

# Camp Harlam Alumni Newsletter

Winter 2009

## In This Issue

CHAI Alumni Weekend 2009

Alumni Spotlight Foreword

Alumni in the Community

What Year Was It?

Simchas

Alumni Spotlight: Past CHAI Presidents

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

## Quick Links

[Harlam Alumni Website](#)

[Camp Harlam Website](#)

[Baseballglove.com](#)

[Israel Religious Action Center](#)

[Tables in Training](#)

[Dickson's Farmstand](#)

## Greetings!

Shalom!

A belated happy and healthy new year from everyone here at CHAI. We hope you all enjoyed the change of year and hopefully a few days off from work.

Three years ago we started this newsletter to generate interest within the Harlam Alumni community. We also saw it as an opportunity to reach out to everyone and to keep everyone up-to-date on the happenings of your fellow alumni. Throughout these past three years, we have seen our distribution list grow fourfold as this newsletter now goes out to nearly 1800 people!

SAVE THE DATE: ALUMNI DAY 2009 will be on Saturday, August 8th. Details will follow in the late spring addition of the newsletter.

We are always eager to receive feedback, advice, and a helping hand if you can spare a few hours of your time. The feedback we have received continues to be positive. It's nice to know that so many people enjoy this newsletter every time we send one out. This one is jam packed, so sit back, relax and read on.

Enjoy the rest of the winter; before you know it, another camp summer will be underway!

Grilled Cheese and Tomato Soup,

CHAI

## CHAI Alumni Weekend 2009!

### Calling all Camp Harlam Alumni!

Reunite with bunkmates of summers past at Camp Harlam from April 3-5!

**What:** CHAI Alumni Reunion at Camp Harlam

**When:** April 3-5

**Who:** Alumni ages 21+ (significant others and/or future Harlam Alumni - aka your children - are welcome!)

**Cost:** \$95/adults, \$80/children, Free for children 4 and under

**What's in store:**

- Shabbat Services
- Social Action Activity
- Alumni Variety Show (break out the tap shoes, the clarinet and your 80's dance suits!)
- Campfire (complete with banana boats and smores, of course)
- Bunko
- Texas Hold 'Em Tourney
- Friendship Circle (just kidding)
- much more!

If you have additional questions or want to sign up for this event, email [harlamalumni@yahoo.com](mailto:harlamalumni@yahoo.com).

## Alumni Spotlight: Foreword by Johnny Golomb

Johnny was president of CHAI from 1984 to 1994 and he attended Camp Harlam during the following summers:

Avodah, CIT, Bunk Counselor, Arts & Crafts Director - 10 yrs. + 3 yrs. as Camp Father when my daughters attended (1999-2001) and my wife was on staff as Barbara "Wow." He currently runs the company [baseballglove.com](http://baseballglove.com).

### For the Record

Last night I took the train to Philadelphia to celebrate the birthday of one of my Camp Harlam bunkmates who I met forty years ago. The celebration was attended by eight of the camp friends I met in the summer of 1969. We were part of the Avodah program, the waiter/work kibbutz-style teen program that was housed down the road from main camp. Even after all these years we have not lost a beat continuing to be the same people we have always been. The community I met at camp was like the "old neighborhood." Camp made it possible for all of us to just be ourselves. These camp friends always make me feel special. I am completely comfortable with them. I've never known any other group of people who are as funny, who care as much about me, or who I have as much fun with. Not only did most of us go on to be staff and super staff at camp, but through the years we socialized often outside of camp, first in college then at many lifecycle events: weddings, births, b'nai mitzvot, and family funerals. There have been career successes and failures. Through it all, we have remained "the boyz." Of course, beyond my original bunkmates my camp community expanded exponentially including to my wife Barbara Lerman who I met at camp, and into the wider world of the URJ.

In the late 1970s the first generation of Baby Boomers "graduated" from camp. These Boomers had been literally raised at camp, many attending for ten plus years. Up until this time it was camp policy not to allow non-camp personnel to visit camp during the summer sessions. However, around this time, quite informally, camp had begun to open its doors to some alumni for one Shabbat Saturday during the summer. These were mostly well known former staff members who had gone through camp for many years. They were affectionately referred to as "Old Timers." A tradition already existed that on the first Shabbat of second session the lay leaders from various congregations of the UAHC Pennsylvania Council came to observe. This was known as "Camp Committee Day." It was also the day that Betty Harlam visited camp. For me personally, Camp Committee Day was special. First, camp served real lox and bagels for breakfast and, then instead of serving the traditional Shabbat picnic lunch by the pine trees, the kitchen would serve corned beef and real rye bread for lunch in the dining hall. I remember the Tenth Anniversary Celebration was on Camp Committee Day. The modest celebration consisted of a huge sheet cake inscribed, "Happy Birthday Camp Harlam" which was served for the entire camp and visiting Camp Committee members under the pine trees. Alumni "Old Timers" began to visit on this day. In later years The Camp Committee stopped scheduling their visits separately and the tradition of Camp Committee Day was replaced by Old Timers Day, then later by Alumni Day.

