

Camp Harlam Alumni Newsletter

Spring 2009

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Greetings!

Shalom!

What a long winter for those of us shackled up here in the northeast! But now the flowers are blooming and the birds are chirping, which can only mean two things: Camp begins in just over a month and Alumni Day is coming soon!

Last year's 50th anniversary Alumni Day was very special for camp and all of you came out to see camp and reconnect with old friends. We are building upon last year's Alumni Day and hope to make this year even better! Please join us on Saturday, August 8th at camp for what we hope will be a dynamite day. You can read below for more details. Also below, we solve some camp math problems, like the weight of the water in the L-Pool and Z-Pool, and how many grilled cheese sandwiches are eaten every summer.

These newsletters are fun to write and the events we plan are fun to plan. To be a part of any aspect of CHAI, please email harlamalumni@yahoo.com. This is your organization, so we encourage everyone's participation.

Congratulations to Dan Roth for winning the CHAI NCAA Tournament Challenge! Dan attended Harlam for 4 summers; he was in Boys 5,7,9 and Avodah. Dan won a Camp Harlam Alumni T-shirt along with free admission to this summer's alumni day.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone this summer!

CHAI

Camp Harlam's Future - In Our Hands

On Tuesday, May 26th, the CHAI board will be conducting their meeting via conference call. Why is this meeting different than all other meetings? Because this meeting is open to all alumni! You are cordially invited to take part in the CHAI board meeting. If you are interested in joining please email us at harlamalumni@yahoo.com and we will send you the dial-in information for the conference call. You can join the call and just listen in, or you can feel free to bring a fresh perspective and new ideas to CHAI. Either way, let us know if you would like to join!

What Year Was It?

Camp

- The Sun dial was dedicated in honor of Daniel Duggan's Bar Mitzvah
- Peter Rigler was the Galil Unit Head
- Lacrosse and aerobics were offered as sports
- Neil Rigler and Jyl Skolnick led the Harlam Safari to Israel
- Gary Gershman and Stefanie Ziev were assistant directors.

World Events

- China broke a nuclear test moratorium
- Twenty-two UN troops were killed in Somalia
- The world population was 5.522 billion
- The Israeli-Palestinian accord was reached
- South Africa adopted a majority rule constitution

U.S. Events

- Federal agents besieged Texas Branch Davidian religious cult after six were killed in raid
- Ruth Bader Ginsburg was appointed to the Supreme Court
- The House of Representatives approved the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)
- President Clinton agreed to compromise on the military's ban on homosexuals

Sports

- The Dallas Cowboys defeated the Buffalo Bills 52-17 to win the Super Bowl
- The Toronto Blue Jays defeated the Philadelphia Phillies to win the world series
- The Chicago Bulls defeated the Phoenix Suns to win the NBA Championship
- The Montreal Canadiens defeated the Los Angeles Kings to win the Stanley Cup
- Steffi Graf and Pete Sampras won Wimbledon
- North Carolina defeated Michigan to win the NCAA tournament

Entertainment

- River Phoenix died of a drug overdose on Halloween. He was 23.
- Schindler's List, The Piano, and Philadelphia came out
- *Tears in Heaven*, by Eric Clapton, won the Grammy for both Record of the Year and Song of the Year.
- Toni Morrison won the Nobel Prize in literature

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

Alumni Day 2009!

Last year's Alumni Day was so fun we decided to do it again! The 51st anniversary Alumni Day is coming up on Saturday, August 8th so be sure to block that day off on your calendar and join us up in Kunkletown for another beautiful summer day at camp. Reminisce with old friends, take part in new alumni day activities, swim in the pools, and enjoy a camp bbq. Come up to breathe the crisp Pocono air! Whatever your reason for spending the day at Harlam, we hope to see you there. We will be releasing the official Alumni Day schedule in early summer, but if you have any questions please feel free to email us at harlamalumni@yahoo.com.

