camp – helping campers build self-esteem and self-confidence, teaching them how to problem solve, and encouraging the creation of positive relationships with others. We are able to do this with the help of the amazing staff we hire each year. These counselors play an

influential part in our campers' lives and provide positive role models. I'm sure alumni reading this letter can remember the names of every counselor they had as a camper. That's how important our staff members can be. The words below come from one of our alumni and they seem to touch a little deeper after thinking about the incident in Chardon.

I am sitting at a coffee shop, reading the newspaper, and suddenly, "You've Got A Friend" comes on the loud speaker, followed by "Landslide" and "Cats In the Cradle." At the break of two, "Time Stops". My mind, heart and soul are transported to 13164 Taylor Wells Rd. in Chardon, Ohio.

Ah... camp. 14 summers, 22 sessions, with a couple of weekend visits since, have filled my Jewish and musical soul and continue to until this day, even at times when the years have passed, the weather is cold, and I am hundreds of miles away. All I need to do is day dream, close my eyes to be transported back to the land of canteen, Havdallah at the pool, Shabbatones, and crazy-go-nuts nights. That's paradise, that's a true home of happiness. That's a place where a shy, dorky kid can feel cool, build the confidence and skills to believe he or she can be

anything they desire to be. To be challenged, have fun, and feel the awesomeness that is taking part in a loving and active Jewish community. That's a place where the missing pieces of life can be filled. That's a place like camp. That's a place called Camp Wise.

I miss camp, I can't wait for my next visit, and I am extremely jealous for the 10 year olds who are in Chalutzim, Rishon or Echad, who have so many amazing years as campers and staff ahead of the them. I am jealous. "Time Stops" when I think of Camp Wise.

– Mark S. Young
CW Alum 1991-2005
Camp Songboy 2000-2005

Camp Wise is a special and magical place that helps build strong, confident individuals who go on to become leaders in their communities. We are proud that we have touched so many lives during the last 105 years at the "Home of Happiness." We thank Mark Young for allowing us to share his words with everyone and his musical talent with so many past campers and staff members.

Chag Sameach,

Sean Morgan
Director

Camp News!

Meet our new Assistant Director and new Retreat Coordinator! We are thrilled to introduce the newest members of our CW family, Rachel Felber and Erin Witschey! Some of you may remember Rachel, better known as Felber, as she is a Cleveland native and a CW Alum! She attended Wise as a camper and spent many summers as a counselor and supervisor. Erin, also a native of Northeast Ohio, has been hired as our first-ever Retreat Coordinator. Her main focus will be building our off-season program to match our incredible camp program. Don't worry though, you'll still see her down at the ropes course and singing and cheering with the rest of us! We are thrilled to have both of them at the home of happiness for years to come. Learn s'more about Felber and Erin on pages four and six.

Want to try something new? Each year we scour the earth to find new activities to add to camp. After searching far and wide we are pleased to announce three new programs for this summer:

1. After two years, many of our campers have enjoyed learning the skills of waterskiing. This year we have a new challenge for you – wakeboarding! That's right, this year at the lake you will be able to canoe, kayak, go tubing, play on the water toys, waterski, and now wakeboard.
2. It's time to rock out Camp Wise! This summer a limited number of Ohalim and Noar campers will get the opportunity to become rock stars. We are bringing in Cleveland's own Club Rock to create Camp Wise Rock! You will have the opportunity to work with the professionals at Club Rock on your performance skills and then put on your very own rock concert at the end of the summer.
3. Do you play sports? Are you a cheerleader? Do you like to stay fit? We've solved your summertime workout blues. Prepare yourself for CW Boot Camp! We will be joined by the JCC's personal trainers who will lead multiple workout sessions and teach you how to stay fit and eat healthy throughout the summer. ★



Staff member JP Smith rocks out with Noar girls (from L to R) Kadia Simon, Hannah Sullivan, Taylor Goldberg, Skylar Wittenberg, Sarah Caplan, and Louiza Wise.



Noar camper Max Gustafson shows off his waterskiing skills. This summer we will debut wakeboarding at the lake!

share camp with a friend!

Did you know that you can receive \$100 for every camper you refer to CW! All you have to do is....

