Rainy days at camp can be a major disruption. The best laid out plans can be thwarted by an unanticipated thunderstorm. Though we can usually see a storm brewing, that doesn’t always mean we welcome it when it arrives. For you see Camp probably had exciting plans for the day. Perhaps it was a birthday celebration at the pool or a crazy-go-nuts paint party evening program. Though the staff planned for inclement weather, and back-up plans can always allow us to move activities safely indoors, it is never an equal replacement for what was planned outside.

Sometimes, the replacement is even better! Ask anyone who has been caught in some stormy weather at camp and they’ll have tons of stories of disruption. But for every story of disruption there is likely to be a remarkably memorable story as well. Rainy weather builds community. The entire camp is “stuck” in the chadar (dining hall) and the sound of our singing voices becomes louder than the storm. Back in the cabin, counselors take advantage of the extra time as a bunk, to lead meaningful conversations, facilitate card tournaments, or open up a cabin-spa! We learn to embrace the rain and by doing so we take a hard moment and make it beautiful.

You can find rain and storms all over Jewish wisdom and teachings. For many, the first thing that may come to mind is, the story of Noah and his ark. We read in Genesis that it rained for 40 days but that the waters were rough for much longer. In fact Noah was quarantined out on the water for an entire year, isolated with only his family and a bunch of zoo animals – sound familiar? Sometimes it feels like the last four months have been one really long rainy day, or an entire year spent on an ark. On one hand, our best laid out plans for summer had to be canceled. And on the other hand, we have found that the last four months allowed our community to grow even stronger despite being distant from the Home of Happiness. Just like rainy days at camp can be really special, there have been countless special moments shared with our camp community over the last few months. Communal Shabbats livestreamed with more than 150 campers, parents, staff, and alumni filling our screen, 2019 bunk reunions over zoom, and donations from over 200 individuals are all reminders of the strength of our CW Community.

When Noah made it safely back on dry land, he makes an agreement, a covenant with G-d. With this covenant, we also receive the rainbow. The rainbow serves as reminder of Noah’s covenant with G-d, and a reminder that following a storm there will be beauty. Each individual in our Camp Wise Community contributes to our rainbow. Thank you for being a part of the fabric of our family and for adding color to our world! 🌈
Welcome to Zoomar
OUR CW VIRTUAL VILLAGE

When thinking of camp, one tends to shy away from using the terms technology, virtual, or digital. However, when we found ourselves in unchartered territory in March – working from home and not with each other – we knew camp needed to expand beyond its forested walls to be able to reach our beloved camp families. Together, with you, we embarked on a journey to embrace the terms virtual programming in our virtual village, Zoomar. Shout out to Mal Chylla and Aba Katz, STs 2020, for co-creating this Together.

With help from our dedicated counselors and staff, we created programs and events for our campers and community that generated a new type of camp magic, which could be felt from the comforts of our homes. You have welcomed us into your kitchens during delicious ‘outdoor cooking’ lessons and Chopped competitions, into your living rooms during meanings! Shabbat services, and into your backyards during virtual campfires. Campers have been able to see rooms during meaningful Shabbat services, express enjoyment through the laughter, conversation, and singing tells a time that is typically swallowed up with campfires. Campers have been able to see familiar faces before the start of the traditional camp season! Seeing campers and staff, even virtually, provides us with the extra energy and much needed to get through this time. Even though Camp Wise will look different this summer, we hope you embark on this new adventure with us. Being a camper (or staff member) in Zoomar is surely a once-in-a-lifetime experience!

Future Events
The fun won’t stop with this start of the summer! Summer events will include:

- Village Campfires – Campers have expressed enjoying the more laidback nature of a village campfire, which provides the opportunity to hang out with fellow campers and staff members in a virtual space. These will take place weekly during the evening hours.

- Shabbat Services – Coming together as a camp community at the end of the week to celebrate Shabbat is important to us. Be sure to check the calendar to see the dates that we will be holding Friday services and/or Havdalah.

