



# Yellow Buses

Wilshire Boulevard Temple Camps Semi-Annual Newsletter



Spring 2011

## Honoring Five Who Have Made a Difference

*Cheri Lauterbach, Alumni & Development Director*

Established in 2006, our bi-annual Legends Event honors individuals for their impact and ongoing involvement with Wilshire Boulevard Temple Camps. The first Legends Event honored camp founders and pioneers; in 2008, legendary song leaders were recognized.

Chaired by Beth Pollock Goren and Wendy Marantz Levine, the 2010 Legends Event at Camp Hess Kramer honored Rabbi Karen Fox, Robert Kositchek (ז"ל), Susie Roberts, Steve Sauer and Sam Tarica as our 2010 Legends. By giving of their time, talent, wisdom and support of our programs and activities, these five individuals were acknowledged for their contributions to our camp culture and community. 🌟



*Mickey Rosen & Rabbi Karen Fox*



*Paul & Susie Roberts with  
Donna & Howard Kaplan*



*Steve Sauer with his son Jonathan,  
mother Jenine and Doug Lynn*



*Sam & Miryam Tarica*



*The Family of Robert Kositchek*

## In this issue...



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# The Results Are In And We Got High Marks!

*Douglas Lynn, Camp Director*



For the third straight year Wilshire Boulevard Temple Camps received extremely high reviews on our customer satisfaction survey. It is gratifying to see in print what we know in our hearts; Camp Hess Kramer and Gindling Hilltop Camp provide excellence in building relationships, community

and education; we continue to make great strides in providing athletic opportunities.

Conducted by Summation Research and facilitated through the generosity of the Jim Joseph Foundation and the Foundation for Jewish Camp, this survey enables us to focus on the feedback of our campers and their families. It then challenges us to improve our camps based on the feedback. Besides reporting on Wilshire Boulevard Temple Camps' individual responses, we were also compared to the national

responses from the other 66 North American Jewish overnight camps participating in the survey. We fared very well!

We truly value the input of our families, and plans are underway to improve based on their feedback. I am proud to report that work has begun on renovating Fitch Field at Camp Hess Kramer, a basketball court at Gindling Hilltop Camp is being upgraded, and we are in the process of recruiting more athletic staff for both camps!

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey and gave us your thoughts and recommendations, but please don't stop now! Our camps value our partnerships with current families, alumni, and the families of alumni! Keep letting us know how we can better serve you and your family. Can our camps offer better facilities to campers? Can our camps offer more programs for alumni? The only way we get better is by partnering with you. Please keep in touch and let us know. 🙏

## In Memory of Miriam Wolf



The camp community lost a cherished friend when Miriam Wolf passed away last July. Along with her husband Rabbi Alfred Wolf, she was instrumental in the founding and creation of Wilshire Boulevard Temple Camps. Hers was a life-long commitment to our camps and to Wilshire Boulevard Temple. At her memorial service, Rabbi

*Steve Leder eulogized and celebrated Mrs. Wolf; the following is an excerpt:*

“Miriam was amazing—there is simply no other word for her. She grew up poor and humbly, with nothing more than a high school education. When Alfred proposed, Miriam wasn't sure she could marry him because her family needed the money she made. But she cast her lot nevertheless on an immigrant who had just become a rabbi but lacked citizenship papers and whose only job prospect was in Dothan, Alabama. It took a World War and then a flood in Cincinnati that caused some of the rabbinical students to be sent to Dayton, for these two lives, for this force of Torah and nature known as Alfred and Miriam, to become one.

Miriam's kitchen and dining room, living room and den were open—always open to whatever meeting, group, dignitary, or guest Alfred brought home that evening or weekend. The Sisterhood meetings, the TAG meetings, the camp meetings, Miriam welcomed it all with a smile and another plate of her delicious food on the table.

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*Miriam was amazing  
—there is no other word for her...*

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She was such a gifted artist. She helped run the Temple gift shop, the Sisterhood, her quilters group; she was the arts and crafts director during the camp's first years while also caring for her own small children. Wilshire Boulevard Temple was a family business and a family source of pride; a family blessing and a family responsibility for Alfred and Miriam and she would have it no other way.” 🙏

