



NEWS & NOTES

FALL 2024 Shoresh: Going Strong All Year Long!

Director's Message

By Rabbi David Finkelstein

I needed a job. Upon returning home from yeshiva in Baltimore after 11th grade, my parents gently suggested that I find some work to help cover the costs of my post-graduation trip to Israel. That's when **Kolman** and **Hosh Katz**, of blessed memory, came to my rescue. Kolman and his wife **Lena** (A"H) were like adoptive grandparents to me, treating me with kindness and warmth, while Hosh and his wife **Dotty** (A"H) were close friends of my parents. Despite the fact that I wasn't exactly the ideal fit for warehouse work, they kindly offered me a job at their family business, Katz Auto Parts.

The work was tough and the environment was hot with little air conditioning, but I appreciated the opportunity they gave me. Even though I knew early on that I wouldn't spend my career in the auto parts industry, I'm forever grateful to them for giving me a chance and helping me gain the confidence I needed.

Meanwhile, my brother **Sam**, who was living 1,000 miles away, had married **Dvora Kosman**, the daughter of the Rabbi and Rebbetzin of Frederick. During my 11th grade year, he, along with his brothers-in-law **Avi** and **Chaim Kosman**, started a small, three-week summer camp for 19 kids at the old Beth Sholom synagogue on 2nd Street, which had been built in the 1800s. I wasn't part of those early days of Shoresh, though I've seen all the pictures. However, I'm deeply

appreciative of those who planted the seeds of Jewish life for children in Frederick.

I joined in the third year of Shoresh, as the camp expanded, holding sessions in different schools around Frederick County. Then, 24 years ago, we achieved our dream of acquiring a permanent home for Shoresh — a beautiful 107-acre campus in Adamstown, MD. It was a blank canvas full of potential, and everyone had incredible ideas for what it could become. We imagined and painted a picture in our minds, shaping it into the place it is today.

We owe tremendous gratitude to Hashem and to the two pillars of our organization, **Josh Fidler** and **John Davison**, who helped in every way to build the dream.

45 years after opening, over 4,000 children and 1,000 staff members have come through Shoresh's doors. Today, we are planning for the future, so we can continue to evolve and best serve the needs of our families. For instance, this year we built an Israel Rec Room, which you can read all about on Page 4.

Under the leadership of our Board president, **Yona Openden**, and our terrific year-round team — **Rabbi Tzvi "Rabbi T" Tuchman**, **Abby Persky**, **Liz Matson**, and the recent addition of **Shanni Majeski** — we continue to grow. Shanni, a longtime Shoresh mom and wife of my good friend **Rabbi Yakov "Majik" Majeski**, has taken on the role of

Director of Engagement, bringing new visions to life. Additionally, CIT Girls' Head **Tehila Kugielsky** is working with Shanni to help spread Shoresh's mission and values to both alumni and current camp members.

I'm also excited to announce that we're working with **Judy Gadiel** of Evolve Giving Group, a seasoned nonprofit organizational consultant from Chicago, to elevate our board and maximize our potential in every way. This is a thrilling new chapter for Shoresh.

It was deeply emotional to present stars on the Shoresh Walk of Fame to **Dennis (Denny) and Debra Berman**, **Sid and Michelle Kandel**, **Yaakov Spatz**, and **MollyBeth Rushfield**, who is retiring after 20 years of service. Each of them comes from different backgrounds and journeys, but all are richly deserving of this honor. We were also privileged to dedicate a family cabin room in honor of longtime Shoresh parents and supporters **Avi and Leba Benus**.

Honestly, if we were to honor everyone who has helped us reach this milestone after 45 years, we would need a few more acres! But rest assured, we will continue to honor those who support us. If you're wondering how you can help us accomplish our goals, please reach out at rdave@shoresh.com. I'm always available.

When I landed my first job in high school all those years ago, I never dreamed I would end up where I am today, but I wouldn't trade it for the world.



