

THE LOON LAKE JEWISH CENTER 60th ANNIVERSARY JOURNAL

כ"ג אב - August 4, 2018



"Mi Dor L'Dor"



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

The 50th anniversary of the Loon Lake Jewish Center was a feast of memory. So many people to appreciate and thank, so many actions to remember and recount that brought us to life and sustained us year after year that had amazingly added together to a half-century. Our 60th anniversary is all about the future. While other communities may pine for the “heydays” of the Adirondacks, and “golden years” of the past, our community not only cherishes its past, but also has been blessed with committed and loving families who today are growing our community at an unprecedented pace. The number of weddings and births in the families of the “founding generation” and to “next generation” members has not only increased our joy but provided a solid foundation for a bright future. We have a new generation coming into its own. The “second generation” has set the table for the third, and we look hopefully to the future with expectation, hope and faith. This is in no small measure the product of “nesting” spirituality that starts with family and community but finds its fullest expression in our dedication to the Jewish People and HaShem.

We hope that this anniversary journal will convey to some small extent these sentiments and aspirations. Thank you to all who contributed.

George Johnson

Ayah Johnson

Abby Schachter

REFLECTIONS BY OUR ESTEEMED RABBI, WILFRED SHUCHAT
(updated from the 50th Anniversary Journal)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

All of us should be grateful to Balaam, the non-Jewish prophet, for having left us one of the most beautiful blessings in our tradition, entitled Mah Tov: "How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, thy sanctuaries, O Israel." Balaam was impressed by the fact that the homes of the children of Israel were like a resident sanctuary in which the people were noted for their practice of justice, compassion and humility. Let us now transpose this beautiful verse to our present situation. Let the tents represent the cottages in Loon Lake and the sanctuary will of course be represented in the Loon Lake Jewish Center.

If I were to list the achievements of the Loon Lake Jewish Center I would categorize them as follows: first and foremost, it has made us all feel that we are not campers but members of a real Jewish community. This includes not only participants in the synagogue, but all the Jewish residents in the region who share the same feeling. Secondly, it has gone a long way to make us a united community. The religious divisions in our community are not different here than elsewhere, but we have had to act in a united way to maintain the quorum that is required for a Friday night service and Sabbath morning and Sabbath evening services. The only time we ever missed was occasionally during the last week of June before most of the families were able to arrive. The weekly kiddush has become a most important social event. It started out in individual homes but gradually moved to the locale of the synagogue itself which turned out to be far more appropriate.

The third major asset of our little synagogue is that it is able to do things for the general community. For the past several years, regularly scheduled chamber music concerts by the residents of Loon Lake have taken place. The synagogue has always been used by the Loon Lake Homeowners Association for their regular meetings.

This generation is doing the celebrating, but we owe a debt of gratitude to the founders and builders who are no longer among the living. Among them I would list Morris Propp, Rabbi Hyman Muss, Dr. Hayim Agus, Rabbi Jacob Agus, Eliyahu Stern, Gershon Stern, J.L. Gewurz, Louis Shiff, Eugene Sandorfy, Myer Lichtenstein, Bernard Dubow, Morris Plesser, Pearl Pincus, Irene Miller, Miriam Agus, Edith Agus, Aileen Kershner, Michael Herman and others. Any names left out are unintentional, and they too deserve our gratitude. In the case of individuals, we wish each other long life, but that wish can only be granted by the Almighty. The case of a community however, is quite different. That depends on its will to survive. Under the leadership of our past two presidents, our will to survive has been renewed and refreshed. We pray that our successors will cultivate the will to survive and will be privileged to celebrate many more anniversaries of the Loon Lake Jewish Center.



MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT – ZEV HERSHTAL

Having been President of the Loon Lake Jewish Center (LLJC) for most of the last ten years, I'm not sure if I should be reviewing our past, reminiscing about some of our memorable events, discussing our 60th celebrations, or speculating about the future. I think I'll do all four.

From Plaques to Playgrounds

I'm pleased to report that our community has grown over the past ten years. The most significant change in our Shul is the growing number of children. Sometimes the kids outnumber the adults. Between last summer and this summer alone, we had six more additions to our LLJC families. A new playground was put up in 2010 under Donald Pearson's supervision. Much of the cost was covered by special donations especially from excited grandparents and the community was delighted to move our narrative from memorial plaques to playgrounds. We've celebrated many engagements, weddings and births and this gives me great confidence in our future. We also welcomed the Fierers, Grunsteins, and Rosmarins, our new member families. Each one has already made a significant positive difference to our community.