- Tell a friend how much you love camp
- Have them sign up and tell us you referred them

How simple is that?! And you (the camper) get a sweet Team Wise long-sleeve special edition t-shirt and you (the parent) get a great savings of \$100 off the cost of camp!

wise alumni – where are they now?

Meet the Allenicks

Back in the summer of 1977, Bob Allenick started the first-known overnight canoe tripping program for Camp Wise. This summer, his daughter Shaina Allenick has her dad's big shoes to fill. After 6 years as a camper and 1 summer on staff, Shaina will be our Trips and Teva supervisor. Shaina is excited that she is carrying the Allenick torch forward. "It's such an honor to share my title with my dad. We have always had a very special bond. This is just another thing that brings us closer—it is another thing we will be able to talk about endlessly."

Bob Allenick found his way to Camp Wise in the summer of 1977. After missing the chance to be a camper at Wise, he knew that he should not pass up the opportunity to be on staff. His friend and director, Ami Nahshon, told Bob he wanted to try an overnight canoe program and he needed someone to spearhead the project. "Done!" said Bob, without ever looking back. Bob was finishing graduate school at Case Western Reserve University at the time, and spent that spring working on the logistics for the new tripping program. Bob got his Canoe Instructor and Waterfront Safety Instructor certifications from the American Red Cross, purchased a bunch of shiny new aluminum canoes, and explored options for the trip's route. Bob organized two trips: a 2-day, 1-night paddle to the Ladue Reservoir for Noar campers and a 1-day, 1-night paddle along a similar path for Ohalim campers. The trips both started at a put-in along the West Branch of the Cuyahoga River (the same waterway that makes the Camp Wise Lake) just south of Burton Circle. The campers slept overnight at the canoe livery of Camp High that was located about a 6-hour paddle downstream and beyond the small but mighty Hiram rapids.

Bob still remembers details from the trips as if they happened yesterday. He can vividly recall the big rock where they always stopped for lunch on the first day. He even remembers the one trip where the beloved lunch rock was under water due to heavy rains. Bob can practically taste the toasted fruit pies the campers made for breakfast and see the cozy tents he taught the campers to pitch on their own. He remembers fondly popping a quarter in the payphone in front of the motel that was their last stop along the river. That call to camp let them know that the campers were ready for their van ride home—aaah the days before cellphones! The trips were a huge success that first summer, and continued just the way Bob planned them for many summers.

Today, Bob is the Executive Director of The Temple Tifereth Israel. He has spent time at the helm of many Jewish agencies in Cleveland and credits his summers at Camp Wise for his success in running non-profits. He says he carries the feeling of community he experienced at Wise with him and tries to instill that in his team of leaders and patrons. He also carries his love of boating with him. Bob is the captain of his very own sailboat and looks forward to a retirement sail around the world to the Caribbean and beyond with his wife Sheila. Bob learned from his Camp Wise canoe trips that it's all about the process. "It's trite but true," he says, "that it's not about the destination—it's about the journey. The experience begins when you set foot on the boat." He has passed on his love for sailing to his kids, who love the experience just as much. Both Shaina and her sister Karen, also a Camp Wise alumna, have been sailing since they were newborns.

Sailing is special together time for the Allenick family. And while aboard, they



Shaina Allenick rests after a nice, long hike in the Camp Wise woods.

love to talk about something they all have in common: Camp Wise! Shaina recalls that when she was a little girl, her dad used to tell grand stories from his times along the Camp Wise waterfront. She thought he was so cool for starting the program from the ground up, and she says, "He often reminds me that the canoes we use today are the ones he purchased years ago!" Shaina remembers that each summer she and her sister returned from a summer at Wise, her parents would have endless questions about what it was like. "They were so eager to listen to our stories and reminisce about their own experiences."

Bob beams with pride when he thinks about Shaina working at camp this summer. "What really touches me about her is that she not only loves the outdoors, but she wants to share it with others. Shaina shares with me the joy of kids returning from an overnight they were once nervous about, now so happy. I remember feeling the same exact way, and that is a beautiful thing." ★

the village all-stars:

summer 2012 village supervisors

welcome Rachel!

After stepping into a Chalutzim cabin her first summer, Rachel instantly knew her life would never be the same. That was way back in July 1991.