Beginning in 1978 Barbara and I hosted Camp alumni parties at my home on Long Island on Memorial Day Weekend. It was at this time that we began our work on behalf of Camp Harlam Alumni International. Simply, this was a labor of love as we put an extraordinary amount of work into it. In 1980 Camp had already turned twenty and a Committee was formed to produce a celebration for anybody that had been associated with the Camp Harlam family past or present. The Committee put together a successful reunion banquet at the Warwick Hotel in Philadelphia attended by 250 alumni. Barbara and I wanted to continue the momentum built on the Banquet. We saw great potential for a camp alumni organization that would help to benefit camp. In 1984 we encouraged camp to allow us to move the annual alumni get-togethers we had been hosting in the spring to camp. It was determined that this new Alumni Shabbat weekend which we called, "The Spring Chill," would officially launch the Camp Harlam Alumni International, and CHAI was born. Barbara and I built a mailing list database and produced several more successful events through the 1980s including Alumni Dinner Dances, Tributes and Winter Ski weekends at Camp. But overall, throughout our tenure with CHAI, we are most proud of the work done to establish scholarships for campers.

### **Camp Has Had an Impact...**

Since I can remember I have been associated with camping and camps. It has been an on-going experience for fifty years in which I continue to be deeply involved to this day. Although the Camp Harlam community has had an influence on me, I am actually the product of a diverse camping experience. Before I went to Harlam I went to a few other camps. When I was five years old my parents sent me to day camp. My father loved to recall how proud I made him when I was elected "Best Camper." (I won a free trip on the Circle Line, the boat trip around Manhattan Island.) After a couple of years of private day camp, my parents sent me to a small overnight camp in the Berkshires in MA. The campers and counselors I met there were hugely influential on me. I have kept in touch with some of those friends through the years. In a significant way, that camp fundamentally prepared me for my Harlam experience.

I was first introduced to the URJ (Union of Reform Judaism), then UAHC (Union of Hebrew Congregations) camping experience when I was five years old. Being the youngest of three boys I

remember visiting my older brothers at Eisner Camp in the Berkshires on visiting day. At that time Eisner was simply known as Camp Institute. Although I was quite young the visit left an indelible impression on me. It was very curious to me that my brothers should be at a place away from home sleeping in big rooms with other kids their age. We followed and observed their day activities: softball, tennis, swimming events and arts and crafts. I imagined I would be there one day. Little did I know how involved I would later become in camping.

While I was President of CHAI, I served on the Pennsylvania Council Camp Commission, the National Camp Council, URJ New Jersey Regional Council, the URJ Greater New York Council, and the Regional URJ MUM Committee.

### **Camp History to Date**

Our daughters, Joie and Sophie, will be back at Crane Lake (sister camp to Harlam) for their 7th summer. Joie will be a third year staff member as the Drama Specialist and Sophie will be a first year staff member. Barbara serves on the URJ Northeast Camp Commission (Eisner and Crane Lake Camps).

Every camp is a microcosm unto itself. For two months, campers find themselves in a world existing totally in and of itself, almost completely out of touch with the outside world. It's your news, your gossip, your entertainment day and night. Only a few outside news items find their way in or touch the camp community. Each summer has its own individual personality and is completely unique. Camp had evolved into what it has become today directly as a result of the contributions and inspiration of the people that attended. For me the camping experience was natural and I thrived there. I believe it was no accident that I met the most wonderful people I have ever known at the URJ camps. The URJ Camp experience is not just any camp. It takes a special kind of parent to send their kids. The experience was transformative and taught me what I need to know. Almost!

Thank you Johnny! You helped pave the way for the CHAI organization. To read about other past CHAI presidents and what they are up to now, please scroll down below or [click here](#).



**From Left: John, Sophie, Joie, and Barbara Golomb**

## Alumni in the Community

Shalom!

The Israel Religious Action Center just launched a petition campaign regarding the recognition of Reform rabbis in Israel and we need your help!

Currently, Orthodox rabbis are the only rabbis recognized by the State of Israel even though rabbis of all denominations are actively serving congregations. IRAC is fighting the legal case of Rabbi Miri Gold on behalf of the Israeli Movement for Progressive Judaism. The court has been delaying its decision for three years!

Please join the struggle for equality and go to [www.irac.org](http://www.irac.org).

Regards,

Lauren Joseph

\*\*\*\*\*

Emily Tabak (TABES!) Is Running a Marathon to Save Lives!

