The Wise Times
Spring 2017 | Volume 11, No. 1

Words for the Wise

Rachel Felber, Camp Wise Director

This month we will be celebrating Passover. Families across the world will join together for a large meal as a part of the Passover Seder. While some families use the tried and true Maxwell House Haggadah (book used to tell the Passover story) others may use a Haggadah that was written just for them. Though the way the stories are told might vary, there are usually some universal truths that one can find in any Haggadah that they pick up. The structure, or order of the meal, will likely include the blessing of four cups of wine, asking four questions, and meeting four sons who help us understand the meaning of the Passover story. Each day at camp we also tell a story. And to borrow from Passover, I want to share four blessings we observe at camp; and the questions and people that make up those blessings that tell a bit of the Camp Wise Story.

The blessing of trying something new: each day campers are challenged to do something new; a camper might be encouraged to taste a new food as their counselor is eating it or a camper might be inspired to learn a new sport with their bunkmates. Parents might question what makes camp a safe place for their camper to try something new. With the support of trained staff and a culture that promotes growth at their own pace, campers experience many firsts at camp in a comforting and welcoming environment.

The blessing of our beautiful surroundings: we are fortunate to spend summers at our “Home of Happiness”. We teach our campers to stop and take notice of the things that make Camp Wise truly special; butterflies and dragonflies, a creek that runs again with water the morning after a heavy rain, and pine trees and maple trees that rustle together in a light summer breeze. When we learn to notice the beauty of our environment we also learn to ask questions like, “How do the tomatoes grow in the camp garden and who makes sure horses are cared for.”

The blessing of goodness: in the world around us there is so much good everywhere to be thankful for. At camp there is much that can be taken for granted without so much as thinking about it. Campers can sense goodness in many small acts each day. They feel it when someone teaches them something new, when a counselor helps them to solve a problem, or when they see a Solel buddy interacting with a Chalutzim camper. Camp Wise encourages all campers to find the good in all of their interactions.

The blessing of community: camp is made up of many communities. Each individual cabin forms a community that becomes a unified subgroup of their village community and each village is represented as a community within the larger community. Campers discover community in their cabin during bunk night, during a rousing game of gaga, and when their Maccabiah team captains are announced as winners and run to do a cannonball in the pool. Within each of these communities is where lifelong friendships are formed. Community is where our campers feel safe and community is where camp comes together and takes notice of the beauty all around us.

Those of us who are lucky enough to experience Camp Wise this summer or who have ever had the opportunity to experience summer camp know that this list could go on and on. Each day is filled with new experiences and blessings and those blessings make up the fabric of our story.

Camp Wise Year-Round

Staying connected to our special kehillah (community) throughout the year is very important to us! The “magic” of Camp Wise and the memories we share are thoughts that stay with our campers and staff all year long. That is why we make such a concerted effort to stay engaged with our campers throughout the school year. We have had many wonderful engagement and recruitment events this year, and look forward to a few more before summer begins.

We enjoyed some frozen yogurt treats at Menchies at Eton in September and some Fall Fun at Lake Farm Park in October. We met the animals, enjoyed s’mores and experienced a really cool corn maze. November included two fantastic reunions, one in Columbus at KDB Easton and the other in Cleveland where campers and staff gathered at Fun-N-Stuff. December included a bowling reunion in Boca Raton, Florida for our campers in south Florida, and thanks to the generosity of the Goldner family, we had a wonderful parlor meeting for the Miami, FL community in their home. In cooperation with JCC Day Camps, we hosted our first ever Winter Carnival where participants were engaged with arts and crafts, making s’mores, carnival games and inflatables.
WCW (Camp Wise Radio) is joining the 21st century!

Campers Adam Kling and Baylee Mallin perform in the 2016 CW performance of Willy Wonka. The all camp play will be one of many programs enhanced by the sound upgrades in the CW dining hall.

While we are still counting down the moments until we can test out our new ropes elements featured in the Fall 2016 edition of The Wise Times, we aren’t stopping there! In addition to the enhancements done to our high and low ropes courses in the fall, The CW Team has been working all winter on several exciting new additions for Summer 2017.