- Activity Programs – Our staff will create and lead interactive, 45-minute activities throughout the week. These activities will resemble our activities at camp – teva, arts & crafts, sports, cultural and performing arts, evening programs, song sessions, and more! Thank you to all of the families who were able to fit our virtual programming session in your schedule. Your feedback has helped us in our planning. As always, continue to check the Events Page on our website for the most up-to-date happenings.

Navigating this situation has not been without its challenges, yet we recognize how special it has been to see familiar faces before the start of the traditional camp season! Seeing campers and staff, even virtually, provides us with the extra energy and much needed to get through this time. Even though Camp Wise will look different this summer, we hope you embark on this new adventure with us. Being a camper (or staff member) in Zoomar is surely a once-in-a-lifetime experience!

Shana Says: Tikkun Olam

One day a rabbi and a soap maker went for a stroll when the soap maker abruptly turned to the rabbi and asked, “What good is religion? We have had religion for thousands of years. But everywhere you look there is evil, corruption, dishonesty, injustice, pain, hunger, and violence. So, I ask you, what is good is it?”

The rabbi did not answer but continued walking with the soap maker. They approached a playground where children, covered in dirt, were playing in the dirt.

“There is something I don’t understand,” the rabbi said, “Look at that. Unless we had soap for thousands of years, and yet those children are filthy. What good is soap?”

The soap maker replied, “But rabbi, it can’t be true to blame soap for these dirty children. Soap has to be used before it can accomplish its purpose.”

The rabbi smiled and said, “Exactly. And so it is with religion. We can teach it, and people can say they learned it, but until they have used it, it cannot make a positive difference in the world.”

This summer we were planning to put our Jewish learning to use and make a positive difference in the world as we examined our core values of Tikun Olam and how what is broken in our world. Last summer we discovered what it meant to be created b’tzelem Elohim, in God’s image. By focusing on Tikun Olam, we learned what it means to live up to that responsibility, through social action, social justice, and shomer ha’adamah (being guardians of our earth). Because this summer is different from all others, we will continue our deep dive into tikun olam next summer as we put our learning into action and work to make a difference one mitzvah at a time.

In the meantime, we can all think about tikun olam in our homes and in our own communities. We can make cards to deliver to nursing homes for people who may not have visitors right now. We can donate to our local food banks. We can use our craft and creative abilities to help our local community. We can support small businesses. We can stay in touch with family and friends, especially those who may be isolated. And we can extend our recognition to those essential workers keeping our communities running.

Let us know what other ideas you have or other opportunities you have found for tikun olam by emailing wisekids@mandeljcc.org. We cannot wait to see what you can do in your own communities and what we can accomplish together next summer.

Shout out to Mal Chylla and Aba Katz, STs 2020, for co-creating this Together.
**Thank You CW Staff!**

We would like to thank our staff and volunteers from our Live Wise Crew – Summer 2020, who have been volunteering with us over the past several months to lead virtual programming for our campers. We are grateful for their creativity, commitment, and partnership to Camp Wise during this time! We also have two cohorts of CW staff participating in incredible leadership opportunities this summer – Cornerstone and Nachshon! Read below to learn more.

**Our 2020 Cornerstone Fellows** – Becky Maly, Gabe Perla, Sam Wittenberg, Shane Goldberg, and Shayna Klig – conducted a virtual seminar with over 300 Fellows from nearly 80 camps across the country. Their training is focused on Jewish learning, Israel-related programming, and leadership skills for this summer and beyond. We are grateful for The Nachshon Project Camp Wise Fellowship, which trains our young Jewish leaders.

**Why is this good for camp?** As we continue planning for the upcoming season, we will have our Cornerstone and Nachshon Fellows as well as the rest of our camp community prepared and ready to lead creative, exciting virtual programs for our campers and teens! Thank you to all of our amazing camp staff and volunteers.