# Camp Activities Mark the Calendar Year-Round

Susan Adler Jannol, Camp Committee Chair

There were many opportunities for members of the camp community to get together in recent months. In addition to our Legends Event last October, Teri and Ken Hertz opened their home to thank those who contributed to the camp's *Kehillah Community Fund* and the *Yisod Planning Fund*; camp parents, alumni, Temple members and others from the Los Angeles community participated in our annual Golf Tournament, which honored Don Schwarz. Chaired by camp parent Drew Kugler, the tournament raised scholarship funds for camp and our summer teen Israel program. Eight hundred baseball fans joined five major league baseball players including Justin Siegel (Leadership '90), Randy Wolf, Mike Liberthal, Shawn Green and Al Rosen at the Los Angeles premier of *Jews and Baseball, an American Love Story*; and more than 700 alumni and parents returned to our camps in the summer of 2010 to celebrate Shabbat, and for Mitzvah Night and Leadership Night. Don't miss the photos from these events on pages 4-5.

In May we will be honoring Ilene, Stanley, Charles and Jennifer Gold at the 2011 Golf Tournament; later in May, Wilshire Boulevard Temple Camps will be in the Bay Area to hold our first get-together for alumni and camp parents in that region. We're getting ready for a very full summer, with Mitzvah and Leadership Nights, Alumni Shabbat dinners and *new this year*, Alumni Shabbat lunches will be offered on several Saturdays in June and July. We hope you'll join us at one or more of these exciting events.



And finally, I'd like to welcome four new members of the Camp Committee. Joining 17 current members are camp parent Doug Mankoff and alums Barbara Grushow, Mark Tarica and Rick Trank. Each brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the Camp Committee, and we are grateful for their time and commitment to our camps. 🌟

## Alumna Nadine Bendit Breuer Brings Camp Spirit to Temple Schools



Nadine Bendit may have been your counselor, CIT counselor or program director when you were at Camp Hess Kramer. Following her time at camp, after a long career as a teacher and principal in Beverly Hills, Nadine, now Bendit Breuer, became the founding Head of School of the Brawerman Elementary School of

Wilshire Boulevard Temple 12 years ago. The school has thrived, and Nadine is now opening a second campus of Brawerman Elementary School at the Temple on Wilshire Boulevard.

The new school will have all of the qualities that the west campus is known for – solid academics and an inspirational Judaic program integrated into a dynamic, soulful curriculum. Nadine is proud of the *mensch*s her school produces, a quality that has repeatedly been recognized by the fine secondary schools where Brawerman graduates are welcomed.

Nadine grew up attending the Temple religious school, where she became a teacher and administrator before working at Camp Hess Kramer. She has remained an active member of

the Temple throughout her career and cherishes the many close relationships she developed through her years at camp. Many of her students' parents are camp alumni.

For Nadine, the new campus brings together the love of Judaism she developed at camp and the Temple, with the love of children and the educational process she developed as a career educator. Nothing makes her happier than hearing a parent say, "This feels like camp," while attending a school program. 🌟



# Camp Is Wherever Alumni Get Together



*Donor Event*



*Leadership Night*



*Leadership Night*





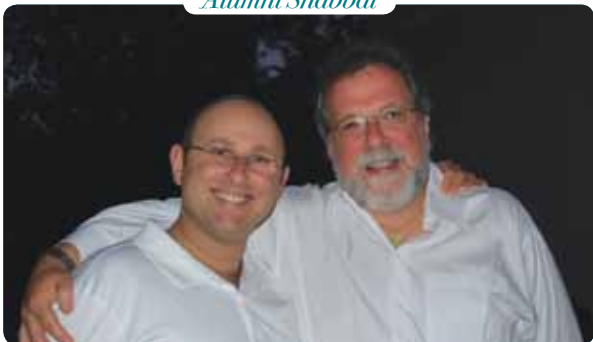
*Alumni Shabbat*



*Alumni Shabbat*



*Alumni Shabbat*



*Mitzvah Night*



*Golf Classic*



*Jews and Baseball*

# Simcha Corner

*Mazel tov* to....Associate Camp Director Jen Shankman and husband Tevin Adelman on the birth of their son, Dashel Martin and to the following camp alums on the births of their new babies: Becca Sills Nudel and Dan Nudel had a son, Eli Philip (pictured); Kim and Scott Golden had a daughter, Katelyn; Sharon Weiner Fisher and Jason Fisher had a daughter, Gabrielle; Jen Gandin and Peter Tontonoz had a daughter, Eva Rachele; Veronica and Greg Sills had a daughter, Olivia Sophia; Annette and Steve Mayerson had a son, Jacob; and Rosa and Scott Allen had a son, Samuel Harrison. Scott fondly noted: *"I sing the Shema and Hashkevienu to Samuel every night just like we did before we went to our cabins.....every night! You never outgrow CHK"*