The Finkelstein family was honored to meet new Orioles owner, David Rubenstein, at the May 19th fundraiser at Camden Yards



Rabbi Dave with his mother, Naomi Finkelstein, and longtime friend and generous supporter Charlotte Weinberg enjoying the Sukkos holiday. We thank Charlotte from the bottom of our hearts for once again sponsoring our year-round Torah learning programs for children, teens and adults, as well as our upcoming teen trip to Texas, in memory of her dear husband, Carroll (A"H). Carroll grew up in a small town and had to work really hard to become the wonderful Jew and leader that he was, which is why he loved supporting Shoresh throughout his life. He felt a real deep connection to the mission and was proud of all the success of thousands of children connecting to their rich Jewish heritage



Shepping Nachas over our beautiful campers

Save the Date

Monday-Tuesday
January 27-28, 2025
Shoresh Online Fundraiser

Sunday
May 4, 2025
Shoresh BBQ & Auction

D'var Torah

By Rabbi Tzvi Tuchman

As we change our clocks and turn them back an hour at the end of daylight savings time, the stark reality of the upcoming winter months starts to come into focus for me. It is the annual reminder that the warm summer months are officially behind us and that the cold, harsh weather will be here soon enough, together with rain, snow and the "wintery-mix" we get here in Maryland.

Perhaps we can learn a wonderful lesson from these cold elements that will keep us warm throughout the winter months. Water, as opposed to blood, is cold and wet. Coolness, in general, is associated with impurity and death. If a living body becomes cold for too long, it is no longer alive. In some ways, water is the opposite of blood. Blood is warm and easily excitable, while the nature of water is generally cool and calm. Water can also be frozen and stop moving altogether, at which point it loses its vitality

"Back in May, more than 50 people gathered at camp for our 22nd annual Family Shabbaton. The Family Shabbaton is a way to bring the inspiration, ruach, and connection of a camp Shabbaton to adults and families. People of all different ages, backgrounds, and cities come together and celebrate Shabbat together with amazing food, dynamic speakers, and endless energy!

This year we had the pleasure of attending classes from **Rabbi Shlomo Horwitz** from Baltimore. He led interactive sessions, often using skits and stories, to share incredible insights and messages regarding the parsha and the terrible events of October 7th. The delicious food was catered by **Mark Prince**, who attended camp many years ago, and whose family is still very involved.

We started off Shabbos with a powerful davening filled with singing and energy. During meals everyone stood up and shared something about themselves so we all had the opportunity to meet new people and get to know each other better. We ended Shabbos with a beautiful Havdala followed by singing and dancing, with Rabbi Horwitz on the guitar.

I've been to many different Shores Shabbatons, and the Family Shabbaton is by far one of my all-time favorites. I love getting to meet new people and connect to families that I otherwise may not get to meet. It's inspiring to see Jews from all kinds of backgrounds come to Shores and spend a Shabbos together as one, and make it so meaningful and memorable."

-**Eliana Polun**

completely. The very concept of coldness opposes holiness.

The story is told that the Baal Shem Tov's students witnessed a group of peasants who had gathered on the surface of a frozen river, from which they carved a block of ice in the shape of a cross to use in a religious procession. They asked their master what lesson they could possibly derive from such an "un-Jewish" scene. The Baal Shem Tov replied, "In the Torah, water has spiritually cleansing properties; but when it is frozen, even the purest substance can be made into an icon of heresy."

Our Sages compare the Torah to water. Like water, Torah is only alive when we allow it to heat us up. When we imbue our Jewish lives with energy, vitality and enthusiasm, warmth and joy, then the Torah becomes the life-sustaining, living wellspring it is meant to be. But, if we allow our

Judaism to become routine and stagnant, it becomes like a block of ice - cold and lifeless.

A Jew must be passionate about his/her Judaism. It needs to be practiced with a sense of fire and passion, emotion, excitement, and enthusiasm. A Jew who is religiously "cold" - who maybe prays but prays by rote, who is dispassionate about the rituals and observances, and who isn't warmed by the fire of Torah study - runs the risk of becoming frozen in his/her Judaism. It then requires an even greater measure of energy to break through their inner ice to reach the pintele yid - the inner spark/flame of holiness that resides within each one of us.

Wishing you a warm and uplifting winter filled with Torah and Mitzvos (and some hot chocolate for those really cold mornings!)

Family Shabbaton

"Last spring's Family Shabbaton was a great deal of fun and led to a meaningful and enjoyable Jewish experience. I appreciated how open and welcoming everyone was to my wonderful fiancée."