Investing in the Future

The other major projects undertaken over this period were some new furnishings for the rental property, Beit Elisheva, which Brenda and Sam Gewurz took care of, a new robust Eiruv for the LLJC complex conceived and implemented by our Gabbai, Murray Vasilevsky and a major pest control initiative when we found out that our log cabin Shul had been invaded by powder post beetles.

In conjunction with our 60th Anniversary, we undertook some ambitious but necessary construction projects. In the Fall of 2017 the roof was repaired, including the replacement of major structural elements. David Wechsler oversaw this work and also personally cut back the forest growth around the Shul so as to mitigate future damage due to moisture build up. In June 2018, Brenda, with some input from Sybil Hershtal and others, oversaw our major kitchen renovation, a necessary aesthetic and sanitary improvement. After 60 years it's about time! To help defray the cost of all this new work Sam Gewurz developed a new plaque (we're back to plaques again!) and a campaign to have the names of every man, woman and child of our community inscribed.

– בזקיננו ובנערינו נלך

We will go into our next decade, young and old marching together.

Ah Yes, I Remember It Well

Although the LLJC only operates for 20 percent of the year, we celebrate a much greater percentage of our community's simchas and celebrations in Loon Lake. We've celebrated Births, Birthdays, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, Graduations, Engagements, Marriages, and Anniversaries. There's a more complete listing in another part of our journal. Thank G-d, there has been lots to celebrate in all our families, and we expect to celebrate many more happy occasions together. I'd like to remind you of a few: Jonathan Kershner's Bar Mitzvah, Ari Fierer's Bar Mitzvah, the special Bat Mitzvah of Stefanie Butt celebrated by the Chalupovitsch family, our celebration of Rabbi Wilfred Shuchat's 90th birthday (may he celebrate many more!), the celebration of Marilyn and Milton Wechsler's 60th wedding anniversary, and the completion and installation of a Sefer Torah by the Gewurz family. It was a special privilege to be included as part of these and all your celebrations.

Our community had many losses over the last decade, in particular, three family matriarchs and long-time Loon Lake members: Miriam Shuchat, Lily Sandorfy, and Sarah Hadida. May their memory and the memories of the other family members of our community who passed away be for a blessing.

Prayer and Study

The organization and operation of our Shabbat and other prayer services is masterfully orchestrated by Murray Vasilevsky. Our Gabbai keeps meticulous records of who led the services and who received Torah honors, as well as regularly updated lists of Hebrew names. Yasher Koach, Murray! Fortunately, he can tap into an increasing pool of talented Chazanim and Torah Readers to lead the services. I especially would like to acknowledge the efforts of Gideon Barnett and Moshe Cohen, who at various periods of the last decade graciously assumed the responsibility of main Torah readers and read with precision and panache. To all our Chazanim and Torah Readers I again say Yasher Koach. Loon Lake has been a great place to hone ones davening and leyning skills! The policy of the Shul is that young volunteers always take precedence (provided that they give some advance notice) and we look forward to grooming new talent.

Thank you, Brenda, for organizing the list of kiddush volunteers and making sure that there is a kiddush every week. And thank you to all our families who generously sponsor the kiddushes. Here's a new innovation which was invented by Sam. He suggested that a member of the family that sponsors kiddush say a brief Dvar Torah following services. The community enthusiastically adopted this practice; a lot of thought and preparation goes into these talks. As a result, we've enjoyed many learned, informative and moving Divrei Torah.

We thank Rabbi Wilfred Shuchat for the many lessons in Pirkei Avot, his teaching of Midrash, and his other discussions of Jewish thought and practice. Rabbi Rafael Schuchat is a wonderful

teacher and lecturer and we always look forward to his Shiurim when he visits. We've had many other Pirkei Avot classes led by our congregants and visitors (including Rabbi Yosef Richards and Rabbi Elli Bloom). It's always interesting to hear a new point of view on these ancient texts and it often leads to lively discussion. More volunteers are needed!

