Words for the Wise

In May, Israel will be celebrating 70 years as a young country and Jewish institutions all over the world will be holding festivities to honor 70 years of a Jewish State. Recently, there have been posts and articles in social media featuring titles like “70 facts about Israel” or “The best 70 photos of Israel”. These articles only just scratch the surface of the rich history and vibrant modern culture of Israel.

As a Jewish overnight camp, it has always been important to find ways to connect our Camp Wise community with Israel. We do this in many ways; making sure we have Israeli staff, inviting Israeli teens to be campers in Noar and Solel, using Hebrew language in camp, and eating Israeli inspired meals in the chadar (dining hall).

We teach our campers and staff that Israel is a sacred home for the Jewish people. And when we dig deeper, we find there are many parallels between Israel as a home and Camp Wise as a home. Israel is governed by law based on ancient text; Camp Wise uses Six Core Values rooted in Jewish tradition. When you step off the plane in Israel, you are welcomed into an environment filled with Jewish sounds and sites; when you step off the bus at Camp Wise, you are greeted by traditional camp music and time-honored traditions.

As our campers grow each summer, we encourage them to find their own personal connections with Israel. Nine years ago, Camp Wise introduced a 3-week Israel trip to our traditional Staff-in-Training (SIT) program which allowed our teens the perfect opportunity to immerse themselves in Israeli culture. As camp and the program have evolved, we’ve had to make some adjustments along the way. For summer 2018, we have made a significant change by introducing the Israel Leadership Summer (ILS). This program will now precede the traditional SIT summer. We are pleased to share that more than 27 Camp Wise teens will join three other JCC overnight camps to spend four weeks in Israel! This is the most teens we’ve ever sent to Israel in one summer! When the ILS participants return to the Home of Happiness in late July, their time at camp will be focused on their Israel experience and ways to share that with our camp community.

Many of our campers’ and staffs’ relationships with Israel extend well beyond the weeks that they are at Camp Wise. In the past few years we have had staff and alumni who have continued to foster their love for Israel by participating in programs in Israel including high school and college study abroad opportunities, volunteering, and short-term work placements. We have alumni that have taken on Israel leadership roles on their college campuses and alumni who work professionally to lead birthright Israel travel experiences. There are even several Camp Wise alumni who have made aliyah (moves to Israel) in the past few years.

We are continuing to explore more ways to ensure our Israel experience at camp has a meaningful and lasting impact. For the past year, we have been able to explore our Israel philosophy with the support of colleagues at the iCenter for Israel Education and we are excited to see how that will influence the next generation of Camp Wise campers and staff!
Taking the next step forward: CW Programming

Every summer, we look to enhance our Camper’s CW experience, especially when it comes to our programming. We are expanding our programs based on camper interest – from new Sol! Specials and a variety of Media activities – and we are keeping long-time camper favorites the same. Everyone will be able to enjoy the tastes of outdoor cooking, go jet skiing and tubing on the lake, and challenge their skills on the ropes course. Additionally, this summer, campers will notice new equipment at CW – including but not limited to two new Jet Skis and two new Ping Pong tables!

Our programming at Camp Wise is always focused on laying the foundation of skills that will last campers a lifetime. We are at the beginning of an exciting time programmatically where we are planning to build on our activities and program experience summer after summer to help campers grow over the course of their camp life. On a practical level, this means meeting them where they are at skill level and helping them to take the next steps forward to get to where they want to be. It is our goal for campers to create the experience they want and to have fun learning along the way with support from our amazing staff. In podcasting, this can mean acquiring interviewing skills, plotting a series of episodes, and learning to edit and publish finished products. In text, (where it can mean learning to identify the natural world, taking longer and more arduous hikes, setting up tents and wilderness shelters, going on off-site overnight camping trips, and eventually lighting a fire with no matches at all.) In basketball, it can mean understanding what it takes to play a team sport, developing a consistent lay-up and mid-range game, working on your spot up 3, and playing in a camp tournament. We want to provide our campers with challenging opportunities and the tools necessary to grow physically, intellectually, and socially.

At Camp Wise, our camp programming is driven by the belief that self-growth at each individual’s own pace is not only important but also most meaningful to our campers. Our programs are grounded in our Camp Wise values and enriched by the social experiences our campers have playing, creating, sharing, and learning side by side. We are looking forward to bringing with our campers this summer and watching them grow, change, and evolve, returning home at the end of the summer with a newfound sense of self-confidence, and what it means to be a part of something bigger than themselves!