-**Ari Devorah**



Jamie Reyer, Yiska Chana Teich and Eliana Polun



Dancing after Havdala



Rabbi Shlomo Horwitz



The Myrgorod family



Fran and Henry Reitberger



Havdala

Thank you to the **Reitberger & Blumenfeld families** for once again sponsoring this Shabbaton in memory of **Isaac & Jean Goldman Z"L**.

**Save the date for the next Family Shabbaton:
March 28-29, 2025**

SHORESH: GOING STRONG ALL YEAR LONG! (2)

Adult Ed Classes

By Rabbi Tzvi Tuchman

Education has been, and continues to be, the cornerstone of a Jewish community. The Jewish Nation has been referred to as "The People of The Book" referring to the Torah, which, in my opinion, is the highest compliment that can be paid. The value we place on ensuring that we, our children, our children's children, and the larger Jewish community be educated in Jewish knowledge, values and traditions, speaks volumes of our commitment to our survival and continuity.

It is no surprise that a major contributing factor to the success Shoresch has been blessed with over the past many decades can be attributed to its focus on educating kids, teens, and adults through a plethora of learning opportunities customized for each group.

Once again, Shoresch is offering a wide range of adult education classes in different cities and neighborhoods throughout Maryland and Virginia, including a few classes on Zoom.

Here's a summary of classes scheduled for the upcoming winter months with new classes already in formation. Please contact Rabbi T (rabbite@shoresch.com) if you are interested in joining or hosting a class in your neighborhood.

Sundays - "Down The RabbiT Hole With Rabbi T" - Now in its sixth year, this bi-monthly Zoom class of participants from across the country (mostly from Columbus, OH - my old stomping grounds) takes a fresh look at the Parsha of the week and relates it to contemporary society to more easily enable us to learn lessons from these Biblical episodes.

Alita Passe and **Maayan Goldman** are new to the IDF. They are currently in training which mostly consists of learning Hebrew. As alumni of Shoresch, which encouraged their love of Israel, they are proud to put on their IDF uniforms each day in order to protect the people and land of Israel, especially at a time like this.



Alita Passe Maayan Goldman



Naomi Felps

Last year I completed my service in Sheirut Leumi volunteering in Shaarei Tzedek Hospital in Jerusalem, after making Aliyah. I've been a part of Shoresch for 8 years and this past summer was the first one I missed because I was still in my service. Even though it was very hard for me, I knew serving my country was the most important thing, especially during these hard times. Even from afar I'm still a part of the Shoresch family

- Naomi Felps

As a soldier in the IDF, I am fortunate to have the opportunity to fight on behalf of all Am Yisrael. This experience has helped me understand that we as Jews cannot live as individuals; rather, we must look out for each other. This is a lesson that I was first exposed to in Shoresch, where I had the opportunity to see Jews from many different communities across Maryland join together for an unbelievably fun and uplifting experience.

-Moshe Gottlieb



Moshe Gottlieb

Tuesdays - We travel to Ashburn, VA, to the welcoming home of **Joe and Pamela Craig** for another segment in the series of monthly classes entitled, "Jukebox of Judaism." This class uses classic song titles and analyzes them through the lens of the Torah to bring out important ideas of Judaism.

Wednesdays - The "Ethical Principles For The 21st Century" series focuses on gleaned contemporary insights from Pirkei Avos - a collection of Rabbinic teachings from the Mishnaic Era. This weekly series is taught via Zoom.

Thursdays - "Inspirational Insights Based On The Sefer Shvilei Pinchas" is hosted by **Alan Lazerow** in his beautiful home in Baltimore. This monthly informal discussion group centers on either the weekly Torah portion or upcoming Jewish holiday as authored by Rabbi Pinchas Friedman in his sefer.



Some of our teen classes in action

Shoresch Alumni in Israel

My name is **Yitz Taragin**, and I was fortunate to spend twelve incredible years at Camp Shoresch—a place that was truly my home away from home. The memories I made there are some of the best of my life, filled with warmth, friendship, and an unmistakable love for Israel that permeated everything we did. My final experience with Shoresch was nothing short of extraordinary: joining the Israel Trip with my Shoresch family. Being in Israel, surrounded by the people who helped shape me, was deeply meaningful and left a lasting mark on my heart.