For those of you who don't know me, I went to camp from 1994-2004. Starting in Sharon 1 and finishing up as the Assistant Unit Head in Carmel. I am currently training for my first marathon, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team in Training. Besides pledging to run 26.2 miles with my teammates in honor and memory of those who have passed away from cancer (including my Aunt Susan), I have pledged to raise \$3,800. The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) is the world's largest voluntary health organization dedicated to funding blood cancer research and providing education and patient services. Deciding to run with TNT was a no brainer and I have camp to thank for that! Camp Harlam taught me that it is important to help those less fortunate than me. While economic times are tough anything you give will go a long way (and is 100% tax deductible.) Consider this - research funding has helped increase the overall survival rate of leukemia in children from just 4% in 1960 to over 85% today. Your contribution will also go directly to those fighting the disease by giving monetary assistance for patient care and counseling, costs that are not often covered by insurance.

You can donate money directly at my fundraising page:

<http://pages.teamintraining.org/nyc/cmc09/tabakrunsnashville>

or

Mail Checks made out to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to:

Emily Tabak  
225 E 10th St #3C  
New York, NY 10003

You can follow my training at: <http://www.tabesintraining.com/>

\*\*\*\*\*

Camp Harlam Alum, Jake Dickson, started his own business in New York last summer called Dickson's Farmstand Meats. Jake connects you to the small-scale, family farms in New York State that feel just out of reach here in New York City with a goal of introducing you to each farmer he works with by sharing

their stories, their farms and their growing methods.

With Dickson's, you can make conscientious choices about what you're eating by knowing more about your food. From the farm, through the distribution channels, to the farmer's markets, Jake makes it a priority to provide as much information as he can to help you make the best choice.

If you are interested, check out Jake's website: [dicksonsfarmstand.com](http://dicksonsfarmstand.com). You can order online. In the summer, Jake is at some of the farmers markets in the New York City. He also offers classes if you are so inclined to learn more about your food.

## What Year Was It?

### Camp

- Jim Soffer was the Tzedek unit head; Nancy (Levin) Fine was the Emet unit head; Gene Bell was the CIT director; Ronne Friedman was the Avodah unit head; and Andy Wortzel was the Shalom unit head.
- Debbie Friedman was the song leader.
- There were 2 Canadian International Staff.
- Ian Gershman was in Boys 1 first session.
- Bunks were numbered, not named.

### World Events

- Richard Nixon ended the US trade embargo against China.
- Mao Zedong invited the US ping-pong team to visit Beijing.
- A military junta led by Major General Idi Amin siezed power in Uganda.
- Erich Honecker assumed leadership of the East German Communist Party after Walter Ulbricht's resignation.
- India and the USSR signed a 20-year friendship pact.
- President Mobutu renamed the Democratic Republic of Congo, establishing Zaire.

### U.S. Events

- US Supreme Court ruled unanimously that bussing of students may be ordered to achieve racial desegregation.
- Pentagon Papers were published.
- Anti-war militants attempted to disrupt government business in Washington. Police and military units arrested as many as 12,000; most were later released.
- The twenty-sixth Amendment to the US Constitution lowered the voting age to 18.

### Sports

- Baltimore defeated Dallas to win the Super Bowl.
- Pittsburgh beat Baltimore to win the World Series.
- Milwaukee beat the Baltimore Bullets to win the NBA Championship.
- Montreal defeated Chicago to win the Stanley Cup.

- UCLA became the NCAA Basketball champions by defeating Villanova.
- Nebraska won the NCAA football national championship.

### **Entertainment**

- The album of the Year was "Bridge Over Troubled Water" by Simon and Garfunkel.
- The song of the Year was "Bridge Over Troubled Water," written by Paul Simon.
- "Patton" won the Oscar for the best picture.
- Glenda Jackson won the Oscar for the best actress for her work in "Women in Love."

### **[And The Year Was...](#)**

## **Alumni News**

Rafi Meiron, long time Camp Harlam Athletics Director, passed away in early December. Many of us shared some great times with Rafi while at camp. May his memory be a blessing.

### **Weddings and Engagements**

Joshua Strom was married to Tali Ruderman on May 25, 2008.

Rebecca Schwartz married Joshua Weinreich on November 8, 2008.

Daniel Baratz married Rachel Pearson on Saturday, January 24, 2009.

Rebecca Elias got engaged to Ari Forman.

Lyndsay Chauveau got engaged to Jonathon Lev.