Moshah Shull
Joan Silkes
– in recognition of the annual contributions her family has made to Camp Wise and the immense love on had on my life
Moss Simon
Ryan Rubin
Jordan Soward*
**Eida & Max Yamson**
– IHO Rachel Felber & Abby Kaufman
– Jon & Darby Steiger
– Abby Kamka
**Ryan Laffit**
**Eben Thomas**
**Janae & Jordan Zadik**
**Tally Zimon**
**Mitchell Josephson**
**Josh Goldblatt**
**Karin Semel**
**Susan Posell**
**Allie Feldman**
**Natalie Feldman**
**Jordan Zadik**
**Jade Zeifman**
**Katie Roshen**
**Gabi Goldberg**
**Natalie Leibovitz**
**Brett Abraham**
**Ellie Shafron**
**Ryan Laufer**
**Matt Ortman**
**Katie Howard**
**Mya Davis•**
**Katie Klaassen**
**Jenna Cahn**
**Brielle Behrend**
**Karin Schiller**
**Jessica Dworkin**
**Tobin Wachtman**
**Sarah Kurdila**
**Jordan Kulbush**
**Bec Wightman**
**Kari Semel**
**Sarah Kurdila**
**Jordan Kulbush**
**Kari Semel**
**Sarah Kurdila**
**Jordan Kulbush**
**Kari Semel**
**Sarah Kurdila**
**Jordan Kulbush**
**Kari Semel**

**Our 2020 Nachshon Fellows** – Carly Chessin, Brielle Beeman, Maya Cohen, Allison Polster, and Joel Kling, conducted their Nachshon Project Counselor Fellowship. This prestigious Fellowship, a program of the Foundation for Jewish Camp, is geared toward staff who are ready to take on more leadership and responsibility by promoting positive Jewish culture change and advancement. Our Nachshon Fellows are: Carly Chessin, Brielle Beeman, Maya Cohen, Allison Polster, and Joel Kling.

Another group of dedicated, committed, and creative Camp Wise staff began their **virtual seminar with over 300 Fellows from nearly 80 camps across the country. Their training is focused on Jewish learning, Israel-related programming, and leadership skills for this summer and beyond. We are grateful for The Nachshon Project Camp Wise Fellowship, which trains our young Jewish leaders.**

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Rachel Braun – Chalumim Supervisor
What is your favorite Camp Wise activity and why? I love yoga at camp! It is so relaxing and calming. It is a great break to breathe, stretch and reflect, especially with all of the chaos that comes with camp.

Something important I have learned from my experience at camp is… Positivity is the key to happiness. I would not have such a positive mindset if I were not for the experiences I have had and lessons I have learned at camp. This is thanks to all of the amazing counselors I had as a camper who taught me to keep an open mind about activities that I may not love and to stay positive. A positive attitude will change your outlook on life and make you a much happier person.

Kellie Brananag – Chalumim Supervisor
What is your favorite Camp Wise activity and why? My favorite activity is probably the Camp Fire. I love sitting round the fire and singing Camp favorites. If you add s’mores to the mix then even better!

What is your #1 favorite item in canteen and why? The Hershey Bar - simple, delicious, chocolatey goodness – YUM!

Joe Gurski – Solei Supervisor
What is your favorite Camp Wise memory? I have a million memories of different campfires that have all melted into one, but the cliché answer has to be the first time we ever sang Magnificence all together and it was so beautiful.

What is your #1 favorite item in canteen and why? I am more of a savory person and I cannot get enough of those “Lays”, but it is so much better to join in with another friend and split something sweet with them, best combo!

Bec Rightman – Noar Supervisor
Something important I have learned from my experience at camp is… Everyone at camp knows me because of my horse song, which has made it to the songbook and I am honoured to have my legacy represented forever within those pages.

What is your favorite Camp Wise activity and why? The Heart & Soul of Camp! I love being able to visit and get a jet of my horse song, which has made it to the songbook and it was so beautiful!

Andrew Levy – SILO Supervisor
What is your favorite Camp Wise activity and why? My favorite Camp Wise activity is a good old-fashioned campfires! Bonus points if there is a song season involved. There is something magical about sitting around a fire with some of your best friends, singing, laughing, and having an awesome time!