*Mazel tov* as well to newlyweds Dana Glazer who recently married Phil Marineau and to camp alums Romi Schneider and Eric Goren (pictured); Ashley Feinstein and Beau Shapiro; and Jessica Alpert and Eric Nicastro on their recent engagements. 🍷



Share your simchahs (and photos) by e-mailing the camp's Alumni & Development Director Cheri Lauterbach: [cheri@wbtcamps.org](mailto:cheri@wbtcamps.org)

## Alumni Spotlight: Marci Optican Foster

Camper, Counselor, Parent, Volunteer

Reflecting on her many years as a camper and counselor, parent of three campers and now a Camp Committee member, Marci Optican Foster said: "I have life-long friends from camp. Two of my closest friends to this day are from camp."

Moving from New York to California in 1974, camp became the haven where Marci made most of her new friends. She first attended Gindling Hilltop Camp in 1975, and stayed on top of the hill through the summer of 1978. Moving down to Camp Hess Kramer for Leadership in 1979, Marci continued on as a CIT, JC and AC through the summer of 1982. She credits Steve Breuer with learning about parenting from being a counselor when he was Camp Director. She said "Steve made camp a safe, nurturing, magical place, both physically and emotionally, for campers and counselors."

Marci's passion for our camps is evidenced by her involvement and participation as a Camp Committee member today. Marci brings her vast experience in non-profits to our fundraising sub-committee, and she and her husband Greg have been leaders in their commitment to our camps through their support of the *Hilltop Dining Hall Campaign* and the *Yisod Planning Fund* project for our Master Plan.

Marci can be described by many adjectives: *wife* to husband Greg for 23+ years; *mother* of three sons: Drew attended our camps for a decade; Jackson has been at camp

since 2001 and will return as a counselor this summer; Lucas spent six summers at Camp Hess Kramer. She notes: "My dream was that my kids would go there and love it...and they did."

*Volunteer:* in addition to serving on the Camp Committee, Marci sits on the board of Our House, where she has been a volunteer for six years, counseling 9-12 year olds. She is an active member of the Sheryl Weissberg Lymphoma Foundation and Phase One, founded by camp alum Alberto Valner and his wife Stacy, and is a volunteer at LA Goal, a Culver City non-profit for developmentally disabled adults. And finally, *philanthropist:* Marci's desire to give back and help those in need is one of her greatest joys, second only to her love and devotion to her family. She and Greg strive to teach Drew, Jackson and Lucas that giving back is not an option but a responsibility and an honor.

We are honored to have Marci as a member of our Camp Committee, and her family as members of our camp community. 🍷



# Kehillah Community Fund

The Kehillah Community Fund benefits new camp programs and facility improvements at both Camp Hess Kramer and Gindling Hilltop Camp. *Todah Rabah* to the following donors who have made contribution since April 2010:

Michelle and Ethan Abrams  
Jill and Greg Adler  
Joan and Melvin Adler  
Lisa Agay and Stan Getz  
Robin and Alan Aronson  
Believe and Achieve Coaching Inc  
Lori and Robert Baker  
Lori Bernstein  
Marjorie Blatt  
Nadine and Stephen Breuer  
Gloria Brodie  
Robin and Elliott Broidy  
Kim Brooks  
Nan Brostoff  
Julie and Mark Brown  
Terri and Laurence Bryant  
Douglas and Jennifer Claman  
Carolyn Ginsburg Carlson  
Gary Cohn and Holly Brock Cohn  
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Lisa and Leonard Dick  
Patricia and Robert Dickman  
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Andrea and Adam Slutske  
Judy and Gil Solomon  
Cindy and Jason Spitz  
Beth and Sherman Spitz  
Stolaroff Family Foundation  
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Betty and Ross Winn  
Robert Wirtschafter  
Elly and Dan Wolf  
Ruth and David Wolf  
Roberta and Murray Zucker  
Judy and Stefan Zweig

Donations made to Wilshire Boulevard Temple Camps to honor individuals, celebrate special occasions or memorialize loved ones benefit all aspects of our camps and our campers. To make a donation, please call Cristina Mauro at (213) 388-2401 x523

## Rabbi Alfred Wolf Campership Fund:

Wilshire Boulevard Temple Camps strive to make the life-changing experience of camp available to every child who wishes to attend. Through this fund, we are able to offer financial assistance to those who otherwise could not afford to attend our camps.