Since then, my life has taken me on a path inspired by those Shoresch years. I now live in Israel and proudly serve in the IDF, carrying the values and spirit I learned at camp with me every day. I know I wouldn't be where I am without Shoresch, and it will forever remain a place that feels like home—a place I will always hold close to my heart.



David Weintraub



Yitz Taragin

Shalom l'Culam (Hey Everyone)!

After 14 years at Camp Shoresch, I made Aliyah in August and am currently living in Ra'anana (northeast of Tel Aviv) and studying Hebrew in Ulpan. I sent a letter to the IDF before the Chagim, giving them permission to draft me in March, and now I'm waiting for a Tzav Rishon (first exam) date. I plan to serve for 3-5 years, in whatever unit the IDF deems best for me!

Yalla/Bye,

- Sammy Matson



Sammy Matson

③ SHORESCH: GOING STRONG ALL YEAR LONG!

New for 2024: Israel Recreation Room



**Rabbi Dave with Mark Goloboski
of Bay Country Concrete**



**Dayna Klitzner creating our very own
handmade Kotel**



**JCamp 180, a division of the Harold
Grinspoon Foundation, has generously
helped provide matching funds for a number
of important capital projects at camp,
including most recently the Israel Rec Room**



**Campers davening in front of our
very own Kotel**



**Joe Estryn and Mark Schlossenberg writing
prayer notes for our Kotel, which a staff
member put in the real Kotel after camp ended**

When **Bella Friedman** was preparing for her bat mitzvah, which took place this past March, she carefully thought about how she could contribute to the elevation of humanity in a meaningful way.

"I might not be able to fix everything in Israel right now. But it IS my job to notice. And upon noticing, it is my job to do anything and everything I can to help." - Bella Friedman

Some kibbutzim in the Gaza Envelope are starting to rebuild. Amidst the devastation is hope. We are a strong and resilient nation.

Bella thought carefully about how she can help our brothers and sisters in the rebuilding of their lives. She wanted to contribute something that will bring comfort and protection.

Mezuzot. She, together with her father, **Josh Friedman**, created mezuzot.

They purchased the wood. And together they cut, carved, sanded, stained and painted. For months. It was a PROCESS. Then they purchased 24 scrolls.

Each mezuzah sold for \$180 and Bella donated 100% of the funds raised to two organizations (ZAKA Search & Rescue and United Hatzalah of Israel).

She felt so grateful for the community's partnership as we remain unified in support of our brothers and sisters.

AM YISROEL CHAI
-**Becca Friedman**



Bella and Josh Friedman



**Campers used their artistic abilities to
personalize tiles, which will grace the room's walls**



BZ Openden

Reflections about Simchas Torah 2023 at Shoresh
By **BZ Openden**

Nothing stopped for those of us participating in the Camp Shoresh Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah program. The dancing, the singing, the celebrating — they all continued. We knew nothing of the terror raging approximately 6,000 miles away from our comfortable seclusion in the rural community of Adamstown, Maryland. Blissfully unaware, we danced, we sang, we celebrated.

On the evening of October 8, 2023, as Simchat Torah began to wane, I heard the first whispers of something occurring in Israel. I had no access to any reliable information, and when mention of an attack in Israel reached me, I dismissed it as yet another story of an Israel-hating terrorist who murdered a few people before being neutralized — the kind of event, I am ashamed to admit, that occurred so frequently in Israel that hearing about one no longer shocked me. The news was scarce, so I chose not to fret.

The staff members, who had more information about the "situation" from the groundskeeper (the one non-Jew on the campus), decided it was best to withhold from us the scant information they did have because knowing what they knew without the ability to find out more would have been incredibly troubling for us. Furthermore, as there were many non-observant participants who may never have experienced Simchat Torah prior to this event, upholding the spirit of the holiday was especially important. But most of all, why worry when there may not even be anything to truly worry about?

This displays a common human cognitive bias known as the optimism bias. When faced with uncertain circumstances, we often choose to believe in the best available option. Here, this meant minimizing the potential scope of the situation. Because of our lack of information, we donned rose-colored glasses and remained in a sanguine state. Blissfully unaware, we danced, we sang, we celebrated.