What is your #1 favorite item in canteen and why? Popcorn! Is a reason needed?

Joe Gurski – Solei Supervisor
What is your favorite Camp Wise memory? One of my favorite memories from camp was seeing how happy the kids were after they had performed the end of season plays. All of the blood, sweat, and tears that went into that paid off and it was amazing to see the kids be so proud of themselves for years.

What is your #1 favorite item in canteen and why? It's a savoury person and I cannot get enough of those “Lays”, but it is so much better to join in with another friend and split something sweet with them, best combo!

Miki Levi – Ropes Supervisor
Something important I have learned from my experience at camp is… Friendship! No doubt that camp brings people together. We have staff from all over the world, from different background and yet, we get to become friends for life. Those two weeks we spend together feel like we have known each other for years.

What is your #1 favorite item in canteen and why? My favorite Camp Wise activity is to have empathy for those who come from different backgrounds and places.

Rachel Weinstein – Infirmary Manager
What is your favorite Camp Wise memory? My favorite camp memory is seeing my boys, Aron (J) and Lio (S) at camp for the first time in 2016. Bringing them to a place that is so important to me was so special.

Rachel Caplan – ILS Supervisor
What is your favorite Camp Wise activity and why? Maccabiah! I love the high energy and insane spirit that comes out in everyone!

What is your #1 favorite item in canteen and why? Skinny popcorn because they are always pretty generous with the popcorn to air ratio in the bag :)
Why do you love Camp Wise? I love hanging out with friends and doing fun activities.

What is your vision for CW’s future? My vision for camp wise future is to maybe one day become a staff.

Meet Our 2020 Staff-In-Training

This summer, we had 31 wonderful SITs ready to take the next step in their CW journey. This is the largest cohort of SITs we have had in several years, and we were thrilled to have such a vibrant, talented, committed group of young adults in this program. In honor of them and their dedication to CW, we invited them to share a bit about themselves with our wider community!

Why do you love Camp Wise? It’s fun, a place where you can be yourself.

What is your vision for CW’s future? To continue doing what it’s been doing which is providing a fun filled summer for campers.

Why do you love Camp Wise? I’m always amazed by the community and the energy they give to campers.

What is your vision for CW’s future? It is my home away from home. It gives me a chance to come to camp and feel like I can be the best version of myself. I have made countless amazing friends and memories with them that I would not trade for the world.

Why do you love Camp Wise? I’ve always been able to be myself and make great memories.

What is your vision for CW’s future? I want camp wise to continue to be a place that fosters long friendships and somewhere where everyone is welcome.

Why do you love Camp Wise? Camp Wise has always been a place where I know I'll have fun and be surrounded by friends.

What is your vision for CW’s future? I hope that Camp continues to provide these opportunities for future campers.

Why do you love Camp Wise? Because I meet so many awesome people and create fun memories with a loving and supporting community.

What is your vision for CW’s future? I have an amazing time!

Why do you love Camp Wise? I love all of the traditions that I meet and the memories I have with my closest friends. I love getting away from society and being away from my phone and just having a great summer overall.

What is your vision for CW’s future? It’s fun, and I get to see my friends over the summer!

Why do you love Camp Wise? It’s always been a place where I can be my best self, while having an escape. I hope a camper can have just as much fun as I have.

What is your vision for CW’s future? I hope that more kids continue to cherish and enjoy camp as much as I have.

Why do you love Camp Wise? It’s been nice to have a place to be with my friends and not worry about school or work or anything.

What is your vision for CW’s future? Camp is already amazing as it is, but it will only keep getting better and better as the years go by. My vision for camp’s future is to further grow the beautiful atmosphere and allow more campers to experience the magic that has had such an impact on my life and so many others.

Why do you love Camp Wise? Camp wise is my home away from home in the summer. I haven’t been home for a summer in years, I’m not quite sure what I’m gonna do, but one thing for sure is it will definitely relate to camp.