Here are some other memorable lecturers that we heard on Shabbat afternoons in our Shul: George Johnson (An American Intelligence Officer's Return to Vietnam); David Rosmarin (Spirituality and Mental Health); Abby Wisse Schachter (No Child Left Alone); Rabbi Yaacov Schwartz (The Differences between Beit Hillel and Beit Shammai as explained by the Rogotchover Gaon); David Roskies (Origins of the Havurah Movement). I was also impressed by a very interesting talk given by one of the 2005 Gaza Disengagement evacuees.

One Sunday night we came together in the Shul to watch "No Place on Earth", an amazing story of Jewish resistance, resourcefulness and survival during the Holocaust – which is the story of Bonnie Grunstein's (recently deceased) father, Saul Stermer נ"ע and his family.

Most Sunday's in the summer, as well as some holiday Mondays and special occasions, we have been able to put together morning services. Often half the Minyan is made up the Cohen family members (Paul, Moshe, Gideon Barnett, Dori Zofan and Elli Bloom), but putting the Minyan together is truly a community wide enterprise. Last year I got a call from Abby Schachter asking if we're having a Minyan on Rosh Chodesh! If she hadn't called, we wouldn't have had one. Yasher Koach to all those who make these Minyanim possible.

Some LLJC Vignettes

- One weekday morning, we had a minyan arranged. When I walked into Shul, I was amazed to see a distinguished-looking elderly gentlemen wearing a kilt and tam, the full Scottish tartan! It turned out to be Colonel Bernard Finestone (since deceased, נ"ע). He was Rabbi Shuchat's brother-in-law, an ex-tank commander and a genuine WWII Canadian War Hero. He was on his way back to Montreal for a military meeting and ceremony and was dressed in the appropriate regimental regalia. But his first duty was to make a minyan at the LLJC.
- Walking home from Shul on Garden Rd. one Shabbat we met a family where father and sons wore baseball caps to cover their heads and the girls wore long skirts – clearly religious Jews. They were surprised to find a Shul here in Loon Lake. The father was an Engineering Professor on Sabbatical from Ben Gurion University and on his way to the University of Wisconsin. The family had rented a cottage in Loon Lake without knowing about our community. He was delighted to join us for Mincha and echoed our forefather Jacob's exclamation when he awoke from his dream: "Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not."

More "Thank-you's"

Ian Rosmarin, our Treasurer, has done a fantastic job managing our finances, as well as (together with yours truly) working as a part-time pest control technician. Thank you, Ian. Special thanks to Brenda for taking care of the Shul House rental. And our gratitude goes out to Rivka and Michael Sydloi for coming back to Beit Elisheva year after year and for taking such good care of it. The volunteers putting together our 60th Anniversary program include George Johnson, Abby Schachter, Cantor Rochelle Helzner Agus, Bonnie Grunstein, Brenda Gewurz and Sybil Hershtal. Thanks to all of you - in advance and in arrears. And speaking of Sybil, thank you for reviewing everyone's name with me every Shabbat and subtly alerting me if I forget to greet someone after davening.

Looking Forward to our 70th Year

It's amazing that in 60 years the LLJC has never missed a Friday night or Shabbat morning service!! Some weeks last summer we were overflowing with attendees, however other weeks we barely scraped together a minyan. Although the packed playground bodes well for our future, we should not stop recruiting and encouraging new families to join our community, whether as renters or buyers. We also need to see the next generation (that's one after me) assume leadership responsibilities. I'm sure that will happen in due course. We are blessed to share this beautiful place with a loving community of friends. With G-d's help may we continue to do so for the next ten years and beyond.



THE NEW SEFER TORAH DEDICATION

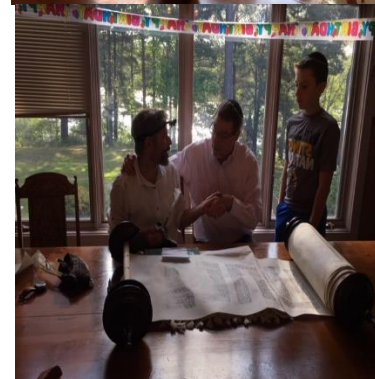
By Sam Gewurz

The Loon Lake Jewish Centre has been blessed these past years to have a beautiful Sefer Torah with large letters. The only problem was that it was so heavy that only those of superior fitness could have the privilege to be called for “Hagbah” or the lifting of the Torah.