New for this summer, Camp Wise will be launching our own podcast! That’s right, over the summer your child will have the opportunity to write, host, and produce their very own podcast episode. While WCW will always rock you, CW is getting with the times and enhancing our radio program by investing in new equipment to replace our radio studio with our own podcasting studio! In the studio small groups of campers will have the opportunity to build a show and put it into production. Campers can choose to cover any topic in their podcast; whether it is a sports show, comedy show, music station, talk show, or anything in between. Campers begin by writing a script for their show and learning how to use the recording equipment. Each group will be provided with enough microphones and headsets to ensure each camper is “mic-ed up” and ready to record on our brand new Mac Mini computers. Campers will record their own show, edit it on the computers, and finalize it with a title and artwork. All podcast episodes will be played to the entire camp and will be available for parents to follow online!

In addition to our guaranteed 150 daily photos, Facebook cabin letter home posts, twitter evening- program updates, and Instagram photos, this summer Camp Wise will be posting podcast episodes to www.campwise.org – keep an eye on our website this summer for blog and podcast updates.

This summer when campers and staff take the stage for mealtime skits, lunchtime song sessions, or the camp play, everyone in the dining hall will be able to clearly hear them and follow along with the action. Another enhancement for this summer is that CW will be replacing all of our microphones and speakers, and the systems that connect them. Additions will include new hand held and performance ready microphones and all new dining hall speakers. If you have ever been in the Chadar Ochel during a song session, spirit circle, or when Maccabiah breaks, you know the excitement and energy is just indescribable. The new microphones and speakers will help ensure everyone can hear and follow along these most exciting moments at camp. And you can be sure; you will never miss another ANNOUNCEMENT!

Calling all 8th Graders! Returning for the summer of 2017, CW is bringing back the 8th Grade Noar Overnight trip. We don’t want to give you too many details just yet, but pack your sleeping bags, bring a flashlight, and be excited for a trip designed specifically for you!

With these additions and so many more, this 110th summer is sure to be one for the record books!! We can’t wait to see you at The Home of Happiness this summer. Stay posted to campwise.org for blogs, updates, and deadlines for Summer 2017.

calling all camp families!

There are many wonderful ways for our camp families to help us make our summer successful. One is by hosting some of our international staff on their day(s) off. This summer we have staff joining us from countries including Israel, Australia and the UK.

The other opportunity to volunteer is as a camp doctor. Our camp infirmary is staffed 24 hours-a-day with registered nurses. We are looking for doctors who can “take call” (by phone) for one week to speak with the camp nurses, and arrange to come to camp three times during their call week to see campers on site.

Please contact Cathy at the camp office to help us out! 216-593-6250

To celebrate 110 years of Shabbat under the stars, Camp Wise is creating a new siddur (prayer book). We are looking for Alumni to each give $110 or more to sponsor the creation of these new siddurim for this generation of campers.

Many thanks to these dedicated alumni who have already made their contribution. We are looking forward to hearing from many more of you!

www.campwise.org/110-campaign

| Jessie Bruder                      | Dana Figler Kessner                      | Jill Sadowsky                    |
| Gary Buchler                      | Michael Klein                            | Alyssa Sands                     |
| Rachel Cahn                       | Lee Korland                              | Jennifer Slate                   |
| Carly Kreps Day                   | Dustin Kress                             | Matt Smith                       |
| Janna Rogat Dorfman               | Ericka Reichek Levine                    | Jon Steiger                      |
| Deidra Kelvin Edwards             | Kevin Levine                             | Daniel Stein                     |
| Mark Frieman                      | Meredith Levine                          | Fred Sternfeld                   |
| Eric Gerber                       | Lisa Luxemberg                           | Mara Tencer Block                |
| Amanda Goldberg                   | Jill Birnbaum Maremont                    | Heidi Tolchinsky                 |
| Josh Goldberg                     | Barry Marlin                             | Alexis Weiss                     |
| Matthew Golden                    | Evan Meles                               | Jessica Gruber Wise              |
| Lesley Gordon                     | Katie Moscovitz                          | Rachel Klein Wolf                |
| Ryan Green                        | Jessica Kin Rosenblatt                   | Mark Young                       |
| Jennifer Grischkan                | Jon Rubinstein                           | Lynne Lutenberg Yulish           |
Staff Spotlight: Jamie Collins