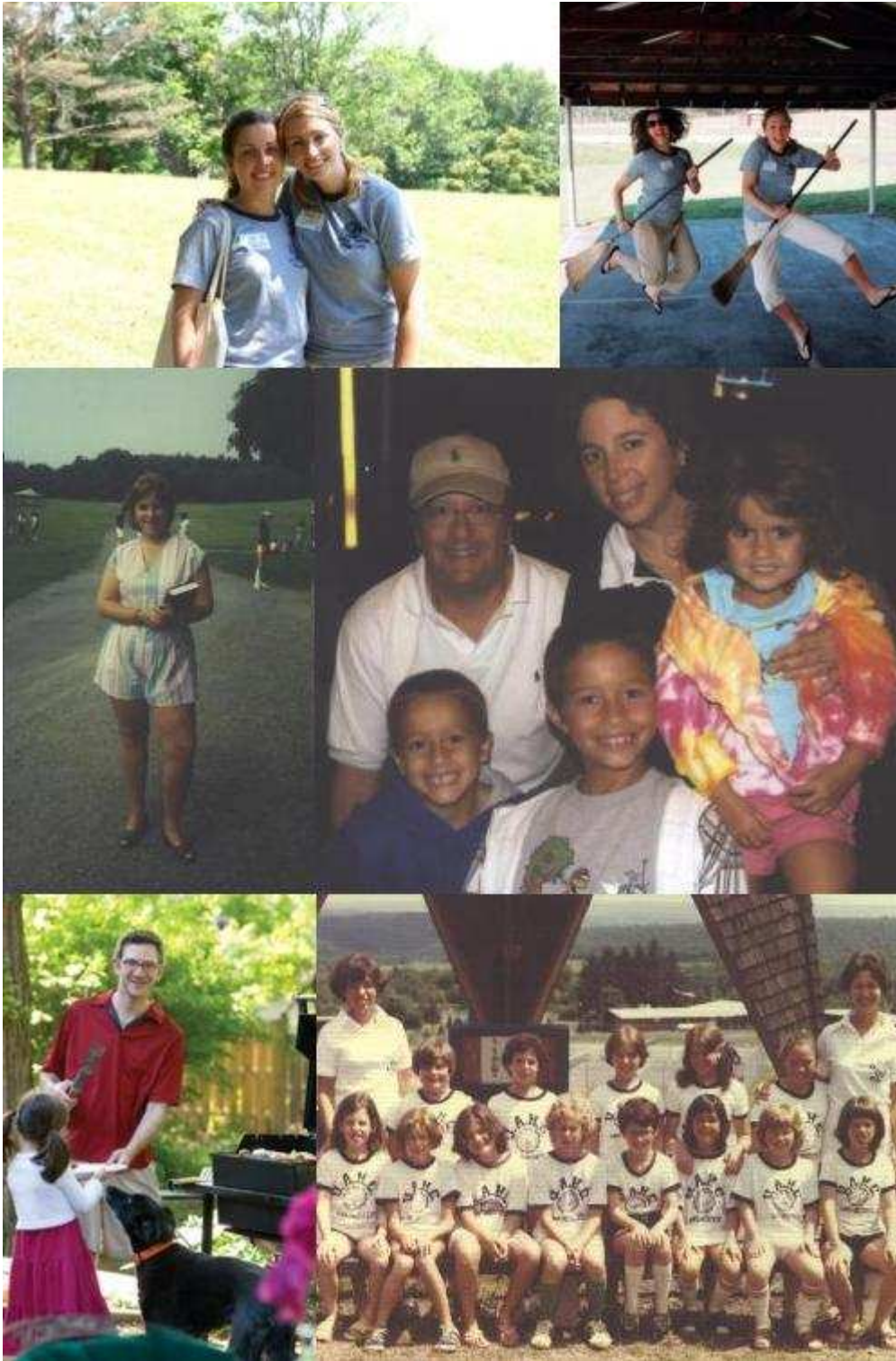
### **Births**

Shayna Sellers Sukoneck and her husband Sam Sukoneck welcomed Anna Jillian Sukoneck on Dec. 31, 2008.

Frank and Sarah DeWoskin welcomed twins, Mia Kaelyn and Livia Juliette, on January 24, 2009.

Jeff Zucker and Melissa Greenberg-Zucker welcomed Sydney on January 29, 2009.

Alumni Spotlight: Past CHAI Presidents



Clockwise from upper left: Pam Sandonato and Lisa Bieber near the CHAI memorial grove; Pam and Lisa in the Girl's Camp Pagoda trying out for the modern dance; Rob, Pam, Shayna, William, and Jacob Saltzburg; 1976 Emet (Pam Saltzburg is in the back row in the middle); Adam Rosenberg at the

Grille; and Pam Saltzburg at Camp in 1984.

## **Pam (Clarke) Sandonato**

### **How long were you CHAI president (and what years)?**

I served as CHAI co-chair with Lisa Bieber David from 2003-2008 (5 years). It worked in our favor that we have been the best of friends for twenty years. We met in Arava 1 in 1988.

### **If you could add any structure to camp, what would it be?**

When I had access to the CHAI budget I helped to build a long-overdue Memorial Grove that was dedicated to Harlamites that are no longer with us. Lisa and I literally "built" it with our own hands (digging, assembling benches, etc.) and we look forward to the annual memorial service every summer on Alumni Day.

If I had access to the URJ budget I'd build a cooking studio and add cooking/baking to the chugim rotation. Guest chefs can be Dave Lieberman from the Food Network and David Rosengarten from Bon Appetit.

Or, I'd build a mini-golf course back by the Z pool. It would make for a great bunk free choice activity on Shabbat or a good alterna-sport during color war for the kids that usually sign up to make the plaque or play trivia.

### **How many Swedish Fish from the general store can a Carmel kid fit in his mouth?**

I am going to say 50, which is probably the same amount that Alex Grumbacher could fit in his belly button.