This was in the back of my mind when Brenda and I made the exciting decision to write a family *Sefer Torah*. Also, on my mind was the close connection we had with Jamie Shear, a young *sofer* living in Israel who has been a long-time family friend and who has close ties to our Loon Lake community. Finally, the opportunity to message values to our children and grandchildren and to bring them and our community together round these values led us on a very joyous journey.

Our journey began as Brenda and, I as well as our children, Zavie, Ilan and Ora, were in Israel for a family wedding just at the time we commissioned the Torah. So were our dear cousins from Florida, Bernie & Liliane Eckstein. Our *sofer* suggested he come to our hotel so that we could start the writing of the Torah together with each family member writing the very first letters. It was a most joyous gathering. We sang, we danced and wrote letters in the Torah. It was Parsha Bereishit which made the writing even more meaningful. On Pesach, our whole family was in Israel again and we had the opportunity to introduce our grandchildren to Jamie, who by then had become our “family *sofer*”, as he invited us all to his studio where he taught us about writing *kitvei kodesh*. Over the next two years, various family members would drop in to Jamie’s studio on their trips to Israel and “check in” on the Torah writing, watching the progress as the new scrolls appeared with each visit.

The next task was to choose a mantle or Torah cover. While we quickly settled on an earth color to fit our country environment, it took much longer to land on the *pasuk* that would adorn the front. We decided on “*Na’aseh V’nishmah*”, “We will do and we will listen” – the famous phrase declared by Israel upon accepting the Torah for the first time at Mount Sinai and that has become an important call for action for all future generations.





The Torah and its mantle were ready in May 2017 and our original plan was to dedicate it on July 4th. But that did not work because Brenda was recovering from a hip operation. So, we postponed the dedication to the Labor Day weekend to give Brenda time to heal and all our children and grandchildren the opportunity to come.



It was a beautiful weekend and a most joyous celebration for all who came to participate in the event. At 5 p.m. erev Shabbat, we all gathered at our home in Loon Lake. We brought Jamie and his wife, Na'ama, in from Israel and Jamie brought the Torah scroll in 5 pieces. Jamie was seated at our dining room table and in a slow and methodical process, taught us how a complete *Sefer Torah* is sewed together from among its five *sfarim*.



It was a unique and moving experience for most who never saw a Torah being tied together. When the sewing was complete, we began the process of writing the final letters in Loon Lake – a process we began with a smaller group years before in a hotel conference room in Israel. Now we were surrounded by our entire family and our Loon Lake community, with families taking turns to write individual letters. We started with our Cohen, Paul and Rachel and their family, followed by our President, Zev and Sybil Hershtal and their family, followed by our Gabby, Murray and Karen Vasilevsky and their family, followed by the Chalupovitchs, the Kershners, the Johnsons (three generations), our neighbors, the Millers, the Rosmarins, the Wechslers and Brenda's family, led by our matriarch and patriarch, Rita and Sol Urman, and others. It was a very joyous event, with music, *divrei torah* and *brachas* and, of course, *l'chayims* led by Donald Pearson. When we finished writing the last letters in the Torah, we sang "Etz Chaim Hee", dressed the Torah and, later, started the march to the shul.



Men, women and children assembled in the yard of the shul to dance with the Torah under the *chuppah* made of cross country ski poles and a talis and to escort our new Torah into the shul. The singing was loud and the joy was pervasive. After it was placed in the ark, the singing continued through a beautiful Kabbalat Shabbat led by Ilan Gewurz with a large crowd of men, women and children.

Loon Lake now has a new Sefer Torah. The memory and meaning of its journey and dedication linger on.