Be in touch!

Summer:
13164 Taylor Wells Rd.
Chardon, OH 44024 216.593.6250
Fall, Winter & Spring:
24001 South Woodland Rd.
Beachwood, OH 44122 216.593.6250
www.campwise.org
wiseskids@meandejcc.org

CAMP CHAI @ CAMP WISE
A taste of camp for adults with special needs.

EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC!

AUGUST 5-9, 2018

Camp Includes:
- Hiking
- Cooking
- Crafts
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Basketball
- Indoor/Outdoor Meals
- Sleeping in cabins
- playing & other
- team sports
- evening dances
- serene walks
- relaxing in cabins
- and so much more!

For reservations, details, and pricing call Camp Becker at 216.593.6250 or email wiseskids@meandejcc.org

Staff Spotlight: Adam Cohen

Adam Cohen – Ropes Course Supervisor
Camper years: 89, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95

My name is Adam Cohen and I am excited to be returning to The Home of Happiness for my 14th summer at Camp Wise. Six of those summers were spent as a camper, one as a Staff-In-Training, and the remaining seven as a staff member and supervisor. Currently, I teach Spanish at Shaker Heights High School, which goes to show you, I truly enjoy working with young people! However, camp is a wonderful change of pace and attitude from the school year, and I always appreciate the balance between the two.

Camp Wise has impacted my life in so many ways, and I know my Jewish identity is stronger because of this. As a camper, I was able to make lifelong friends—many of whom I still keep in touch with. As a young adult, Camp Wise was one of my first jobs and it introduced me to the awesome responsibility of caring for children. Now, in my current role as Ropes Course Supervisor, not only do I have an opportunity to help some of the most vulnerable campers achieve a lifetime skill, but I also have the chance to collaborate with and mentor staff (most of whom are young adults) in supervising the ropes course. This has been a great journey in my continued work with CW as I’ve grown into different roles here, and I is very connected to my work as a teacher, resulting in my feeling especially prepared to work with a college-aged student teacher this year.

Summers at CW have been a fantastic influence on my family. As a parent, it has been so rewarding to watch my daughter grow as an individual, overcome obstacles, and learn to deal with interpersonal challenges while living in a bunk with other campers. My younger son also can’t be more excited to come to “Daddy’s camp” this summer!

It is really for all of these reasons that I have described above that I continue to come back to camp year after year. I enjoy contributing to a community that exudes positivity and growth, and most of all, it’s just plain fun! I am truly looking forward to seeing camp through my children’s eyes this summer, bonding with my ropes staff, and meeting new people.

CAMP WISE
Friday, August 31 – Sunday, September 2, 2018

Thinking about camp for a future camper or just want to have a fabulous get-away weekend with your family? Camp Wise is for you!

- Swimming, boating, waterskiing & tubing on our private lake
- Archery, basketball, soccer & more
- Campfire songs & stories
- Art projects including tie-dying
- Climbing trees & zip line
- Delicious kosher meals
- Late-night fun for parents while kids hang out with camp counselors
- Accommodations in our renovated cabins or rocked-out tents

For info contact Cathy Becker: (216) 593-6250 or wiseskids@meandejcc.org

FAMILY CAMP
Experience what the kids are having about!
The page contains a mix of personal updates, camp stories, and reflections from various individuals about their experiences and adventures at the camp. Some highlights include:

- **Karl Taylor** (Chalutian Supervisor): Discusses his love for the camp and the community spirit.
- **Joe Giurda** (Noar Supervisor): Shares a moment of gratitude and the importance of community.
- **Sydney Unger** (Chalutian Supervisor): Talks about the value of friendships and the impact of Camp Vasilion on her life.
- **Jamie Collins** (Live Wise & Logistics): Reflects on her time at the camp and the growth she experienced.
- **Julia Friedman** (Noar Supervisor): Shares a memory of a rainy day at the camp.
- **Adam Bloom** (Chalutian Supervisor): Talks about the joy of being with friends and the impact of camp on his life.
- **George Jonas** (Lake Supervisor): Discusses the importance of community and the joy of being together.