### **What was the biggest challenge in being the leadership of CHAI?**

Accepting that not everyone loves camp the way I love camp. Meaning, there are many people that registered to be a part of CHAI that wanted nothing more than to receive some basic communication about camp and alumni affairs, and I always hoped (for 5 years) that each of these people wanted to also buy a t-shirt and volunteer for a committee.

### **What was the biggest reward of your position?**

The new CHAI Board was groomed by Lisa and me and we could not be happier with the organization's future. The five new officers share our passion for camp, and they all bring unique skill sets to the table. My reward is knowing that we left this organization in the BEST hands!

### **When you left CHAI, what would you say was your crowning achievement?**

Although I am a HUGE fan of the CHAI Tribute Cards (pack of 5 for \$18) we designed with Pam Saltzburg and David Rosenberg, I would have to say that I am most proud of the website that Lisa and I developed and maintained for 5 years. The design of the site was changed when we moved to the URJ server, but the content and applications we developed (with the help of Jason Zietz) are still being used. This e-newsletter was a pretty nifty idea too...thanks Scott and Adam!

### **Is there anything you wish you did differently while President?**

I wish I spoke with alumni groups from the other URJ camps more often because we could have relied on them for lots of great ideas for regional programming as well as Alumni Day programming.

**Outside of your tireless devotion to camp, what are you up to these days?**

I am married to a fantastic guy named Aaron and we just purchased our first home in Jersey City Heights, NJ. Sadly, Aaron did not like overnight camp when he was a kid.

I am the Vice President of Development at the National Down Syndrome Society in New York, which entails fundraising and event planning. I love it!

I never ended up becoming a game show host, which is the superlative I won during Arava College Day in '89.

**How many years were you at camp and in what capacity?**

I started in 1985 as a camper in Carmel A and I went for 14 consecutive summers until 1998 when I retired as an assistant unit head in Chavurah. I remained an active member of CHAI from 1999-2003 (I have my membership card to prove it), when Lisa and I were passed the torch from Adam Rosenberg.

**It is often said that experiences at camp have a big impact in shaping the type of person you become.**

**Do you agree with this statement and if so, how would you be different if you never attended camp?**

I absolutely believe that my time at camp shaped who I am today. I learned a ton about my talents and abilities from my camp mentors (Neil Rigler, Jyl Skolnick, Caroline Cutler, Peter Berg, Stefanie Ziev, Gary Gershman, Lynn and Scott Mackler, Ben Wachstein, and of course, Arie) and I worked hard to make sure that my influence in the lives of my campers was equally as impactful.

No where else was I able to lead groups, write programs and oversee the growth of 40 teenagers all while I was a teenager myself.

It also helps that I met some of the world's greatest people in Kregeville/Kunkletown, many of whom remain my closest friends.

**What's more difficult - Winning color war or being the first in line at med call?**

In 19 sessions at camp, I only won color war 3 times. In that same span of time, I managed to never once sleep in the infirmary or wait in a med call line.

In regards to the infirmary, I am still bitter about one thing. In 1994 during second session, they were short-staffed, so all of the CITs took a turn working for one afternoon in the infirmary - helping to sort medical files, setting up med call, etc. In exchange for our devoted work, we were supposed to receive a contribution of \$500 from camp to spend in any way we'd like. Although our first few ideas were self-indulgent because we wanted to buy ourselves a gift, we ultimately decided that we would donate something to camp. It never happened. That \$500 is still floating around somewhere and I regret not treating ourselves to Chinese take-out and funny t-shirts filled with inside jokes about the Lodge.

**Do you have the Chutzpah to say "Art Shack" (instead of Art Mecca) in front of Shirley Kollin?**

If Shirley can drop the f-bomb in front of me, I can say SHACK whenever I want. Oh, and Shirley, it was me who put the toilet paper F next to the big painted ART sign on the old SHACK.

**If CHAI didn't stand for "Camp Harlam Alumni International", what would it stand for?**

I was going to make some joke about spiced tea or the number 18, but then I googled CHAI and the following came up, Concern for Helping Animals in Israel. How can I beat that?

**Finish The Sentence:**

**My favorite camp meal is** at Platz's on my way home.

**The activity I looked forward to the most at camp was** chugim. I played a ton of sports at home, so this

was my only chance to do anything connected to the arts and I really liked trying new things like candle making at omanoot with Lisa Kalmanson or recording commercials in the radio shack with Jeff Skolnick and Evan Lipson or cooking on a mud stove in tzofim with Idan Bearman. I even recall many of the improv games taught to me by Bobbi Block in her drama chug (in the Hilton) when I was 10.

**The hangar was a place to AVOID** or flirt with Matt Stamm back in the day. It is definitely the WORST indoor team meeting location for color war.

**The Tzofim scouts were** teenagers who did not have to follow the same rules as Chavurah campers and CITs even though they were the same age.