Only later did we realize that our glasses were not actually rose-colored — they were blood-stained.



Yosi Azulay of Key Tov Construction

BBO Banquet

Shoresh held an incredibly successful BBQ at Camden Yards event on May 19. The 400+ attendees enjoyed eating the scrumptious food, meeting star athletes from the Orioles and Ravens, family fun entertainment, and SWAG bags that were filled with snacks for the post-event game along with a special Shoresh baseball. The unique location added to the festivities and the best part, of course, was cheering on our winning team, the Baltimore Orioles!

We were thrilled to present our honorees **Avi & Liba Benus** and **Aaron & Beth Goldberg** with their Pillar of Judaism awards. They are all huge supporters of Shoresh and deserved to be recognized.

The always-special auction consisted of 14 amazing packages, and the lucky winners enjoyed a variety of prizes including restaurant

gift cards, sparkling jewelry, trips to New York City and Orlando, exciting sports experiences and collectibles, and a 70" television and Xbox.

Thanks to all the sponsors and attendees for supporting this event!

Stay tuned for more information regarding the upcoming BBQ Banquet, to be held on Sunday, May 4, 2025.



Rabbi Dave with Dr. Robert Edelman and Chairman of the Board, John Davison



Children eagerly awaiting the game!



Father/son time for Mark and Will Schlossenberg



The Spiegler family



Oriole legend Al Bumbry chatting it up with Rabbi Dave



Look at those smiles!



Yona Openden, Rabbi Majik, Erica Dek and Rabbi Dave with Shoresh teens



Rabbi Dave and Rabbi Menachem Goldberger



3 Ravens players, 2 former Oriole greats, and Shoresh legends Rabbi Stein, Rabbi T, Rabbi Dek, and the Finkelstein boys enjoying an awesome day



Linda & Michael Elman



Co-chairs Yona Openden and Shani Kohen with Abby Persky



Yona Openden with Aaron & Beth Goldberg receiving their Pillar of Judaism award

Camp 2024

Thank you to our wonderful head staff for their dedication & hard work:

Rabbi T, Abby, Liz and Shelly in the office before and during camp

Rabbi Asher Stein - Dean of Jewish Life

Rabbi Yakov "Majik" Majeski - Assistant to the Head Staff

Rachel Shar - Program Director

Esther Berman - Assistant Program Director

Moshe Tuchman - Field Director

MollyBeth Rushfield - Director of Junior Shoresh

Ronit Miller - Assistant Director of Junior Shoresh

Rabbi Alon Dek - Director of CITs and Upper Boys' Division Head

Avrumi Rechtes - Lower Boys' Division Head

Devorah Krainess - Lower Girls' Division Head

Hannah Marill - Upper Girls' Division Head

Tamar Livingstone - Mental Health Professional

Amy Gordon - Nurse

Garen Minton - Chef





Tavius Robinson, Trenton Simpson and Keaton Mitchell rocking the 2024 Shoresh camp shirt



Color War competitions are always a favorite



Strength in numbers:
we had 467 campers
and 135 staff this summer!

Honoree Celebrations



Dennis and Debra Berman have been cherished supporters and partners of Shoresh for over 20 years, embodying generosity, hospitality, and a deep commitment to Klal Yisroel. From funding scholarships and donating a bunk house room to warmly hosting Shabbatonim, they have profoundly impacted Shoresh's mission, culminating in their recognition on the Walk of Fame this summer.



For over 30 years, **Sid and Michelle Kandel** have been pillars of the Shoresh community, sending their children **David** and **Andrea** to camp, immersing themselves in Jewish learning, and volunteering for countless hours. From hosting teen programs to leading events and inspiring others with their warmth and kindness, they truly embody the spirit of Shoresh, making them a worthy addition to the Walk of Fame.



Yaakov Spatz has been a vital part of Shoresh for decades, beginning as an exceptional counselor who inspired campers and later serving as a dedicated board member and vice president. Together with his wife **Esther**, Yaakov's unwavering commitment to Shoresh's mission, both at camp and within the broader community, makes him truly deserving of a star on the Walk of Fame.