What is your vision for CW’s future? My vision for CW’s future is to have the same core values and bring a different angle.

Why do you love Camp Wise? Camp has always been a place where I know I’ll have fun and be surrounded by friends.

What is your vision for CW’s future? I hope that Camp continues to be a place that fosters long friendships and somewhere where everyone is welcome. Camp gave me the opportunity to feel connected to the Jewish community and allowed me to become friends with many people I otherwise would have never met. I hope that Camp continues to provide these opportunities for future campers.

Why do you love Camp Wise? It’s my home away from home and I get to see my friends over the summer.

What is your vision for CW’s future? I hope that more kids continue to cherish and enjoy camp.

Why do you love Camp Wise? It’s my home away from home. I love the people and I get to see my friends over the summer.

What is your vision for CW’s future? I hope that more people go to camp and have an amazing time!
Why do you love Camp Wise? I love camp because of all the friends and memories you make along the way. It's very rewarding for when your older and you can look back on how you've changed throughout your years at camp.

What is your vision for CW’s future? To continue to be the home of happiness for future generations to come. So everyone can have the same impact that I have had with my experiences at camp.

RUBY CHEISTWER
Years at Camp: 2012-2020
High School: Beachwood High School

Why do you love Camp Wise? The community we share and all the friends I have.
What is your vision for CW’s future? To be more diverse? I'm not sure.

What is your vision for CW’s future? I hope Camp Wise stays exactly as it is, because that is part of what makes camp so special.

VALERIE ZBOROVSKY
Years at Camp: 2015-2020
High School: Laurel School

Why do you love Camp Wise? The lake and the people
What is your vision for CW’s future? A place where one can learn to be both independent as well as part of a community.

AARON ENGEL
Years at Camp: 2010-2020

SARAH LEYBOVICH
Years at Camp: 2016 - 2018, 2020
High School: Riverview Senior High School

Why do you love Camp Wise? I love Camp Wise because it is an amazing place to be with my friends, make a positive difference in other people’s lives, and have an amazing summer!

What is your vision for CW’s future? My vision for Camp Wise’s future is to continue to bring people together and spread happiness.

SARAH NAMROW
Years at Camp: 2012-2020
High School: Laurel School

Camp Wise is a place where I can truly be myself. It is my reset button after the school year, where I get to forget all of my problems and spend time with my favorite people. I feel truly accepted in the Camp Wise community, and I know I will always have a place here.

What is your vision for CW’s future? I hope Camp Wise stays exactly like it is, a loving, inclusive, tight nit community that everyone feels at home in.

SETH KENDALL
Years at Camp: 2017 - 2020
High School: Solon High School

Why do you love Camp Wise? Simply because of my friends. The people that I met there can never be replaced and are some of my closest friends today. When I go to camp, I go there to escape any negativity in the world, spend genuine time with my friends, do dumb stuff, and to stay up till 3 in the morning talking about life. That is the beauty of camp. To be your best self and spend time with the people that bring the best out of you. That is why I love camp wise.

What is your vision for CW’s future? A community that cares and supports for one another. I want to see campers having fun all the time and being their best self, whatever that may be. I don’t want to see a counselor – camper relationship, I want to see an older brother – younger brother relationship. I just want to see kids having fun 24/7 with their best friends, screaming their hearts out, having late night talks, feeling at home.

TOVAH ELIA
Years at Camp: 2013 - 2020
High School: Solon High School

Why do you love Camp Wise? I love Camp Wise because of the people camp has brought into my life. My closest friends are my camp friends. I also love camp for the opportunities it has given me within the Jewish community, and the connections it has allowed me to make. I love camp because it has given me a fun place to spend my summers for the past 7 years.

What is your vision for CW’s future? My vision for Camp Wise’s future is to continue to be a thriving Jewish summer camp. I hope Camp Wise can continue the atmosphere and environment that I grew up in. Part of my vision also includes that camp finds ways to seek out more campers, possibly from communities we have yet to think of. I also hope to see that Camp Wise’s international staff program stays as strong as it is, because that is part of what makes camp so special.