Can't wait until Alumni Day to hang out with fellow alums? How about attending a regional alumni event? Look out for a list of upcoming events in your area within the next few weeks, and if you're interested in helping to set up an event, email Lyndsay at LyndsayChauveau@gmail.com.

Alumni Spotlight: Julie Gold, Grace Lissauer, and Ruth Gluck...



From Left to Right: Ruth Gluck's daughters, Mya and Ruby; Julie Gold.

Many unique and special people have passed through the gates of Camp Harlam since 1958. In the late 60s, three distinctive women descended upon Camp Harlam and more than 40 years later they each

continue to support camp, support CHAI and support each other. This column was inspired by the forthcoming launch of Grace Lissauer's new business venture (www.thechocolatenation.com), so we asked Grace and two of her camp friends (Ruth Gluck and Julie Gold) to share some of their best memories with us.

How did you end up at Camp Harlam?

Julie: I think someone from our Synagogue (Main Line Reform in Philly) told us about Camp Harlam and that's how we wound up there. (Me and my brother Danny)

Grace: My 2 older brothers went to Camp Harlam - and I could not wait to get there. If we were going to camp, this was the one for us! Joe and Betty were my great aunt and uncle, we were very close.

Ruth: My father became the Director in 1966, I had just turned 7 years old. I was not thrilled about the idea of going far away to a place in the "Pick a Nose" for the summer and now not being able to join the neighborhood swim club.

How many years were you at Camp Harlam and in what capacity?

Julie: I started the same summer Arie started. 1966. I was in Girls #3, Girls #4, Girls #6, (skipped a summer) Girls #10, Avodah, (skipped a summer), CIT (The FIRST GROUP TO USE THAT LOUNGE!!!) and then a counselor for 2 summers. My last year was the summer of 1975. So I was there for a 10 year span, but I only went for 8 summers. (GOD THAT WAS A LONG WAY OF SAYING SOMETHING SIMPLE). Sometimes I think I just try to test my memory to make sure I'm not senile yet.

Grace: I was at camp for 13 years - starting in girls 1- to super staff..

Ruth: 15 years, starting out in Bunk One and ending up on Super Staff as the Sharon Unit Head. Officially, I may have attended for 15 years but felt that when my Dad was still the Director that I was still going to camp every summer. So unofficially, 37 years.

Were you happier as a camper or on staff?

Julie: I was Arie Gluck's FIRST HOMESICK CAMPER. I remember crying every single day. It was such a sad and helpless feeling. I couldn't escape from that feeling. I remember even going to the infirmary one morning in the genuine hopes that they could help me. I RUINED POOR DANNY'S first month of camp. My folks came on visiting day and my trunk (remember trunks????) was down and packed. Something convinced me to stay and that second session of my first year at camp was one of my FAVORITE sessions ever!!! BUT, I know for sure I LOVED being a counselor most of all. I felt so responsible for my kids. I was truly committed and connected to them and it was a very life changing experience for me. I am still friendly with SEVERAL of my "campers". Though they were only 5 years younger than me, I still feel very protective of them and responsible for them when we're together. They are 48 years old now! Hard to believe.

Grace: Camp was a happy place for me. At the end of each summer, I remember thinking, this was the best summer of my life...and it was! I do think there was one year that was a little less fun and that was my first year on staff - I worked in the office...I wasn't so happy about that!

Ruth: I loved being on staff, especially my first year as a life guard and my last as a supervisor.

When did you meet each other? Were you instant friends or were there rivalries?

Julie: I remember all the Gluck kids swinging from the monkey bars. (There were 2 separate monkey bars in Girls Camp, fyi.) And they had a little black dog too. I guess they had a certain mystery to them, since they were Arie and Elaine's kids. But they NEVER acted any different from anyone else which is quite amazing. They just seemed like nice normal kids. I think Ruth was in Girls #1 for 3 years in a row!!! I can't remember when I met Grace, but her older brothers were at camp too (if I'm not mistaken). I know I always thought she was a great kid. Very lovable. No drama, no pretense. Just a great lovable person. Like now.