**If you could go back in time and speak to yourself as a kid at camp, what would you say?**

I would give myself major props for having so much confidence during my most awkward years. Perm, braces, mullet, umbros, baggy shirts, frosty pink lip gloss - I am so surprised that I had friends. Thanks for judging me from the inside out, guys!

**Anything you'd like to add?**

Believe it or not, Pamela Clarke Sandonato is not on Facebook. She is currently accepting mail the old-fashioned way at [pammclarke@aol.com](mailto:pammclarke@aol.com).

**Lisa (Bieber) David**

**How long were you CHAI president (and what years)?**

5 years, 2003 - 2008.

**What was the biggest challenge in being the leadership of CHAI?**

Trying to take all of the great ideas we had, and that others suggested, and make them happen.

**What was the biggest reward of your position?**

Seeing the happy faces on alumni day, watching the organization grow and really begin to connect people in meaningful ways with camp and with one another.

**When you left CHAI, what would you say was your crowning achievement?**

Frankly, getting our website up and running as a tool to connect people.

**Is there anything you wish you did differently while President?**

Would have loved to delegate more!

**Outside of your tireless devotion to camp, what are you up to these days?**

I am professionally devoted to camp, actually, serving as the associate director of camping for the URJ and helping to support Harlam and all of the Union camps. I am also happily married to my camp sweetheart, Ben David, and the mother of a beautiful Carmel 2014 camper, Noa David.

**How many years were you at camp and in what capacity?**

Camper 1988-1992; Israel 1993; CIT 1994; Staff 1995-1997; Supervisor 2000

**It is often said that experiences at camp have a big impact in shaping the type of person you become.**

**Do you agree with this statement and if so, how would you be different if you never attended camp?**

Camp literally changed my life. So much so, that I wanted to provide the experience to as many Jewish

children as possible and now work full-time for the URJ camps. Camp made me confident, secure, devoted to Judaism, and allowed me to experience Judaism as joyful. It created lifelong relationships and has provided me with a lifetime of inspiration and memories.

**What's more difficult - Winning color war or being the first in line at med call?**

Having won color war but never making it to first in line for med call, I guess I would say med call.

**Do you have the Chutzpah to say "Art Shack" (instead of Art Mecca) in front of Shirley Kollin?**

Absolutely - I can't help myself!

**If CHAI didn't stand for "Camp Harlam Alumni International", what would it stand for?**

Camp Has Altered me Indefinitely.

**If you could add any structure to camp, what would it be?**

An underground tunnel from the Z pool to girl's camp - It was always so cold running back after instructional swim. Alternatively, I would say a secret hideout in the woods for those who want to cut clinics.

**How many Swedish Fish from the general store can a Carmel kid fit in his mouth?**

As many as you can! This is your only chance to have candy, except for Beltsville, so go for it!

**Finish the Sentence:**

**My favorite camp meal is** pizza and tomato soup.

**The activity I looked forward to the most at camp was** the Zimriah.

**The hangar was a place to** watch boys play hockey.

**The Tzofim were** nice, but I literally never went to Tzofim as a camper or staff member.

**If you could go back in time and speak to yourself as a kid at camp, what would you say?**

Larry Midler said it best: Don't waste a minute cause you'll never see it retu-uh-urn.

**Anything you'd like to add?**

For those who have not been back to camp in some time, come to alumni day. It is amazing how quickly the memories come to mind and it is an incredible experience.

## **David Forstein**

**How long were you CHAI president (and what years)?**

I don't recall. I think it was about 4 years between Johnny Golomb and Pam New Saltzberg

**What was the biggest challenge in being the leadership of CHAI?**

We had many discussions, but ultimately failed efforts at changing CHAI from a purely social organization to a fundraising organization. We did not have great technology at that time to aid in expanding the "good" contact list, nor did camp really have a specific need for funds at the time. I think all of those situations are different now.

**What was the biggest reward of your position?**

I was able to become better friends with camp acquaintances - Harlamites from a different camp

generation that shared that sacred bond that we all enjoy, and gaining a position on the Camp Committee, which I still serve on all these years later.

**When you left CHAI, what would you say was your crowning achievement?**

Convincing Pam New Saltzburg to follow me as president. She carried the ball further than I ever could.

**Is there anything you wish you did differently while President?**

In those days CHAI was purely social. We had a ski trip at Blue Mountain every winter and stayed in Camp for the weekend with a Shabbat service. We brought guitars and drums and jammed in the Hilton. We held alumni day during the summer and often socialized right into the next day. The sense of joy and positive energy from those events was tremendous and really brought me right back to the sense of what camp was about - being in a place I love with people I love. So what would I have done differently - I would have planned more events at camp.

**Outside of your tireless devotion to camp, what are you up to these days?**

I married a camp girl but she was from a different camp and we are about to have our 16th anniversary. We have three great kids, two of whom are going to Harlam this summer. For work, I am a reproductive endocrinologist and the Vice Chairman and Residency Program Director for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology of the University of South Carolina in Greenville.

