A message from the Co-Chairs

As the weather breaks, and spring turns into summer, we are looking forward to the end of the school year and, of course, OPENING DAY! We hope you’ll find this newsletter helpful as parents begin preparing their kids for the summer, and alumni enjoy reminiscing about their summers at Tevya. It’s full of helpful suggestions on how and what to pack, informative interviews, important dates, and even some fun Camp Tevya trivia and games. There is something for everyone! We invite all Tevya parents and alumni to participate and volunteer for exciting upcoming opportunities. Whether you want to host international staff on their days off, or help give tours (as long as you don’t have children at camp), there are many ways to stay involved. Thank you to Loryn Cohen, Elyse Horwitz, Sheryl Fohlin, and Danyael and Matt Brand for their contributions to the newsletter.

We look forward to seeing many of you on opening day!!

With Tevya Spirit,
Linda Schnall Hill – BTC ’82
Barnet Cohen – BTC ’84
LindaHill14@comcast.net
bacohen@deloitte.com

New Camp Tevya Families: Welcome and Packing Tips!

As new Camp Tevya families find themselves overwhelmed and surrounded by bug repellent, Tevya trip day shirts, and blue and white outfits for Shabbat, know you are not alone and help is on the way!

For the 5th straight year, The Tevya Connection coordinates calls to new families from returning families of kids of the same gender and in the same age group. Organized by Pam Feldstein and Betty Jaros, parent ambassadors call new families to welcome them to our community and provide support and answers to packing and related questions. Thanks Pam, Betty, and all the ambassadors for heading up this important effort!

Here are some additional packing tips to consider:

• Festive red, white, and blue to wear on July 4th
• Onesie to wear to breakfast on “Onesie Wednesday” when campers wear pajamas to breakfast
• Western themed gear for themed dinners
• Yellow, White, Blue, and Red face paint and accessories for Color War – held Second Session (also great for Maccabiah Games – held First Session)

Important JUNE Dates

11 Free Play at Camp Tevya (for all families!!)
1:00 – 3:00 pm
RSVP to BPortnoy@cohen camps.org

23 Tevya Alumni Shabbat – at Camp Tevya
5:30 – 9:00 pm
RSVP to EAdes@CampTevya.org

28 Opening Day at Tevya & Parent Reception
The Cozy Tea Cart, Brookline NH
Gathering for parents after drop-off
9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Camp Tevya Keeps Getting Better!

This year’s campers are lucky to be able to enjoy the following improvements made to camp in the off season!

• Multi-sport court to play street hockey, soccer, and other sports
• Flagpole area renovations
• New lighting around the outdoor Israeli dancing area
• New flooring in Elbess
• Re-fencing and enlarging the lower tennis courts
• New roof on some bunks
• New well system
• 20’ Aqua Lily Pad

Want to volunteer for The Tevya Connection? We want to hear from you!
Contact Ellen Ades at EAdes@camptevya.org, Barnet Cohen at bacohen@deloitte.com, or Linda Hill at LindaHill14@comcast.net
A Note from Mindee…

Dear Camp Tevya Community,

This spring my family moved into a new house. Waking up in the morning after the first night of sleeping there I thought, “it already feels like home.” Weeks later, we welcomed new campers into our camp family at our New Camper Orientation. This year, for the first time, we included our first-year counselors. In the morning, these new staff members participated in a training as they grasped the incredible opportunity they would have to change the lives of children. They spent the afternoon getting to know our new campers, and, along with our Leadership Team, they shared information about what they could expect from their summer home.

In late April, we traveled to England and Israel to bond with our international staff members. It was so nice to hear our returning international staff members (three who are returning for their 3rd summer) tell their personal camp stories. Our returning international staff shared their love of camp with their new peers. One common phrase heard was, “Tevya is my second home.”

When I think of home, I think of a place where you feel comfortable to be yourself, a place where challenges are viewed as opportunities for growth, a place where traditions are shared and celebrated. In just a few weeks we will welcome our new staff, and then our new campers, to Camp Tevya for the summer. We will welcome them all home!

With Tevya Spirit,
Mindee Greenberg

Calling All Alumni… Come Back to Camp this Summer!

Every Sunday during camp, Tevya leadership gives tours at 10:00 am, 2:30 pm, and 3:30 pm. Prospective families benefit from having camp alumni along for the tour to help answer questions. Click HERE to help give tours.

