Words for the Wise

We all know Camp Wise as the Home of Happiness, a place rooted in traditions, a place that allows each member of our camp family to feel a sense of belonging. We talk about this sense of belonging as something that is rooted in one of our core values, b’tzelem Elohim (in the image of God). We teach this value as we model appreciation of differences.

Our team of staff instills in their campers the importance of taking care of their friends and neighbors and the concepts of honoring each person’s body and mind.

One way we integrate b’tzelem Elohim into camp is by creating a cabin contract at the start each new session. The cabin contract is much more than an agreement of how to function over the course of a few weeks or a summer; it is an agreement about how a group should be living. We often call the contract a brit, which can be defined as a covenant. In other words, each cabin is making a pledge to live in an environment built upon shared values. We also teach this value when we celebrate a camper’s success. When friends and bunkmates can see that a fellow camper has the strength to climb to the top of the tower or perform a dance in front of an all-camp audience, it demonstrates that we are each capable of rising to a challenge and overcoming it.

As Camp Wise strives to create a kehilla kedosha, a holy community, we have written a new statement on inclusion. In alignment with our mission, our goal is to create sacred spaces grounded in chesed (compassion) and gemilut chasadim (loving-kindness) so that each individual in camp has an opportunity to develop self-respect, self-confidence, and a strong sense of self. Our goal is for campers and staff alike to be proud of who they are and feel supported in celebrating their unique identity and experiences.

As we prepare for this upcoming summer and the many more to follow, this new statement will influence how we train our staff. We will maintain our sanctity as a place where campers and staff are free to explore, try new activities, and go beyond their comfort zones.

I invite you to read the full statement on inclusion on our website at campwise.org/inclusion. We will be using this and the value of b’tzelem Elohim as guideposts for our 2019 summer.

Follow along as we update our camp community each week with our Fridays with Felber blog. Our first post will be online on Friday, June 14.
A Unique Link in the Chain of Tradition

Rabbi Shana Nyer – Jewish Educator

Spring is in the air, which means summer is just around the corner! It also means we just finished celebrating one of my favorite Jewish holidays.

Despite my distaste for matzah, I still love Passover. I love how the holiday is centered around home, tradition, and family. One of my first art projects as a child was actually a Matzah cover. My mom used it along with the one my sister made for years. Now, the grandchildren’s art projects fill the table. We always light my great-grandfather’s candles and use her water pitcher for washing our hands. The tunes we sing are a combination of my great-grandfather’s and the ones my sister and I, and now my nephew, learned in Jewish day school. We sit around the table and tell the Passover story, but we also tell and retell beloved family stories. Over the years we have added traditions brought by new family members and friends who have become family.

The Seder table is a good metaphor for life, as well as one for camp. We are all part of a collective Camp Wise history, a link in the chain of tradition that will be 112 years-old this summer! We have personal stories that make our camp experience special and unique. We have memories that hold meaning for us along with lessons taught by those who come before us to remind us of what really matters. These stories added to, and passed on, to future generations. We shall continue to learn and grow, and as new and special people come into our lives. May this be true for each camper and staff member this summer, and for everyone. May our table in life always be full of family and friends sharing stories, traditions and rituals — past, present and future.

Alumni Happenings
by Jennie Becker, Alumni Committee Chair

We have a lot of exciting events coming up for CW alumni! Get ready for warmer days filled with Camp Wise love.

This summer we are hosting a variety of activities. On Sunday, May 5, we’ll be launching the first Alumni Impact Day, inviting alumni to return to Taylor Wells Road to give back to the place that gave us so much. We’ll hear from panelists from fellow alumni who have been living and working outside of Cleveland and present their work on projects intended to help get camp ready for the summer season. We’ll be clearing trails, preparing garden beds, and building new picnic tables, among other things. We hope you’ll join us at RSVP at campwise.org/impactday. This spring we will also be hosting another round of alumni Shabbat dinners, with special guests like Carmel singer-songwriter Israel Albert and Columbus, and New York City. After a successful inaugural summer in which we paired over 100 alumni with camp staff partners, we’ll be starting the second annual “Adopt-A-Staff” letter writing campaign in mid-May. This is your chance to get paired up with a summer staff member and send them some snail mail at camp.

As the summer winds down, alumni and their families are invited to join us for early-access to Family Fun Day on Sunday, August 15th. Contact us at volunteers@campwise.org or please let us know to get more involved in any of these initiatives!

ExPERIENCE THE MAGIC!
AUGUST 4–8, 2019

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

Camp Includes:
- canoeing & other water sports
- nature walks
- hiking
- tennis
- basketball
- dodgeball
- sleeping in cabins
- great food
- amazing staff
- evening dances
- climbing tower
- team building
- so much more!

For questions, details & pricing: 216-651-8532 or email info@campwise.org

CAMP WISE
spring 2019 | camp wise news
Camp Wise all-stars: Spring 2019

Emily Gilbert – Chalutzim Supervisor
One thing I most looking forward to this summer is… Being back at camp! After two years away, I am excited to return to the home of happiness. Besides that, I cannot wait for song sessions—they are what makes camp feel like a family to me.