MollyBeth Rushfield's 20-year career at Shoresh has been marked by boundless creativity and an unwavering passion for connecting with Jews from all walks of life. Her immeasurable impact on Junior Shoresh and the entire community has earned her a star on the Walk of Fame, a lasting tribute to her incredible legacy.



Avi and Leba Benus, a highly respected Beth Tfiloh family, have been steadfast supporters of Shoresh, with Leba serving on the Board for over a dozen years and contributing her deep knowledge of the Jewish community. Their dedication was honored this year with the naming of a family cabin room, celebrating their humility, generosity, and vital role in Shoresh's success.

Simchas Torah

By Tehila Kugielsky

You can tell a lot about a person when you see how they react to situations beyond their control, whether an inconvenience like a traffic jam, or, on an entirely different level, a war. Over the past year, Jews all over the world have been bombarded with hate, assaulted with threats, and attacked with vicious antisemitism. Yet, the Jewish people did not cower; we did not collapse. We not only stood strong, we not only fought, during Simchas Torah 2024, we danced. How?? What enabled this unspoken, yet ubiquitous reaction amongst Jews all over the world??

The night of Shmini Atzeres of October 2024, I was served a delicious meat knish. As I sat in the expansive, beautifully-decorated Shoresh sukkah, thoroughly enjoying my meat knish, I looked around at the people I was going to be spending the next few days with. On the far right table sat **Rabbi Mordechai Becher**, a renowned scholar who speaks captivatingly and intelligently. I spotted **Judge Alan Lazerow** on my left; the newly engaged couple, **Ben Kron** and **Rivka Samuels**, a few tables down; and Rabbi

Dave himself sitting amongst the crowd. I saw families, couples, individuals, and some of my most favorite teens on the entire planet. I saw people talking with their relatives, friends, and perfect strangers. While I definitely couldn't name every person sitting in the Sukkah, I couldn't help but feel that I was participating in a family reunion.

The following night, we were lifted by song, dance, and adrenaline as we circled around and around and around. The hours flew by, and the socks flew off (iykyk). Still, we danced and danced and danced. We danced for ourselves; we danced for those who couldn't. We danced like those before us danced; we danced like those who come after us will dance. We danced holding the Torah; we danced with those who live the Torah. It was probably around midnight when it hit me. This dancing on Simchas Torah night is the very answer to my question. As far as I know, Jewish people are the only people who dance with their "book." Because the Torah isn't simply our "book"; it is our source of guidance, wisdom, and life. This is what we value; this is what we celebrate.

The unbreakable bond between the finite and the Infinite. Our connection to the Eternal, with a people who are eternal. No matter who or what is against us, "Am Yisrael Chai" - we are the nation that lives. Not the nation that survives on their own, but the nation that lives with HaShem.

You can tell a lot about a people when you see how they react to situations beyond their control. For a nation that responds to war with brotherly love, perpetual giving, and newfound commitment is a people that knows what living really is.

Spending Simchas Torah at Shoresh reminded me what it means to be a Jew. Watching how a diverse mix of people can be so united in their shared purpose. Thinking about what our shared purpose is. Realizing how that is representative of our values as a nation. These 3 days at Shoresh were packed with inspiration found in meaningful lectures, spirited dancing, and most importantly, the special people who came.



Visiting Scholar Rabbi Mordechai Becher with Jake Lazerow, Sammy Carter, Jacob Wetrogan, Rabbi Alon Dek & Zachary Wetrogan



Debi Sztarmy and Shirley Blumenfeld



Shoresh teens and staff bonding



Many of the 200+ attendees gathered for a group photo after Havdalah

"Shavua tov and gezunter vinter!

I had an amazing, uplifting, inspiring and energizing Yom Tov with Shoresh. You have created something unique and beautiful. I truly was not aware that there was anything as wholesome and wonderful as Shoresh in the U.S. anymore, אשריך. Thanks for the opportunity, looking forward to further Shoresh events."

-Rabbi Mordechai Becher

From the Shoresh Inbox

Camp 2024

"Regarding Grandparents' Day:
4.5 hours driving each way...
100 degree heat outdoors...
2 hours at the most leibadik camp on the planet...
Heaven on earth & the highlight of our summer!"

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything you've done for my daughter. Thank you, thank you, thank you."