Please also help out on August 6th from 9:00 am – 1:30 pm for a tour and “Try Camp Tevya For a Day!”

We need lots of help to make this day special for our many prospective families. Grab your old bunk-mate or co-counselor and click HERE to sign up. Share your knowledge and Tevya Spirit with families who are considering Camp Tevya.

Host International Counselors on Their Day Off!

A long time Camp Tevya tradition is the employment of staff from around the world. The benefits for both the domestic and international staff, as well as the campers, are plentiful, and this summer is no exception. This year Camp Tevya will welcome over 30 international counselors.

Melanie Steier, a current parent, has hosted international staff in the past and had the following things to say about her experience:

“Mitzvah goreret mitzvah, averah goreret averah - one good deed will bring another good deed. Hosting international staff is a wonderful and fun mitzvah. Providing counselors a home to relax and re-energize on their day off is very little work. They enjoy having Wi-Fi, air conditioning, a TV, and as the British counselors say ‘proper pizza.’ During the day they will go into Boston, the mall, a movie, etc. They do not expect host families to be inconvenienced and are happy to take a train or Uber.

I enjoy meeting the international counselors to get another view of camp life. It is enjoyable to learn about their culture. The Israeli counselors’ army experiences are amazing to hear about from such young adults. We love seeing counselors come back for their day off during the season and year after year. They are always grateful and appreciative.”

Please do a mitzvah this summer and add your name to the list of hosts to be called when an international staff member has a day off and needs a place to go. Click HERE to sign up to host an international staff member.

Help Make Our Wishes Come True

Like most nonprofit organizations, donations are essential to help with costs beyond what tuition can cover. Many of you have asked, “How can I help?”

Here are two easy ways:

• Amazon Wish List – Tevya has identified items that will enhance Tevya camper experiences for years to come. Simply go to camptevya.org/wish-list.

• Amazon Smile – Go to smile.amazon.com, select “Eli and Bessie Cohen Camps.” From now on, anytime you shop, Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to the Cohen Camps. It’s simple, automatic, and no extra cost to you.

Thank you for supporting Camp Tevya!
Helpful Camp Tevya Terms...
Speak your camper’s language

Apache Relay – The final event of Color War; ends with each team building a fire to burn a rope on the Bog Field.

O.D. – An acronym for the on-duty counselor. At least one counselor is ALWAYS on O.D. and in the bunks after lights-out.

The Point – The woodsy clearing behind Bunk 20, where culture classes are held, overlooking Lake Potanipo.

Royalty – Each year the oldest and youngest bunks choose Tevya Royalty. For the girls, they choose their Prince and King. And, for the boys, they choose a Princess and Queen.

The Riviera – The area of camp in front of Birya, where our petting zoo is, overlooking Lake Potanipo.

Robert takes great pride in Tevya’s kitchen and staff. “Our kitchen is a highly professional environment, staffed with international college students, and led by food service, nutrition, culinary, and baking students. We recruit much of our staff from Johnson & Wales University. This ensures that everyone in camp gets a great dining experience. We are truly camper-centric.”

Today’s children have different needs than those of years past. Robert is confident in the student chefs who are highly trained in specialized diets to meet the needs of our children with allergies and diverse special needs. One chef is dedicated as our “Alternative Dining Coordinator” and has the sole responsibility for preparing and serving the food for anybody requiring a special diet.

Robert recalls conversations with parents when they first tour Tevya. “They want to know if we serve their children’s favorite foods, which, of course, we do. They are always thrilled when we explain the table dynamics and how the counselors are trained to watch eating habits. The Dining Hall is a place where Tevya comes together as a whole family.”

Do You Remember?

... Singing English songs on Friday nights?
... The tree at the crossroads?
... Only three, or even two, color war teams?
... The counselor show each summer?
... When night O.D.s sat outside the bunks?
... When camp was 8 weeks long?
... Only one head counselor for each area?
... When staff shirts were not required every day?
... Wearing backless sandals all over camp?
... Getting Kolainus at the end of camp?
... Watching movies in the Girls Rec Hall with bats?

Everybody LOVES Tevya Gear!!