After a few summers away, Rachel returned to Camp Wise for her SIT summer in 1998 and stayed through 2006, when she was the Program Director. Fast forward another 6 years and Rachel is, once again, returning home for her 10th summer at Camp Wise!

So what has Rachel been up to these past 5 years? After leaving Cleveland she landed in Austin, Texas and helped re-energize their youth and teen programming, as well as their day camp, Camp Shalom. Most of her time was spent working with teens as the Assistant Director of the Youth & Teen Department and as the BBYO City Director. She recently completed the Merrin Teen Professional Fellowship, a nationally recognized JCC Association professional development program. Rachel also earned her master's degree from the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University.

Rachel is looking forward to reconnecting with former campers (who are now Camp Wise counselors and supervisors) and making new friends with all the campers and staff! Outside of camp she enjoys spending time outdoors with her dog Coco and supporting Cleveland sports teams despite their constant struggle to bring home a win. If you would like to meet Rachel or wish her luck in her first summer back, she can be reached at (216) 593-6228 or rfeiber@mandeljcc.org. Of course you can always stop by the office and say hi! ★



Megan Garrett

Chalutzim Girls Senior at Marshall University 7th summer @ Wise

Favorite camp activity: Shabbat Spirit Circle

*Campfires make me think of...*s'mores!



Becca Semel

Noar Girls Graduate of University of Michigan 12th summer @ Wise

Best camp memory: mudsliding

during second-year Noar
*Campfires make me think of...*the end of the Great Race at Maccabiah



Matt Newman

Chalutzim Boys Junior at Ohio University 11th summer @ Wise

Favorite camp activity: Battleball

*Campfires make me think of...*song sessions



Evan Meles

Noar Boys Junior at Ohio University 13th summer @ Wise

Favorite camp activity: Hanging out in the middle of Noar

with all the campers and staff
*Campfires make me think of...*telling tall tales



Rachel Rubin

Ohalim Girls Junior at Tufts University 5th summer @ Wise

Favorite camp activity: guitar

and arts & crafts chugs!
Campfires make me think of... memorable times with friends



Lissy Collin

Solel Senior at DePauw University Will spend six months in Tel Aviv through an internship with Career Israel. 11th summer @ Wise

Best camp memory: break of first session Maccabiah when I knew all of our hard work on planning was about to pay off!

*Campfires make me think of...*late nights at camp, looking at the stars



Andrew Mann

Ohalim Boys Junior at The Ohio State University 11th summer @ Wise

Best camp memory:

dressing up as an Oompa Loompa for Willy Wonka Maccabiah and having green hair and an orange face.
*Campfires make me think of...*CW Night

Visit www.campwise.org/RedWagon.html to see the whole 2012 staff list!

“reunited and it feels so good”

Today’s campers are lucky enough to be able to “reunite” every day of the year with emails, texts, and Skype, but the real fun comes when we leave our gadgets behind to spend some quality time together! This year we hosted three reunions: one in Cleveland, one in Columbus, and even one at camp. Each event was filled with smiles and memories, and of course boatloads of fun!

The day after Thanksgiving, over 250 campers and 30 staff met at the Cleveland camper reunion hosted at Fun-N-Stuff in Macedonia. Campers spent the afternoon catching up with cabinmates and counselors as they zoomed around the roller rink, raced through video games, and snuck up on friends in laser tag.

In January, we invited all 2011 Ohalim campers to the 2nd annual Ohalim Winter Wonderland Weekend at camp! Despite our warm snow-

less winter, our prayers were answered as a foot of snow arrived just in time (and melted as soon as we left!). Campers enjoyed sledding down the snowy Noar rec, massive snowball fights, an indoor cruise ship party, and a very special talent show with the longest bean skit in the history of bean skits!

And last but not least, this February the Camp Wise team headed south for the 3rd annual Columbus camper reunion hosted at KDB in Easton. Over 20 campers were joined by staff from Ohio State for a day of friends, food, and fun!

The next time we all get together will be the best, of course... see you in Chardon! ★



Leah Marks and Rebecca Goldfarb enjoy roller skating with their counselor Becky Lord (center) at the Cleveland Camper Reunion this fall.



Ohalimers show off their Octopus snow sculpture, complete with 8 winter gloves, at the 2nd annual Ohalim Winter Wonderland Weekend!

be in touch!