**How many years were you at camp and in what capacity?**

12 years - I went to camp from 1971-77 - Emet Boys 1 to Chavurah, 1981-82 Counselor (Galil and Arava), 1983 Arava Unit Head, 1985 Galil unit head, 1986 CIT director.

**It is often said that experiences at camp have a big impact in shaping the type of person you become.**

**Do you agree with this statement and if so, how would you be different if you never attended camp?**

I do think this statement is correct - being at camp taught me about being in the moment, how to be a better friend, how to have difficult conversations with patients and employees (it is the same process as talking to counselors, parents and campers, only the content is different). I learned how to handle difficult situations - I just think "How would Arie have handled that?" - maybe I would have learned these things in a different forum, maybe not - it certainly wouldn't have been as much fun learning them. Also, I don't think I would be as connected to Judaism if not for camp.

**What's more difficult - Winning color war or being the first in line at med call?**

Winning color war. First in line at med call had a lot to do with which side of the mess hall your table was on.

**Do you have the Chutzpah to say "Art Shack" (instead of Art Mecca) in front of Shirley Kollin?**

I was calling it the "Art Shack" before Shirley was in camp, so I have already called it that in front of her, but I didn't mean it as a sign of disrespect.

**If CHAI didn't stand for "Camp Harlam Alumni International", what would it stand for?**

A brand of tea?

**If you could add any structure to camp, what would it be?**

The original dimensions for Iguana ball at the old pool should be reinstated. Also, after 50 years it would be nice to have a softball field that doesn't have the "Harlam Hop" as a home field advantage

**How many Swedish Fish from the general store can a Carmel kid fit in his mouth?**

I have no idea. Sadly, on the last day of camp 2008 I picked up my daughter and took her to the general store and it was closed. We then went to the Effort diner for peanut butter milkshakes - closed. I didn't think I should try to find a spot at the American Hotel, or King Arthur's with a 7 year old, so my search to show her my favorite places outside of camp came to an end. This year I will show her the cemetery - I am sure that is still around.

**Finish the Sentence:**

**My favorite camp meal is** fried chicken.

**The activity I looked forward to the most at camp was** playing varsity softball.

**The hangar was a place to** play hockey and roller skate.

**The Tzofim were** energetic.

**If you could go back in time and speak to yourself as a kid at camp, what would you say?**

"You should have kissed....."

**Anything you'd like to add?**

I think the current CHAI leadership is doing a great job. It's been 22 years since I was last in camp for a whole summer, and I still look at those days at camp, and when I was able to be active in CHAI as some of the best lived days of my life.

**Pam New Saltzburg**

**How long were you CHAI president (and what years)?**

1992-1995

**What was the biggest challenge in being the leadership of CHAI?**

The biggest challenge I faced was engaging and empowering others to participate in the Alumni association. This is definitely an ongoing struggle. At the time I was president, finding others to volunteer their time was just a matter of asking your closest friends for help. Now that the organization has grown to a true entity of support and communication, much more is needed.

**What was the biggest reward of your position?**

For sure the biggest reward was getting to know so many different alumni, from different generations. The friends that you make at camp who are your peers, is an inevitable reward that camp offers, but being active in CHAI connected me to so much more.

**When you left CHAI, what would you say was your crowning achievement?**

Maintaining the mission of CHAI, at that time, to provide a vehicle that alumni could have a time and a place to come together and rekindle those friendships that were so important.

**Is there anything you wish you did differently while President?**

I did not approach my leadership of CHAI with any particular goal in mind. I just continued the tradition that was started by Johnny Golomb and enhanced by David Forstein.

**Outside of your tireless devotion to camp, what are you up to these days?**

Well, In my every day life I am president of a furniture manufacturing company. My husband Rob and I work together at Furniture Imports, Inc.; a company my father started. We have three beautiful children; William, Jacob, and Shayna. William enjoyed his first summer at camp in 2008 and Jacob will begin this summer. In my volunteer life I participate actively in my home congregation, Keneseth Israel in Elkins Park, PA. I currently serve as the Fundraising Chair on the Harlam camp committee and find it to be incredibly rewarding and challenging. And I have a very hard time saying no to anything HARLAM.

**How many years were you at camp and in what capacity?**

My first summer was 1976 in Emet 1. I rose through the ranks as camper, C.I.T (Yeh! 1984-We miss you Goobie), counselor, Asst. Unit Head of Arava and then Unit Head of Carmel in 1988, this was my last active summer.

**It is often said that experiences at camp have a big impact in shaping the type of person you become. Do you agree with this statement and if so, how would you be different if you never attended camp?**

I can't even contemplate who I would be if Camp Harlam was never a part of my experience. Arie Gluck and all of those who guided me along the way; Vivian Lowenstein-One of my Emet Counselors, Lori Price and Bobbi Block, Counselors of the Bunk I was a CIT for, David " Pickles" Forstein My Galil Unit Head, Marika Winheld & Beth Shanus-My Carmel Unit head predecessors, Not to mention all the kids who taught me how to be a great mom-TO NAME JUST A FEW. These are the people who believed in me before I believed in myself. And pushed me to take on the challenges of my camp life and supported me in my life beyond camp.