Need trip shirts or sweatshirts for the summer? Amerasport offers all sorts of exclusive Tevya sweatshirts, shorts, hats, and more. Visit Amerasport to purchase.

See What’s COOKING with Camp Tevya’s Head Cook, Robert Brown

After having worked as the second chef at Camp Pembroke when he was eighteen years old, Robert was offered the opportunity to rejoin the Cohen Camps in 2011, this time, at Camp Tevya. During the off season, Robert is an Assistant Professor of Culinary Nutrition at Johnson & Wales University in Providence, RI.

As he anxiously anticipates returning to Tevya for the summer, he thinks about the campers. “I always enjoy making our campers happy. While everyone enjoys Shabbat dinner, the number one favorite meal has to be the Thursday Night Barbecue … what could be better?! ”

1...2...3...4...We Want Color War!

How Will Color War Break? Share YOUR Ideas!!

As Second Session gets underway each summer, campers, alumni, and parents start to think about and anticipate Color War. Excited memories come rushing back. What team will I be on? Who will be captains? What will the songfest banners look like? Which team will get to the fire first? And, most importantly, how will Color War break?

Here’s your chance to share YOUR great ideas with camp leadership on how Color War 2017 should break! Last summer, camp was awakened at 6:30 am by “Eye of the Tiger,” Camp Tevya’s color war theme song, blasting on the loudspeaker. Campers were told to report to the soccer field where they were broken into teams and the games began! Submit YOUR ideas to Program Director Margo Seresky at Margo@camptevya.org.
It was 1982, my Birya summer. Steve Siagel returned as the Music Director. Steve fit in perfectly at camp, even though it was only his second summer. The previous summer he taught us “Hey, Hey Camp Tevya,” which he apparently wrote for his job interview with then Director Steve Thompson. “I didn’t know anything about camp because I had never been a camper or counselor at Camp Tevya. However, my very dear friend, Marjorie Druker, had been there for many years and told me all about camp so I would have enough knowledge to write my song.”

Over the first days of camp in 1982, Steve introduced us to his newest song. “I wanted to come back to camp with another special song, but this time I really had Tevya Spirit. I knew what it actually felt like to be at camp, and wanted to write beyond the summer and keep camp in their hearts throughout the year. ‘Tevya Spirit’ became our theme song, our purpose, our shared promise to preserve the love, and devotion to our dear Camp Tevya. We sang it in Shira, we sang it on game days, we sang it on Shabbat.”

It is now 35 years later and it’s my older daughter, Zoe’s, Biry summer and my younger daughter, Maya’s, second summer. Listening to both of them sing any camp song brings me to a special place. Listening to them sing Steve’s songs is indescribable. I could not agree more with Steve when he says, “I find that as the years go by the lyrics to “Tevya Spirit” offer an even deeper meaning to me. I never dreamed that Camp Tevya would be singing my song 35 years later!”

Along with marrying Cindy Shapiro – his Tevya sweetheart and love of his life, experiencing his kids as Tevya campers, and actively participating in Camp over the past 30+ years (including Siagel Socials), he has built an entertainment empire with Siagel Productions. “It has been a privilege and an honor to have provided the entertainment for Camp Tevya’s final social every year since my first summer in 1981.”

Siagel Productions has rocked MANY mitzvahs through the years, including my daughter Zoe’s. They didn’t flinch at our request to paly “Tevya Spirit” during the reception. “It’s so special when campers ask to have “Tevya Spirit” as the music for their Tevya friends when they are called up during their candle lighting ceremony. Click HERE to download your favorite Tevya songs! And, in typical Steve fashion, all proceeds go directly to the Tevya Scholarship Fund! “My hope is that every Tevya camper can listen to their favorite Tevya songs throughout the year!”

Hey, Hey Steve Siagel, we are grateful for your priceless contributions to our Tevya family, and look forward to your “Tevya Spirit” living on and on throughout the years. You ARE music, and you write the songs. “My life would never have been the same had it not been for Camp Tevya. Tevya moments are forever ingrained in my heart and soul.”

**CAMP TEVYA WORD SCRAMBLE**

A T Y V
I A B Y R
S B A T B A H
K N E O L R I B O
O P O T A P N I

**Up until 10 years ago, Shabbat services were held outside in the Dell.**

**Now, campers now enjoy mosquito-free services in our beautiful Pavilion!**