The final paragraphs by **Rabbi Shana Nyer** (Yeshiva Educator) comments on the value of the camp experience, and **Becky Sobo** (Media Supervisor) highlights the impact of the camp on her life, concluding with a positive note on the camp's lasting influence.
“I’m tryin’ to tell you somethin’ ‘bout my life...”

Read how Camp Wise campers and staff “Live Wise” year round!

Jodi Fish – Live Wise

Last spring, as I was planning to return to Camp Wise as one of the Olalim Supervisors, I was also presented with the opportunity to donate bone marrow to a 67-year-old female. Having surgery in the middle of second session wasn’t exactly the way I was picturing my return to CW, but I knew that opportunities to save someone’s life didn’t happen every day, so I requested a few additional days of advance of summer knowing I would need to travel to D.C. to donate bone marrow from both of my hips to a stranger in need. Camp Wise supported me in this adventure, and so in the middle of July, I traveled to D.C.

Thanks to the amazing kehillah (community) at Camp Wise, I returned to camp the next day and recovered hit by hit. As the months have passed since my donation, I have been told that the process is not 100% counted as normal for the first time in several years and the doctors expect her to enter remission in the coming months. She and I have kept in touch by sending letters to each other, and it has been an incredibly rewarding experience that I will always carry with me.

Several summers ago, I had learned about the Hebrew word for challenge—and it specifically learned that the root of that word, mas, means miracle. In my experience, at the root of every challenge is a miracle.

For my patient, her challenge was something physical, and something she couldn’t overcome on her own. She was fighting for her life and a bone marrow transplant was the doctor’s last hope. I, on the other hand, was facing a mental and physical challenge. I have always gotten nauseous at the thought of needles and blood. I didn’t know if I would mentally be able to go through the surgery. However, I felt a sense of responsibility and connection to this person who I had matched with—our challenges were rooted in the potential of the same miracle—my body was producing the very thing that her body needed to fight off cancer.

It truly takes a village to save a life. My family and friends, and Camp Wise, supported me throughout my entire experience during this journey, and I am so thankful to be a part of a kehillah that always has my back, and supports me in helping others at camp and beyond.

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

Braedon, Taylor and Riley Olsen to volunteer during Chanukah. Instead of getting presents on one of the nights of Chanukah, my entire family goes to Toys R Us and we get lots of layaway items. I was shocked that some of the toys on layaway only had $22 left which does not seem like a lot of money to us but to others it is a fortune. My brother, sister and I each got a cart and began our journey down the aisles. While it is fun choosing toys for others I also remember that other kids are not as fortunate as we are. My parents tell us how it is a wonderful mitzvah and how lucky we are to be able to help others during the holiday time. We purchase toys anonymously because we are taught that this should come from our hearts and it is not as important to be recognized.

Keep up in the loop!

(continued)
Sunday June 3, 2018
10 am - 1 pm
at Camp Wise

New to Camp Wise?
 Been coming for years?
 Just curious?
 Join us for a tour of camp.
 Open to everyone!

Please RSVP by using the link
www.campwise.org/openhouse.
You can also call us at
216-593-6250 or email us at
wisekid@mandeljcc.org.

Summer Tours

Considering Camp Wise for your
children? Come see camp in
action- Meet our leadership team
and experience the fun of Camp
Wise! You will even have the
opportunity to make your own
tie-dye t-shirt.

WHEN
Sun, July 1 • 4-7 pm
Sun, July 15 • 10 am – 1 pm
Meal included with each tour

LOCATION
13164 Taylor Wells Rd.
Chardon, OH 44024

RSVP
Registration is online only
campwise.org/summetours
Please register one week in
advance.
For security reasons, we
cannot accept walk-ins.

QUESTIONS 216-593-6250

CAMP WISE
12TH ANNUAL
WOMEN’S WEEKEND

FRIDAY, AUGUST 24 – SUNDAY, AUGUST 26, 2018

Relax, unplag and have a blast at Women's Weekend at Camp Wise.
Kayak on the lake, relax by the pool, get creative in the art shack,
tackle the rock wall, hike the trails, sample great food and drink or just
sleep in – it's all up to you!

Join us for a fabulous all inclusive weekend that will leave you feeling
refreshed and reinvigorated.

For complete information & accommodations visit www.campwise.org
For more info contact Cathy Becker at 216-593-6250 or
wisekids@mandeljcc.org.