**What's more difficult - Winning color war or being the first in line at med call?**

Thankfully I was not needy of med call but it really hurts to be first the whole way in color war and then come in third. Yeh, Adams Family, and Bruce Matez-We were robbed!!!

**Do you have the Chutzpah to say "Art Shack" (instead of Art Mecca) in front of Shirley Kollin?**

First, you got to have chutzpah, if anyone knows that Shirley does. Second, old habits die hard, and it will always be the art shack to me.

**How many Swedish Fish from the general store can a Carmel kid fit in his mouth?**

Since there wasn't Carmel when I was a kid, and I think trips to the General store were banned in 1988 it would be hard to say, but I know that Swedish fish were my favorite and they were only a penny. I would eat them one at a time. I'll never forget that little brown bag they came in.

**Finish the Sentence:**

**My favorite camp meal is** beyond the fried chicken...tuna fish and tomato soup. Thank you Sandy Knappenberger.

**The activity I looked forward to the most at camp was** driving through that gate in June. There is nothing like it, even to this very day I get as excited as a 9 year old every time.

**The Tzofim were** Non Existent-in my early years- A great addition to camp and always good for a memorable cheer.

**If you could go back in time and speak to yourself as a kid at camp, what would you say?**

Take lots of pictures so your memories will stay alive. Pass it on. We all should remember the hair. Hopefully we won't repeat the past. Sorry Dorothy Hamell.

**Anything you'd like to add?**

There is always more to add about camp. Come to alumni day and find me and I will share some more.

**Adam Rosenberg**

**How long were you CHAI President (and what years)?**

I was president for about 4 - 5 years in the late 1990s.

**What was the biggest challenge in being the leadership of CHAI?**

Living in Baltimore but working with a Philadelphia based organization makes it hard to meet for a few hours here and there when everyone else was up north; getting alumni to understand the importance of belonging and supporting CHAI and camp when they never understood the needs before.

**What was the biggest reward of your position?**

Being in touch with a great number of alumni.

**When you left CHAI, what would you say was your crowning achievement?**

Passing the presidency along to Pam & Lisa.

**Is there anything you wish you did differently while President?**

I wished I brokered that peace agreement to end the long standing war between Harlam and Pinemere. When will people learn?

**Outside of your tireless devotion to camp, what are you up to these days?**

I run the Baltimore Child Abuse Center - we are a not for profit that handles all investigations of sexual child abuse in the city. Last year we saw over 900 children. Learn more at [www.baltimorechildabusecenter.org](http://www.baltimorechildabusecenter.org).

**How many years were you at camp and in what capacity?**

13 years - from camper in Arava 2 to 'rah unit head. I've even driven the pickup trucks on occasion (and to Larry's great dismay).

**It is often said that experiences at camp have a big impact in shaping the type of person you become.**

**Do you agree with this statement and if so, how would you be different if you never attended camp?**

Agree; running any organization is a lot like being a supervisor at camp. When I have a management meeting it feels a heck of a lot like the morning meeting. sometime I just want to burst out like Arie saying "I'm the director!"

**What's more difficult - Winning color war or being the first in line at med call?**

Adding up the scores to see who won color war - that's even more difficult than winning.

**Do you have the Chutzpah to say "Art Shack" (instead of Art Mecca) in front of Shirley Kollin?**

Still have the chutzpah to say it when I see her around Baltimore

**If you could add any structure to camp, what would it be?**

For staff - Starbucks; for campers - a non "sweating" chadar ochel floor. I mean seriously, how does a floor

sweat?

**How many Swedish Fish from the general store can a Carmel kid fit in his mouth?**

100, because you only get \$1 to spend.

**Finish the Sentence:**

**My favorite camp meal is** grilled cheese & tomato soup with Tabasco.

**The activity I looked forward to the most at camp was** gross games with Ari Weitzman, the comedy skit, judging the zim, and midnight swim.

**The hangar was a place to** ruin a Peavey Amp.

**The Tzofim were** always a source of amusement and comedy skit material.

**If you could go back in time and speak to yourself as a kid at camp, what would you say?**

This is a family publication right?

**Anything you'd like to add?**

You and this generation of CHAI leadership make us all proud. Keep up the great work.

Thank you Pam, Lisa, David, Pam, and Adam! We appreciate you taking the time to answer our questions and without all of your devotion to camp, this organization may not exist!



Thank you all for once again reading this newsletter. Enjoy the rest of your winter!

Warm Regards,

Camp Harlam Alumni International

**Forward email**

✉ **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to safein@gmail.com by [harlamalumni@yahoo.com](mailto:harlamalumni@yahoo.com).

[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Camp Harlam Alumni International | c/o URJ Camp Harlam | 1511 Walnut Street, Suite 401 | Philadelphia | PA | 19102

Email Marketing by