ALIZA GREENFIELD
Years at Camp: 2014-2020

RUBY CHEISTWER
Years at Camp: 2017-2020

Why do you love Camp Wise? I love Camp Wise because of the people camp cares and supports for anyone who has been through the COVID-19 pandemic, we received an outpouring of support from both our alumni community and wider Camp Wise community. We loved hearing from so many of you, from recent camper and staff alumni to alumni who haven’t been to camp in decades to parents and family members of CW alumni. You all reached out with offers of support and we received an unprecedented amount of donations to sustain Camp Wise now and into the future. We are incredibly grateful for our intergenerational alumni community, and your love for and commitment to Camp Wise!

Hey CW Alumni! The Sosin Family! We’d like to thank all of our donors for your generous support over the past years. The event was a huge success in raising over $1,600, which will support camp in purchasing a new fleet of mountain bikes! We’d like to thank all of our donors for your support of Camp Wise – we are grateful and lucky to have you in our community! Shoot out to our bracket winners: 1st Place – Zach Marlin, 2nd Place – Lauren Kreayn, 3rd Place – The Sosin Family!

For more information about any and all CW Alumni events and activities, contact Abby Kaufman, CW Associate Director: akaufman@mandeljcc.org.

We Love Our Alumni
HERE ARE SOME PHOTO MEMORIES THAT HAVE BEEN SHARED OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS!

1948
1950
3rd Place – The Sosin Family!
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“Ultimate Camp Wise Thing”
Wise Madness Bracket!
CREATED AND HOSTED BY OUR CW ALUMNI COMMITTEE

Welcome Song
Closer to Home
Smiling Sea
Streets of Old Town
Harmonica Song
Pine Tree Song
Letter Writing Day
Mess This House
Step Up Step Back
Circle Game
Get Together
Announcements
One in a Million
Barnyard

Bug Juice
Mac n Cheese
Floating It Fast
Larry’s Chicken
Camping Smart
S’mores
Veggie Bar
Silent Lunch
Surprise Bag
Chopsticks
Super Cereal
Cookout
Happy Birthday
Bubble Fantasia
Pizza Wheels
Overnight Rumaun
Roasted Chestnut
CW Night
Hunk Night
Great Race
7-Year Shirt
Macabali Break
Wishing Rock
Ivan’s Mysterious
Shabbat Walk
My Wish Day
Pop Rocks
Harelech
Split Circle
Shabbat Paint
7/4 Soccer Game
Israeli Square
Song Session

L’Dor VaDor Region
Chaladar Region
Song Region
Chafesh Region

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

Beatrice Porter
Ivy Moore
Nathan Saad
Summer Saig

Laighton Self
Norah Cusmariu
Samuel Minkoff
Lyla Gerst

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.

Jacob Doott
Rachel Wolf
Maddy Piloff
Izzy Kaufman
Tali Millet
Daniel Zelvinsky


Please let us know when any Camp Wise alumnus welcomes a new baby and we will send them a Future Camper onesie! The onesie is modeled here on Ivy Moore.

B’nei Mitzvah

Beatrice Porter
Summer Saig
Ivy Moore
Nathan Saad

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.

Jacob Doott
Rachel Wolf
Maddy Piloff
Izzy Kaufman
Tali Millet
Daniel Zelvinsky


Please let us know when any Camp Wise alumnus welcomes a new baby and we will send them a Future Camper onesie! The onesie is modeled here on Ivy Moore.

Be in touch!

Summer:
13164 Taylor Wells Road
Chariton, OH 44024
216.593.6200

Fall, Winter & Spring:
26001 South Woodland Road
Beachwood, OH 44122
216.593.6200

www.campwise.org • wisekids@mandeljcc.org

Mandel Jewish Community Center of Cleveland
26001 South Woodland Road • Beachwood, Ohio 44122