Grace: Ruth and I met in girls 1 - and were pretty fast friends. There were quite a few of us that were together for a long time. As we got older, we were in a "clique" - so they said! There were a few of us that were together for a long time.

Ruth: Grace and I became bunkmates my 3rd year of camp. I was still in Bunk One for the third of my four years. I think we were instant friends, along with the other group of girls that started with us. As the years went on in camp we always remained good friends and were always in the same bunk except one summer second session.

What role did each of you play in the bunk? The popular one? The jock? The clown? The slob?

Julie: I was NEVER sophisticated, but oddly enough I guess I was "popular".

Grace: Roles...Ruth, did we have roles? Well, I was definitely the crier!

Ruth: I guess I was the old timer, even in Bunk One. Grace was definitely the sensitive one.

For Ruth, how was it growing up as Arie's daughter at camp? For Grace, what was it like having Arie's daughter as your best friend at camp?

Grace: Hmmm - well, I recall when we got in trouble, Ruth and I were pulled aside a couple of times and were asked what our families might think!! Being a good friend of Ruth's meant - I would sneak up to the house with her and climb through the window for some of her Mom's cookies, sodas - or leftovers from the oneg...if we could watch a little tv, even better. We did have to be careful to make sure Gebor did not escape, or the gig was up!

Ruth: My first few summers it was difficult having my Dad as the Director, I wasn't all that thrilled at being an overnight camper, as a matter of fact I was quite homesick my first few summers. I didn't understand why I was not allowed to sleep in the house with my parents and brother. There were several escapes my first summer, sneaking out of my bunk trying to get back to the house. As I was older, I actually felt bad for the staff that had me as the camper. Who wants the director's kid as your camper???

Did Arie provide you with any privileges that other campers didn't get?

Grace: Oh, there were no privileges...though I will say one time we had a family emergency and Arie drove me to Hazleton to visit...and Ruth's mom, Elaine - would sometimes bring treats....and my Aunt Betty would bring Ruth and I a box of candy from Victoria's, which we loved (non-perils, with the colored sprinkles)!!

Ruth: Absolutely not, I think he was harder on us than than any other camper. The best privilege was having my mother at camp. I couldn't wait for Fridays when I would see her car arrive at camp and drive up to the house. I would go up to the house and she would always have something special for me.

Do you have a favorite place/building in camp? Why that particular spot?

Julie: I always loved sitting on the BACK fire escape of the rec hall. Loved the beautiful view of the mountains and it always felt so safe and serene. When I visit camp now, I love to walk up to the Chapel on the Hill. In surveying the beautiful rolling hillsides and landscape I also survey my own life now and how time has FLOWN. I love the sound of the stones under my feet and think about all the feet that have shuffled through those stones, camp generation after camp generation. Lots of memories, feelings, prayers, reminiscences were hatched and launched from that sacred site.

Grace: Well, it was hard not love the chapel on a Friday night - really so special...but of course, there was also square dancing on the b-ball courts in boys camps, roller skating in the hanger...I think there are a lot of memorable places at camp.....But I will say when you drive to camp and you turn left at the stop sign and see the lonely tree on the hill as you go around the curve...pass the farm...that was always a favorite spot, because you knew you were almost there.

Ruth: I can't say that I had a favorite building but I loved the feeling that came over me as we would drive into camp and go thru the gate and there was this overwhelming feeling of "coming home" that would overcome me. It still happens today when I go up and visit camp.

What went on in the following locations while you were at camp: Bottom of the Hilton? After hours in the kitchen? Behind the lake? In Girls' Camp?

Julie: To tell you the truth, every chance I got I was in the rec hall playing the piano and singing my heart out. That's what I would do "after hours" and there were always many fellow staff members joining me there. It was so raw and real and for me, very life affirming. I was very unsophisticated socially and never even realized things were "going on" behind Girls Camp, at Arts and Crafts, etc. It embarrasses me and pains me in some ways to think what an innocent I was. I do recall a washing machine and a dryer in the bottom of the Hilton for a few seasons and kitchen staff would use it. I think that was short lived.