One thing I would love to bring to camp is… Wii! Olympics! I LOVE wii! I think it would be so fun to have an evening program or all-camp competition, of silly activities while wearing wigs!

If you were famous, what would you be famous for? Being an actor on Saturday Night Live! Look out for me one day!

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Sify Wittenberg – Ohalim Supervisor
One thing I am most looking forward to this summer is… Scream the final countdown after every meal, every day, 3 times a day.

One thing I would love to bring to camp is… Moro dogs, so that we can have a new dog dedicated to playing with dogs. Is potato bar a meal? Nope, it’s a side!

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Matthew Schreibman – Chalutzim Supervisor
One thing I am most looking forward to this summer is… Being in a new overnight camp, but not being new to camping. I am very much looking forward to meeting new people that I would have never met before.

One thing I would love to bring to camp is… An activity called Greasy Watersmelon.

One thing I cannot live without is… Your True, specifically the Naftso Onelet.

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Hannah Sullivan – Ohalim Supervisor
One thing I cannot live without at camp is… My bucket has specifically my tie-dyed bucket hat!

One thing I would love to bring to camp is… Brussels sprouts!

If you were famous, what would you be famous for? Being a spokesperson for Chobes, because it is the second thing that I cannot live without.

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Sarah Kurdilla – Performing Arts Supervisor
One thing I am most looking forward to this summer is… The excitement and the energy in the air during the first meal, evening, and night with campers.

Is potato bar a meal? No, but it is a great side dish!

If you were famous, what would you be famous for? Creating a giant crayon mural sculpture of Cleveland’s skyline.

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Jessa Segg – Rope Supervisor
One new thing I would love to bring to camp is… I am super keen to see an aqua aerobics class in action at the pool. I can picture it with everyone wearing neon headbands, and 80s music pumping.

One thing I cannot live without at camp is… My hair brush (I should have brought it! I genuinely do not know what American calls this. I believe it is the most useful piece of gear because I can go hands-free and see... it is incredible.)

Is potato bar a meal? Absolutely. I do not even understand how this is a debate in the UK. We have potato buns, potato pancakes, and potato soup.

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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 call the camp office to help us out at 216.593.6250
“I’m tryin’ to tell you somethin’ ‘bout my life…”

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

Camp Wise Alum                       Years At Camp                           ‘Future Camper’
Billy Radin                            2004-2006                              Micah
Adam & Daniello (Rubinstein) Schwingen 2008-2010/2009-2010                      Toby
Lee Steinbock                          1996-2001                              Mira

Please let us know when any Camp Wise alumnus welcomes a new baby and we’ll send them a Future Camper Onesie! The onesie is featured here on Toby Schwingen.

Weddings...

Alina Shankman (Sofie 05) married Kevin Lipp on February 10

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 cycle events!

We can’t wait to hear from you!

Bhei Mitzvah...

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! There 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.

Nicole Breslau  Leah Claypool
Shayna Berke   Jordan Klein
Sam Biskis     Maya Korland
Nicole Breslau  Leah Claypool

Staff Spotlight: Rachel Weinstein

Although I grew up in Cleveland, I never went to camp. Can you believe it? I found my way to Camp Wise last summer through an old friend (you may know her), Cori Bloch, who then led me to the “Home of Happiness”. Cori and I originally met almost 10 years ago while working together in Columbus, Ohio. Having never been part of the Jewish community as a camper, being a staff person has allowed me to reconnect with many wonderful people from my past. It has also provided me the opportunity to make new friendships that I have maintained throughout the year, even after camp has ended. During the school year, I am a teacher, so working at Wise in the summer helps fulfill my passion for working with children. My experience as a teacher has helped me to better meet individual needs of all of the campers that come through the infantry. I love spending my summer days in Chardon, OH!

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, June 16 @ 4:47 pm
Sun, July 14 @ 10 am – 1 pm
Meals included with each tour

Location
13161 Taylor Wells Rd.
Chardon, OH 44034

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

Questions
216.593.6250

Be in touch!

Summer:
13161 Taylor Wells Rd.
Chardon, OH 44034
216.593.6250

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

www.campwise.org
wisekids@mandeljcc.org

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, water skiing & tubing on our private lake
Archery, basketball, soccer & more
Campfire songs & games
Art projects including tie-dying
Climbing tower & zip line
Magical camp Shabbat in our outdoor chapel
Delicious kosher meals
Late-night fun for parents while kids hang out with camp counselors
Accommodations in our renovated cabins or rustic yurt village

For info: (216) 593-6250 • wisekids@mandeljcc.org
Camp Wise
est. 1907

Sunday June 2, 2019
2 pm - 4 pm
at Camp Wise

New to Camp Wise?
Been coming for years?
Bring a picnic lunch and join us
for an afternoon 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.

CAMPWISE
13TH ANNUAL
WOMEN’S WEEKEND

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23 – SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2019

Relax, unplug 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: www.campwise.org
For more info: 216-593-6250 • wisekids@mandeljcc.org.