Jamie Collins

Job at Camp Wise: Staff-In-Training Supervisor (SIT)

Years at CW: 2000-2003 (camper) 2011-2013 (staff)

Your favorite camp memory: I’m not sure this is my favorite memory, but definitely my most memorable! In 2003, as an Ohalim camper, I thought it would be a good idea to jump across the top bunks. I was wrong! I missed the second bed and broke my foot. Fast forward to 2012, when I was a staff member and enjoying a “leisurely” rain dance with my campers, tripped over a rock, and broke my foot…again! Moral of the story, I am not graceful but I am skilled in maneuvering camp on crutches and know how to make the best of my situation!

Share a bit about your current job: I currently work as the Director of Youth Engagement at The Temple-Tifereth Israel. The main focus of my work is outreach, teen leadership development, programming, and advocacy for our temple youth. IT’S THE BEST JOB IN THE WORLD! During the year, I work with amazing teens at temple, and this summer, I am thrilled to return to Camp Wise to teach, mentor, and work with our amazing teens!

How camp has impacted you: I never really understood what I got out of camp until I worked as a counselor. When I became a staff member, I finally realized what I had learned as a camper because I was in a position to witness my camper’s individual growth and learning over the summer! Camp taught me to be independent, resilient, compassionate and understanding, which are all things I carry with me now in my daily life. Camp always has, and always will, challenge me to be a better person!

What are you most looking forward to this summer and why: I am looking forward to silly-themed lunches with the SITs, Shabbat walks, song sessions, spirit circles, floating breakfasts on the lake, helping the SITs plan an incredible 4th of July Carnival, Maccabiah, tie-dying, and of course, our second session SIT trip to ISRAEL (all of this said in one giant breath, and I could go on…)! It’s been a few years since I was last at Camp Wise, and I am eager to return and be a part of the magic this summer!

Random silly facts or skills/ hidden talents: I can recite The Parent Trap movie (Lindsay Lohan remake) verbatim, every single word.

Most important lesson learned at camp: I learned how to ask for help, and when. There are always going to be things you can’t do alone. Camp has taught me that knowing how and when to ask for help is actually a strength. Being able to recognize that you are struggling with something, and to see that someone else might be able to help you by putting their own perspective on it, is a skill that we should all posses. Sometimes it is important not to struggle with something on your own when there are plenty of people out there willing and able to help. There is also a lesson in here about when not to ask for help – figuring out when you can do things for yourself is important too!

Most important….a nice shower followed by a pep talk is usually the best solution to any problem!
Cori Bloch
First-time Camper Coordinator
Most looking forward to meeting a whole new group of campers who are experiencing Wise for the first time!
Favorite day at camp is EVERY DAY! I’m coming back to camp because I love camp!
Something important I have learned from my experiences at camp is... camp never leaves you, even after you are gone for a while. The magic of camp is still a part of who you are.

Rabbi Shana
Jewish Educator
Favorite camp song/cheer is “Get Together” at the end of Shabbat evening services.
Favorite day at camp is... while I am sure it is not surprising, my favorite day at camp is Shabbat! I love that it has a totally different feel than the rest of the week, and I love to watch siblings, who are separated for much of the week, excitedly reunite for services and Shabbat dinner. We truly, in our own Camp Wise way, fulfill the commandments to remember Shabbat and make it special.
Something important I have learned from my experiences at camp is... it is important, in life, to have places where individuality is not only accepted, but celebrated, and for so many people, that is camp. Truly creating a kehilah k’dosha (a holy community) means that we recognize that we are all created b’tzelem Elohim (in the image of God).

Hannah Tucker
Chalutzim Supervisor
Most looking forward to getting to know all of the campers in the crazy village of Chalutzim. I cannot wait to hang out all day and make Summer 2017 the best one yet.
Favorite camp song...during Friday night spirit circle, “Have you got that spirit?” My favorite camp song is 100% “Save Tonight” and always has been.
Something important I have learned from my experiences at camp is... how to work with others, leadership skills, and patience. Camp has taught me so many skills that I will carry with me throughout my life.
My spirit animal is... a puppy! Why? Because I love puppies and they are always excited and ready to do anything!