Who stands out most in your mind from your years at camp? How has that person impacted your life?

Julie: People who were passionate about their lives or religions or music or art or athleticism impacted me the most. I remember a rainy day when Arie came down to Avodah just to speak to us about Israel and what it meant to him. I think I learned more about Israel in that one hour than at any other time in my life. There was another Israeli guy named Rafi Meiron. He was a MIME and one night he performed for us on the rec hall stage. I'll never forget it. He was also in charge of sports and he had us do some really different cool stuff. One exercise was with a giant parachute. He was sort of weird, but I really liked him because he was so driven and passionate about what he did.

My first summer at camp, Debbie Friedman was our song leader. She was pretty unforgettable. When you see talent like that it's powerful and makes a lasting impression.

Josh Arnold was my waiter one summer. He was the first "runner" I ever met. He was always running around camp and around Kunkletown. I even remember the name brand of his sneakers. It occurs to me now as I write this, that the most important things in my life were cultivated at camp through the example of others: Judaism, Israel, Athleticism and Music.

Grace: Hmm, I don't think there is one person, but the amazing group of friends that I collected over the years at camp - and how much we have been in each others lives since. The impact is there every day, since they are my closest friends...and the familiarity of growing up together is so unique. They have all (and you know who you are!!) shared their lives and their children's lives with me. We have gone through the good and the bad together.

Ruth: The life long friendships that were formed at camp. There were Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, Sweet Sixteens, Weddings, Babies and now the cycle is repeating with their children. Pretty amazing.

Did you ever imagine that you'd have camp friends for 40 years and counting? What are some of your favorite memories together after your camp days were over?

Julie: When you make real friends, they continue to enrich you and enhance your life forever. Camp was a very magical place to plant the seeds of friendship. The conditions are so life affirming. You're away from home, an adolescent and suddenly you're cast in to this situation filled with new sensations and possibilities. Your Judaism becomes a vital part of who you are, and you get to share that element with your friends for the first time in your life. Jews together. Shabbat observed. Israel revered. Hebrew songs. It's very empowering. There are very few places as close to God as Camp Harlam. And there you are, for 2 months, singing and laughing and learning and loving and living and then...leaving. But, you never really leave and it never really leaves you.

Grace: I think at a certain point you just know those friends will be there. Ruth and I traveled quite a bit - and would try to meet for annual vacations....Well, there was the trip to Israel with Marci and Esta -- where we missed many of the key events, but we were fine with that! The road trip with Jay and Ricky to Boston, or the bus trip to AC for their birthdays...that one, maybe I would like to forget!! Anywhere we have traveled, there has always been some ridiculous laughter that went on for a long time. There were summers when we rented beach houses...and friends and family would visit...and of course, there were the more recent days when Ruth introduced me to her beautiful little girls, Mya and Ruby....those are definitely favorite days.

Ruth: Forty years sounds like a lifetime, but when I look back I can't remember a time that Grace was not part of my life and wasn't there to share in the bad times and good times. If there is something exciting and happy to share I can't wait to call her and if there is something that is upsetting or not going well I know there is a shoulder to cry at any time. Grace is not only a friend she is part of our family, ask my daughters or any of my siblings.

What would you say to current and future campers about the Harlam experience and who you are because of it?

Julie: Savor every moment of this gift you're being given, because it will continue to enrich, effect and inspire you for the rest of your life. Take it all in. Bask in the richness of Camp Harlam. Someday you'll know how lucky you were to go there.

Grace: Just have fun - remember the moments - and all the friends you made...and know there is a connection forever.

Ruth: Treasure the time that you have at camp. I love hearing about camp thru my nieces and nephews and seeing the next generation of our family loving camp as much as we did. Only 4 more years and my oldest daughter can attend camp.

Where are you now?