Jewish Lifecycle:

Thank you for everything you do - for us, our family, and beyond to all the people you touch. Our son's meaningful Bar Mitzvah was such a special gift, made possible by Shoresh, his love for Shoresh, his studies with Eddie, his parents, and on and on. My mother moved to the U.S. from Germany as a 12-year-old in 1937. My son was called to the Torah on July 8, her birthday. Her Yahrzeit was the day before. As Rabbi Kosman always said, "No coincidences."

"Thank you so much for the donations in honor and memory of my dad. We truly appreciate your thoughtfulness."

"Thank you very much for making a donation to Shoresh in memory of my mom, and for all of the kindness you have always shown to me, my mom, and the whole family over the years. I mentioned in my eulogy that I was so grateful my mom "forced"/convinced me to attend Camp Shoresh. I have always appreciated the Jewish education and spiritual development I received there."

"Thank you so much for such a wonderful Bar Mitzvah service. The Ravens players were a great surprise! I really appreciate the football and the pair of tefillin. It really meant a lot to share such a special day at Shoresh because it's like my second family."

"Thank you so much for making every summer memorable and letting the kids just be kids. You and your family are amazing!"

Simchas Torah:

"Thank you all for a delicious lunch in the awesome huge Sukkah! Mom and I really had an amazing experience! The food was excellent and the company was great!"

"Thank you for helping make such a beautiful yontiff. It's always a pleasure and a zechus to spend it at Shoresh, and it wouldn't be possible without all the time and effort you put into it."

"My wife and I are so appreciative of the Yom Tov our son had with you at the Shoresh campus. Simchas Torah is not always the easiest of yomim tovim and this year was the best ever. Thank you for all that you do!"

"I just wanted to say thank you so much for a beautiful, amazing Chag experience. It was really lovely to get to see everyone again and be in Shoresh again. I really feel like I gained a lot from being back in the Shoresh environment especially for this year's Simchat Torah. Thank you very much! I'm looking forward to being back soon!"

"I've told so many people how fantastic the Yom Tov and Shabbos was! The ruach and hamishe atmosphere made everyone relax, and the teens were so well behaved. You and everyone associated with Camp Shoresh worked so hard and it showed!"

"We very much appreciated spending a wonderful start to Shabbos with you. You and your wife were so gracious, as always. We very much enjoyed being with you, meeting your special guests, the learning session, etc. We love you and we love Shoresh!"

"My son & I ended the high holidays by reliving our camp experiences. It was my first time at Camp Shoresh but hardly my son's first. His children attended Shoresh for 9 seasons!"

I loved the food, the ruach, the feeling of family. I enjoyed many engrossing conversations with other guests.

Please accept this donation as a means of defraying the cost."



Baltimore camp reunion in November 2024



Girls horsing around at the inaugural "Pizza & Torah with Tehila & Devorah!" in November 2024

Devorah Krainess and Tehila Kugielsky have kicked off an incredible new elementary school group for Montgomery County girls, blending fun, friendship and inspiration!

The group recently gathered for their first event at Ben Yehuda Pizza in Kemp Mill, where the energy was electric, and the excitement for Shoresh's year-round programs was contagious. This dynamic duo is bringing the heart and soul of Shoresh to Montgomery County, creating a space for girls to connect, grow, and have a blast.

Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity—if you're ready to join the fun, email Shanni at shannieshoresh.com today for more information!

In The News

Governor Moore Announces Appointments to the Baltimore City Circuit Court
Published: 12/15/2023

Alan Carl Lazerow has served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the civil division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland since 2017. He was promoted to senior litigation counsel in October 2022. In addition to managing a full civil caseload, he mentors new Assistant U.S. Attorneys and oversees a yearly training program for new hires.

Lazerow currently serves as lead of the U.S. Attorney's Office's civil opioid initiative. His work has helped to crack down on medical professionals who have overprescribed and pharmacists who have overdispensed opioids. In addition, he routinely handles matters involving alleged employment discrimination, immigration, and torts under the Federal Tort Claims Act. He also handles a portion of the office's heavy bankruptcy caseload, representing the government's interests in an array of bankruptcy proceedings.