## Yisod Planning Fund:

Donations made to this fund will be used for the creation of a comprehensive master facilities plan, serving as a detailed blueprint to modernize and expand camp facilities and improve the quality of programs for campers and the community at large for the next quarter-century.

## Kehillah Community Fund:

Contributions to this fund are used for the ongoing maintenance and improvements of our current camp facilities and to expand or provide new programs for our campers.

## Noar Youth Fund:

This fund provides scholarship assistance to teens traveling to Israel and to those participating in summer teen leadership programs throughout the country.

For information about naming opportunities, planned giving or other ways to become involved in the growth of Wilshire Boulevard Temple Camps, please contact our Alumni & Development Director, Cheri Lauterbach at (213) 388-2401 x521.

## Menorah Legacy Circle

### Endowing the Future of Our Camps



The Menorah Legacy Circle enables us to secure the future of Wilshire Boulevard Temple Camps through gifts made to the camp's endowment fund after an individual's lifetime. Through the inclusion of camp in the estate planning of our alumni and camp parents, grandparents and friends of camp, the long-term success of our camps' mission will be guaranteed for generations to come. Legacy gifts pay tribute to the camps that have helped shape more than 45,000 lives. *We are proud to acknowledge the following individuals and families as inaugural members of the Menorah Legacy Circle:* 

Anne Benjamin  
Nadine and Steve Breuer  
Gary S. Cohn and Holly Brock-Cohn  
Rabbi David and Stephanie Eshel  
Sasha Feldstein  
Cheryl Mandel Garland  
Beth and Jan Goren  
Susan Adler Jannol  
and Martin Jannol

Rhonda and Michael Kopulsky  
Robert Kositchek  
Michael Latner  
Cheri and Bob Lauterbach  
Jamie and Douglas Lynn  
Matt Mayerson  
Sarah Rafal Winston  
Elly and Dan Wolf  
Miriam Wolf



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Rabbi Karen L. Fox, M.F.T.  
Rabbi Elissa Ben-Naim  
Rabbi David Eshel  
Rabbinic Intern Beau Shapiro  
Cantor Don Gurney  
Cantor Susan Caro  
Rabbi Harvey J. Fields, Ph.D., *Emeritus*  
Howard G. Kaplan, *Executive Director*

**Camp Staff:**

Douglas Lynn, *Camp Director*  
Jen Shankman, *Associate Director*  
Seth Toybes, *Assistant Director*  
Eric Nicasro, *Assistant Director*  
Cheri Lauterbach, *Alumni & Development Director*  
Rabbi David Eshel, *Camp Rabbi*  
Cheryl Garland, *Office Administrator*  
John Bard, *Executive Chef / Site Manager*

**Camp Committee:**

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Gary Cohn  
Marc Foster  
Beth Goren  
Barbara Grushow  
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# 2011 Alumni Events Not To Be Missed

**Mon, May 2** **Wilshire Boulevard Temple Camps Golf Classic at El Caballero Country Club**

**Sun, May 22** **Bay Area Get-Together for Alumni and Camp Parents**

**Sat, July 9** **Gindling Hilltop Camp Time Capsule to be opened before Mitzvah Night 2011**

In 1996 a time capsule was buried outside the dining hall. Join us when we open it 15 years later! Mitzvah alums are invited to spend the evening after we open the time capsule for our annual Mitzvah Night celebration.

**Tues, July 26** **Leadership Night at Camp Hess Kramer**

Leadership Reunion Dinners for L'61, L'66, L'71, L'76, L'81, L'86, L'91, L'96, L'01 are being planned prior to the song session and alumni reception. Want to help? Contact Cheri at (213) 388-2401 or email [cheri@wbtcamps.org](mailto:cheri@wbtcamps.org)

**June, July** **2011 Alumni Shabbats**

**August**

Join us for Friday night Shabbat services and dinner OR Saturday morning Shabbat services and lunch this summer at Camp Hess Kramer and Gindling Hilltop Camp! Dates will be on our website and on our Facebook group page on May 1, 2011. Reservations are required, and can be made through our camp website after May 1st: [www.wbtcamps.org](http://www.wbtcamps.org)

**Sun, Oct 16** **Avodah Day at Camp Hess Kramer**

**Get Involved—  
Stay In Touch!**

We have much to share and want to share it with you! Check out our website: [www.wbtcamps.org](http://www.wbtcamps.org) and join our Facebook group: "Alumni at Wilshire Boulevard Temple Camps" to find out what's happening and how you can be involved! Remember to send us updated contact information so we can stay in touch with you too!