Sydney Ungar
Ohalim Supervisor
Most looking forward to Ohalim ROCKING and being the loudest village in all of camp!
Favorite day at camp is... Shabbat! I love being in the woods at the chapel on a Saturday morning surrounded by nature, campers, and friends.
I’m coming back to camp because... the kids! Camp Wise is my favorite place in the world and I want it to be just as special to my campers as well.
Something important I have learned from my experiences at camp is... the Jewish value of Kehillah, or community. Camp Wise has helped me understand how important it is to be surrounded by a supportive community at all times, and how to build that community piece by piece.

Adam Cohen
Ropes Course Supervisor
Most looking forward to new high ropes elements.
Favorite camp song/cheer is... Space Pants!
Favorite day at camp is... chicken nugget day.
Something important I have learned from my experiences at camp is... how to work as a team with people from all over the world.

Bess Brown
Arts & Crafts Supervisor
Most looking forward to being covered head to toe in paint and tie dye all the time.
Favorite camp song/cheer is... I love the Hamotzi, the prayer we say before meals, because it means it’s time to eat!
Favorite day at camp is... I love the average days at camp where there’s nothing crazy going on and you’re just given a chance to appreciate all the awesome things about camp. Also, any day where we have cookout (I really like hot dogs!) is my favorite day.
Something important I have learned from my experiences at camp is... I’ve learned that it’s important to not only be your quirky self, but also that no matter what people say, keep doing what makes you happy.

Adam Cohen
Ropes Course Supervisor
Most looking forward to new high ropes elements.
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Favorite day at camp is... chicken nugget day.
Something important I have learned from my experiences at camp is... how to work as a team with people from all over the world.
God’s images), and we each have unique and special gifts to share.

Adam Bloom
Chalutzim Supervisor
Most looking forward to… working with the young staff and new campers in Chalutzim to show them how amazing camp is!!
I’m coming back to camp because… It is my home away from home
Campfires make me think of… song sessions and s’mores
Something important I have learned from my experiences at camp is… the importance of doing things to help other people.

Julia Friedman
Noar Supervisor
Most looking forward to… Being at camp and having an amazing time with all of the Noar campers!
I’m coming back to camp because… Camp is the one place you can truly be yourself without having to think about it while having the best time just being you.
Something important I have learned from my experiences at camp is… Don’t be afraid to try new things and step out of your comfort zone because you never know how positive of an impact a new experience can have on and how much it can influence you as a person.

Jamie Campbell
Lake Supervisor
Most looking forward to… my 3rd summer at camp as an international staff member.
Favorite camp cheers is… A lunchtime song session (if that counts). A Chadar singing in unison is quite something!
Favorite day at camp is… The first day of a session. The buzz around camp is amazing.
Campfires make me think of… my childhood. I am lucky enough to be from the countryside where late night campfires on the loch (lake) side with a few friends and a lot of laughs were a common ritual.

Hope Gilmour
Horseback Riding Supervisor
Most looking forward to… learning about American and Jewish culture from all the wonderful staff and campers around me.
I’m coming to camp because… I want to build quality friendships, push myself out of my comfort zones, and contribute to a community larger than my own in Australia.
Something important I have learned from my life experiences is… attitude is everything!

Camp Wise Year-Round continued from pg. 1

It was great to see so many familiar faces and to meet new friends. In January we met many families at The Columbus Jewish Camp Fair, The Cleveland Jewish Camp Fair and The Toledo Jewish Camp Fair.

In addition, we had two incredible Winter Camps, one for 5th and 6th grade and one for 7th and 8th grade. We had close to 70 participants at each event and it was amazing to feel the camp ruach during the winter! Winter Camp had a variety of chugs (activities), evening programs, team challenges, indoor and outdoor games, song sessions and s’mores. It was a great taste of camp in the middle of winter.

Our community partners are incredibly important to us and we appreciate their support so much. We had the opportunity to visit many of them this year. We would like to thank the following organizations for welcoming us into their communities so we can share the magic of Camp Wise: Temple Emanu El, Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple, Mandel Jewish Day School, Columbus Jewish Day School, Congregation Beth Tikvah (Columbus), Congregation Tifereth Israel (Columbus), Suburban Temple – Kol Ami, B’hai Jeshurun, Park Synagogue, The Temple – Tifereth Israel, Kol Halev, Beth Israel – The West Temple, Gross Schechter Day School, Temple Israel Ner Tamid and Temple Anshe Hesed (Erie, PA) and the Jewish Community Center of Youngstown.