While at the Baltimore-based firm of Whiteford, Taylor & Preston, he served as an assigned public defender. In addition to his work in the law, Lazerow serves as vice president and travel coordinator of Wellwood Baseball in Northwest Baltimore; president emeritus of Shoresh, Inc., a Baltimore-based Jewish outreach organization; and previously served on the board of the University of Maryland Hillel.

Lazerow received his J.D., summa cum laude, from the University of Baltimore School of Law, where he was the articles editor for the University of Baltimore Law Review. Upon graduation, he clerked for the Honorable Glenn T. Harrell, Jr., on what was then the Court of Appeals of Maryland.



Mazel Tovs

Weddings

Hannah Tanzer to **Avi Edelman**
Maya Goldstein to Andrew Nathan
Dena Kotek to Chanania Laleh
Jennie Kraut to Keith Sanders
Leora Lasson to Daniel Lefkowitz
Tami Simon to **Avi Majeski**
Gillian Kramer to **Hunter Peltz**
Nechama Notis to **Yaacov Singer**
Ariella Merrill to **Yitz Taragin**



Births

A son, Baruch Elisha, to **Nava (Goldenhersh)** & Yitzchak **Berkovitz**
A daughter, Shira, to **Sara (Trombka)** & Dov **Fink**
A son, Binyamin Aharon, to Devorah (Hamby) & **Avi Finkelstein**
A daughter to **Yehudis** & Baruch **Katz**
A daughter, Rachelle Ahuva, to Avigail & **Ze'ev Katz**
A daughter, Eliana Gittel, to Shira (Haberman) & **Moshe Majeski**
A daughter, Jolie Davina, to **Marni (Bromberg)** & Jon **Mervis**
A son, Eliyahu Boaz, to **Nina (Lazerow)** & Ari **Muller**
A daughter, Ahuva Simcha, to **Malki (Stein)** & Yehuda **Raczkowski**
A daughter, Daniella Naomi, to **Sarah Kayla (Kanovsky)** & Hillel **Stutman**



Engagements

Leah Horowitz to **Eli Cohen**
Rivka Samuel to **Ben Kron**
Meira Rechtes to Yehuda Vegh



Where Are They Now?



Nina Dubin Elman worked as a lifeguard at Camp Shores for one year before becoming a counselor for two years, where she felt more connected to the heart of camp. She admired **Perri Goldenhersh** and **Sara Ottensoser**, who were the girls' division heads at the time, describing them as the "dream team." Nina loved how Shores blended fun with spiritual growth, helping individuals become better people. Her co-counselor for two years was **Becca (Levy) Friedman**, with whom she remains close. Nina now lives in Baltimore, MD, and works as an interior designer.



Yaira Dubin spent four years as a counselor at Camp Shores, where her favorite memories include pulling pranks on **Rabbi Dave** with her "partner in crime," **Elisheva (Finkelstein) Frenkel**. Now related to Rabbi Dave through marriage, as **Yossi Kohen** is her brother-in-law, Yaira fondly recalls how Shores instilled a love for and appreciation of the beauty of Judaism. She currently works as a lawyer at the Department of Justice and lives in Washington, D.C.



Daniella Dubin spent one year as a counselor at Camp Shores, where she formed close bonds with **Rabbi Dave** and **Rabbi Majik**, admiring their amazing energy and their ability to connect with campers and counselors alike. She has remained in touch with her co-counselor, **Katrina Eyler**, and reflects on her time at Shores as a valuable experience that helped her develop skills she still uses today. Daniella now lives in New York and works as a dermatologist.



Yomi Dubin fondly recalls his time at Camp Shores, where he spent one memorable year as a counselor. He speaks highly of **Rabbi T**, whose infectious energy left a lasting impact on him, and he was consistently amazed by the camp's incredible grounds. A more personal connection developed through **Rabbi Dave**, who recently officiated his sister's wedding. Now living in Baltimore, Yomi works in social media marketing but continues to cherish his experiences and relationships from Camp Shores.



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Dennis and Debra Berman with their grandson and Shoresh head staff at the star dedication ceremony



President Yona Openden with Avi & Liba Benus receiving their Pillar of Judaism award



Orioles owner David Rubenstein with Rabbi Dave and Maryland Delegate Dalya Attar



Maryland Delegates Jesse Pippy & April Miller with Maryland State Senator William Folden