Summer:

13164 Taylor Wells Road
Chardon, OH 44024
440.635.5444

Fall, Winter & Spring:

26001 South Woodland Rd.
Beachwood, OH 44122
216.593.6250

wisekids@mandeljcc.org
www.campwise.org

Be a fan of Camp Wise on Facebook

ways we're living wisely

For his Bar Mitzvah project, Noah camper Jonah Ricanati asked family and friends to donate books to the new Camp Wise library. Thanks to Jonah, the library was a huge success last summer and is fully stocked for summer 2012. Philip Schnee took 10% of his Bar Mitzvah money and made a donation to our camper scholarships fund so more kids can enjoy Philip's favorite summer place. Joanna and Laura Sherman will be celebrating their B'nei Mitzvot this spring. For their project, they will be planting new gardens down at the chapel to beautify one of their favorite spots in camp.

Counselor Rosanna Baskin has spent her freshmen year at Bowling Green State University volunteering at American Red Cross blood drives. Rosanna helps with all sorts of logistics at the drives, and she also uses her awesome counselor skills to comfort nervous donors. On top of that, she always donates blood herself! Ohalim boys' supervisor Andrew Mann served as the hospitality chair for Ohio State University's BuckeyeThon, a student philanthropy that benefits the Hematology/Oncology Department of Nationwide Children's Hospital with the ultimate goal of ending childhood cancer. The biggest part of the fundraiser is a 12-hour dance marathon. Andrew coordinated the



Counselor Rosanna Baskin poses with BGSU's mascot and the Red Cross blood drop at a blood drive this year.

food, AV equipment, and timekeeping for the 1800 students that participated in the big night. Andrew and his team raised \$454,826.09, more than double the amount they raised in 2011!

Counselor Jessica Gottlieb helped plan a big fundraiser for the Syracuse Relay for the Life. Jessica's event was an all-night party at a restaurant on campus called "Funk 'n' Waffles". Jessica helped sell luminaries, t-shirts, and purple waffles to raise money for cancer research. Tivon Sterin and his classmates at Ohio State are planning a cultural fair to raise money for the Fugee Family, a non-profit near Atlanta, GA that helps child survivors of war settle into life in America. The non-profit runs a successful soccer program and recently opened a middle school.

Teva specialist Hannah Henschel has spent this semester living in Washington D.C. working for the Human Rights Campaign. Hannah's internship is focused on the Jewish Organization Equality Index, which helps make Jewish communities more LGBT-inclusive. This winter, Hannah got to travel to the National Union for LGBT Jewish Students (NUJLS) Conference where she got to reach out to students from all over the US who are trying to build inclusive programs on their campuses. ★



Teva specialist Hannah Henschel poses outside the Human Rights Campaign office in Washington, D.C.

welcome Erin!



Just like many native Northeast Ohioans, Erin answered the call to come back home. She couldn't think of a better place for her to share her love and passion for camping than Camp Wise. Erin spent her college summers working at Kelley's Island 4-H Camp and Easter Seals Camp ASCCA as an arts and crafts and adventure specialist. With a love for camp and a bachelor's degree in Therapeutic Recreation from Ashland University, it was clear that camping was her passion. She took a leap of faith and moved to Dingman's Ferry, PA to work at Camp Speers-Eljibar YMCA. There, Erin was the Associate Program Director of Conferences where she worked with rental groups during the year and helped organize their summer programs.

After a few years she found her way back to Camp ASCCA in Jackson's Gap, AL where she had spent so many summers earlier. For four years Erin was the Aquatics Director running their summer and winter programs. If you ask Erin, her favorite part was teaching all those crazy songs and cheers! Let's be honest, isn't that everyone's favorite part?

She can't wait to work on the ropes course this summer and with all of our amazing rental groups. She's sure to take our retreat center to new heights! You can reach Erin at (216) 593-6239 or ewitschey@mandeljcc.org.

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'nei Mitzvot 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!