Mark your calendars! We welcome you to join us at The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes on Sunday, April 23rd from 2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. for a nature hike and presentation about our local environment led by a certified naturalist as well as an art project! This is a free event and you can register at campwise.org/naturecenter, by calling 216-593-6250 or emailing: wisekids@mandeljcc.org.
Weddings...

Barry Marlin and Samantha Greene
Barry Marlin (Solel 2004) married Samantha Greene on October 30, 2016

Dana Paris and Max Soroky
Dana Paris (Solel 2002) & Max Soroky were married November 12, 2016

Jennifer Grischkan and Bernard Gordon
Former camper, Jennifer Grischkan & Bernard Gordon were married November 13, 2016

Lindsey Weller and Sandy Cusmariu
Lindsey Weller (Solel 2002) married Sandy Cusmariu November 19, 2016

Michael Saig and McKinsey Crossland
Michael Saig (Solel 2002) & McKinsey Crossland were married Feb 11, 2017

Andrea Baer and Adam Goldberg
Andrea Baer & Adam Goldberg (both Solel 2004) were married Feb 18, 2017

We are proud of you, I said we are proud of you...uh!

When someone at camp wise celebrates a big day we all stand on our benches and cheer about it! Here is a big CW cheer for all those campers, who with their families have celebrated their B’nai Mitzvah since our last newsletter. Please let us know if we’ve missed you and we will include you in our next issue.

Trey Davis
Maya Dori
Kevin Grunzweig
Tira Heiss
Lillie Herbst
Jonah Kaminsky
Joseph Moritz
Jake Muenz

Liad Naveh
Max Ricanati
Katie Rusnak
Matthew Seifert
Lea Sokol
Daniel Uria
Avi Zimmerman

Be in touch!

Fall, Winter & Spring:
26001 South Woodland Rd.
Beachwood, OH 44122
216.593.6250

Summer:
13164 Taylor Wells Rd.
Chardon, OH 44024
216.593.6250

www.campwise.org
wisekids@mandeljcc.org

“I’m tryin’ to tell you...”
C.I.T.s (Campers-in-Training)

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<th>Camp Wise Alum</th>
<th>Years At Camp</th>
<th>‘Future Camper’</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ken Weinberg</td>
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<td>Jennifer Tallisman Swirsky</td>
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Please share with us when any Camp Wise alumni welcome a new baby, and we will send them a Future Camper onesie, featured here on Hunter Kalk and Mady Swirsky.

“Somethin’ ‘bout my life…”

Wanted:
Camp Wise is looking for mini-vans or trucks to be used as camp maintenance vehicles. We are also looking for queen size bedding and/or furniture to make our staff housing quarters more “homey”. If you have any of these items to donate, please contact us at the camp office to arrange for a pick-up and a tax write off!

KEEP US IN THE LOOP!
Share your life events in “The Wise Times”
Email wisekids@mandeljcc.org

- Weddings
- Births
- B’nai Mitzvah
- Moves
- Jobs
- Other life events!

We can’t wait to hear from you!

ALUM WISE

SAVE THE DATE
Camp Wise Alumni Reunion
August 11 – 13, 2017

Join us for the fourth annual Alumni Reunion. Kick on those old flip-flops, grab your favorite Camp Wise t-shirt, and let yourself slip back into simpler times at “The Home of Happiness.”

Open to all Camp Wise alumni who graduated high school class of 2012 or earlier.

For info: (216) 593-6250
wisekids@mandeljcc.org

Stay posted to campwise.org for more information.

Adults only. Interested in an event for families? Check out our Family Camp on September 1-3, 2017.
new family

Q & A night

Cleveland
Thursday April 20, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.
Mandel JCC Stonehill Auditorium

Columbus
Wednesday May 3, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.
Columbus JCC

All new campers and their parents are encouraged to come to this comprehensive orientation to Camp Wise. Meet the year-round team, 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 by using the link www.campwise.org/newfamilynight by April 14th. You can also call 216-593-6250 or email wisekids@mandeljcc.org.