Julie: I'm 53 years old somehow. I live in beautiful New York City. I live the life of a musician. I write songs. I perform my music whenever I'm asked and where ever I'm asked to go. I'm at the gym every day, swimming parallel to the Hudson River. I share my life with a special unique brilliant and beautiful person named Laura. We have a life filled with cats and plants and fish tanks. We travel and enjoy all that New York has to offer. Theater, movies, restaurants, museums. All in all, I'd say I'm the luckiest person in the world. My life is full and my heart is overflowing with love. But forever there will be a place in my heart that feeds my soul. It's a place where I really learned who I was and what I wanted. That place was Camp Harlam.

Grace: I live in NY - taking a break from the apparel business....and working on starting a chocolate business...Check out www.thechocolatenation.com.

Ruth: I live in Voorhees, New Jersey with my 2 beautiful daughters, Mya and Ruby. I am one of the Executive Directors of the Katz JCC in Cherry Hill, NJ.

Thank you Julie, Grace and Ruth for answering our questions and giving us a look-in to 40+ years of camp history. You all bring a richness to the alumni newsletter! Also, I want to thank Pam Clarke Sandonato for conducting these interviews!

Alumni News

Weddings and Engagements

David "Grapestuff" Schwartz married his girlfriend, Noa, in Israel.

Births

CHAI board member Alex Grumbacher and his wife, fellow alum Liz, gave birth to a baby girl Ayla Madeline Grumbacher, on May 4th.

Ross and Jordana Martin became parents to Theo Celan Oak Martin on April 18th.

Ben Rubin and Liz Elsas Rubin became parents to a baby boy, Gabriel Edward, on November 16, 2008. Two of Liz's camp friends attended the bris while one was named Godmother.

Correction: We incorrectly named Jeff Zucker's wife in the last newsletter. So, let's try again: Jeff and Jaime Zucker had a baby girl, Sydney Simone, on January 29th.

Food For Thought - Harlam Behind the Numbers

Some of us here at Harlam Alumni like to crunch numbers, so we took this to a whole new level...Here's some food for thought:

1. If Camp serves grilled cheese for lunch every Tuesday throughout the summer, and the average person eats two grilled cheese sandwiches per meal, then, assuming there are 8 Tuesdays in a summer and 750 campers and staff at camp on each Tuesday, there are 12,000 grilled cheese sandwiches eaten in a summer...and 120,000 per decade!
2. Camp is situated on more than 300 acres. There are 43,560 square feet in one acre which means camp is located on more than 13,068,000 square feet!
3. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that there are approximately 320 blades of grass per square inch of lawn; therefore there are 46,080 blades of grass per square foot of land. If there were no buildings on Camp property and every square inch of land at camp was covered with grass, there would be approximately 602,173,440,000 blades of grass at camp. If you take away the land covered by buildings, the lake, the parking lot, and all of those mud soccer games, there are far far fewer blades of grass!
4. If a person is involved in 15 color wars at camp, the average person will have won 3.75 times. I (Scott Fein), however, won only once in those 15 tries! As for my brother, David, he won 3 out of 4 times. Law of averages I guess!
5. Did you know that the approximate weight of a gallon of fresh water at 72 degrees fahrenheit is 8.345264 pounds? Let's take this a bit further. The L-Pool contains approximately 195,000 gallons of water. That means the water in the L-Pool weighs approximately 1,627,326 pounds while the Z-Pool's approximate 225,000 gallons weigh 1,877,684 pounds! We all know the Z-Pool is always colder, and since water weighs more as the temperature of the water drops (in the relevant range of temperatures), the Z-Pool most likely weighs more per gallon than the L-Pool.

*NOTE: These calculations are based on fresh water weight and does not take into account the chemicals used in the Z-Pool and L-Pool.

Thank you to Jared Klyman for contributing to this section.

Enjoy the start to your summer, we hope to see you all at alumni day in a couple of months! Keep your eyes open for an email with alumni day details!

Warm Regards,

Camp Harlam Alumni International

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