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Brie Adelstein | Nicholas Kotov |
| Max Adelstein | Jason Lewis |
| Reagan Anthony | Alex Mangel |
| Jacque Berkson | Leah Marks |
| Katie Borshov | Matt Miller |
| Rachel Braun | Jake Morris |
| Joshua Caplan | Melissa Neides |
| Anabelle Cheistwer | Lisha Payne |
| Henry Don | Claire Poll |
| Samantha Eisner | Josh Rosen |
| Justin Fischer | Ben Ruskin |
| Bess Gatanas | Gabriel Shapera |
| Jeremy Gloger | Arielle Tindel |
| Cameron Godfrey | Emily Weisblatt |
| Abby Hirsch | Zach Weisblatt |
| Jacob Keffer | Matthew Weisman |
| Steven Kish | Jacob Weiss |
| Jeremy Klein | David Wertheim |

calling all alumni!

We want you! Follow us on Facebook and update your information with camp by using our "stay connected" link on the Camp Wise page. Not on Facebook? Find an electronic form on our camp website <http://www.campwise.org/alumni/registration.php>

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

Please let us know when any Camp Wise alumni welcome a new baby, and we'll send them a Future Camper onesie.

Camp Wise Alum	Years At Camp	'Future Camper'
Judith Cheskis Simpson	1988-1995, 1996-2001	Michael Baer Simpson
Elise Kleinman Jaffe	1988-1993	Carmen Yvette Jaffe
Jon Rosenblatt	1984-1990	Henry Barnes Rosenblatt
Aric Kinast	1984-1992	Kate Kinast
Deborah Koppelman Alpern	1986-1990	Avi Elliot Alpern



Michael Baer Simpson



Carmen Yvette Jaffe

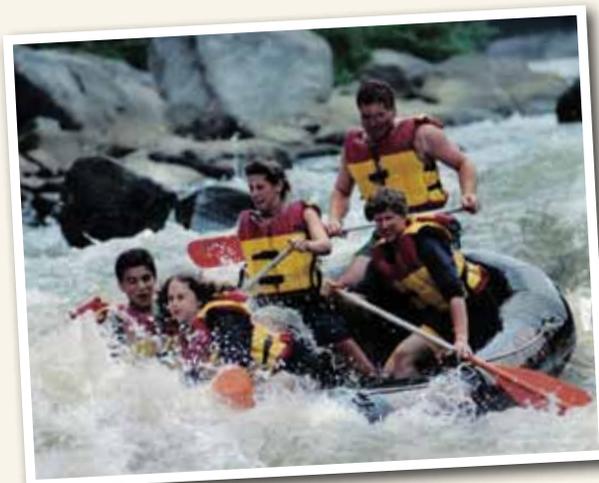


Avi Elliot Alpern

Tag—You're It!

Adding to the fun of our Wise Wednesday campaign on Facebook, this year we added another weekday celebration: Tag Tuesdays! Every Tuesday, we post alumni photos on our Facebook fan page, www.facebook.com/campwise, and encourage alumni to browse the

photos and tag their friends! If you have old photos from your glory days at camp, please email them to jpost@mandeljcc.org and we will add them! Even if you don't have old photos of your own, take a minute to look at the album and see if you can tag any of your friends!



CW alumni Jeff Haas and Meredith Zecher Sharp lead their campers Lindsey Weiss Hilton, Mark Young, and Aharon Segal on a Solel whitewater rafting trip during the summer of 1996.

Please forgive our oversight—

In our fall newsletter Philip Schnee was omitted from our donor list. Philip made a generous contribution of 10% of his bar-mitzvah money to camper scholarship. Thanks so much Philip!!

open
house



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

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Sunday June 3, 2012
1-4 pm at Camp Wise
RSVP by May 18

Open to new, returning,
and prospective camp
families! Bring a picnic
lunch and enjoy an
afternoon tour of camp.

new family Q & A night

Monday, April 30, 2012
Mandel JCC Stonehill Auditorium
6:30-8:00pm

All new campers and their parents are encouraged to come to this comprehensive orientation to Camp Wise! Meet the directors, learn tips to prepare for the summer, and meet other new camp families. Campers will have an opportunity to meet camp staff and get to know other first time campers in their program.

RSVP to Cathy by Wednesday, April 25th
at (216) 593-6250 or
email wisekids@mandeljcc.org

Campers David
Buchinsky and
Danny Simon
smile as they
head off the
bus to the tune
of the Camp
Wise Welcome
Song under the
traditional
counselor
bridge on the
first day of
camp!



Counselors
Arielle Miller
and Sam
Shiffman check
campers in
at the bus at
Beachwood bus
pick-up.