SOME MILESTONES WE HAVE CELEBRATED AT THE LOON LAKE JEWISH CENTER

Bar/Bat Mitzvahs

Jeff Herman	Summer, 1968
David Kershner	August, 1970
Aaron Hershtal	August, 1994
Jonah Agus	August, 1995
Gabriel Santoriello	August, 2008
Jonathan Kershner	August, 2009
Ari Fierer	August, 2014
Stefanie Butt	August, 2017

Aufrufs

Brenda Urman and Sam Gewurz	August, 1970
Risa Loebenberg and Zavie Gewurz	August, 1995
Rebecca Lieberman and Jacob Wisse	July, 2006
Nehama Cohen and Doron Zofan	July, 2008
Shira Vasilevsky and Cory Miller	July, 2008
Ethan Johnson and Leora Mezei	July, 2010

Sheva Brachot

Melanie and Bob Santoriello	Summer, 1982
Bryna Shuchat and Josh Landes	July, 1993
Michal and Danny Hershtal	August, 2001
Esther Cohen and Gideon Bannett	July, 2005
Andrea Urman and Baruch Kopps	July, 2007
Jessica Agus and Ben Bregman	July, 2013

“Loon Lake”

Jewish Center Anniversary Song

Chorus:

Loon Lake, Loon Lake,
Like a Shofar in the sky;
Loon Lake, Loon Lake,
Like a Mystical Gabbai;
Loon Lake, Loon Lake,
We seek the one on high,
Loon Lake, Loon Lake, Loon Lake.

As the glow of the sun gently fades in the
west,
We are drawn to the shul that we love the
best;
Come Sabbath Queen,
In your Adirondack vest,
Loon Lake, Loon Lake, Loon Lake.

Chorus: Loon Lake, Loon Lake . . .

Verses:

We remember the ones who have come before,
To build a community and broaden our core;
We have learned from our rabbis,
We have studied Torah,
Loon Lake, Loon Lake, Loon Lake.

Like the loon, we return to our nesting place,
Year after year we come and we embrace,
We give praise, we give thanks,
You who left us this place,
Loon Lake, Loon Lake, Loon Lake.

Chorus: Loon Lake, Loon Lake . . .

Chorus: Loon Lake, Loon Lake . . .

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If you'd like to hear the song please click on this link or follow it from the Loon Lake Jewish Center web site:

<http://www.loonlakejewishcenter.com/images/song.wma>

REFLECTIONS AND MEMORIES OF LOON LAKE



Sybil Lichtenstein Recalls

Loon Lake
July 1, 2002

Meyer cherished this little synagogue.
It was only here that he seemed able
to allow the demons that haunted him
to be laid to rest.
This was truly a sanctuary for him.
It warmed his heart.
May this note then express thanks
to all past and present members
who have made this place so very
special.
May it continue to offer its
peace and comfort to everyone
of us, as it did for him.

Sybil
→



From Ruth Muss, Z"L (as told to Goldie Ungar)

"My fondest memories are of the old days in Loon Lake, when the community first started. In those days the men came out for the weekends and went home during the week. The women stayed in Loon Lake for the whole summer. We came from different cities and we were different ages, but we spent time in each other's homes giving cooking and baking classes to each other and trading recipes. Then on Shabbat we would take turns inviting the entire community to our homes for Kiddush, trying out our new recipes, and making new friends. That's how we got to know each other, and how we became a community."

FAMILY PAGES



BANNETT FAMILY



Loon Lake has always played an important role in my life but never did I dream it would be part of my husband's history. Gideon and I had the privilege of celebrating our Shabbat sheva brachot in Loon Lake in July 2005. We were fortunate to have many of our family members present for that weekend including three of Gideon's grandparents. As we were strolling along the beautiful grounds, Gideon's grandmother Ruth saw the name Andron written on one of the mailboxes, a name that was very familiar to her. Rabbi Shuchat was able to help us piece some of the story together... The Loon Lake House and Cottages at Loon Lake were built by Mr. & Mrs. Chase in the 1880s and expanded over the years until it went into bankruptcy after Mrs. Chase's death in 1933. After WWII, the Andron family purchased it from the State and turned it into a kosher hotel until the mid-1950s. Gideon's great-grandmother was Esther Andron, who was the sister of Dave Andron, the manager and owner of the Loon Lake Hotel in the late 1940s. We found out that Savta Ruthie's late husband Baruch Rackovsky (Gideon's grandfather) came up to Loon Lake as a young boy and worked as a mashgiach in the Hotel! Gideon and I had a lot in common but little did we know, Loon Lake would be an important part of our past and future. We are so glad to see what an important place Loon Lake has become for our children, a place where they can spend quality time with grandparents, extended family and friends. We are so fortunate to call Loon Lake our second home.



Gideon, Esther, Yosef Moshe, Gavriel, Ouriel, Netanel & Rachel
Bannett



ZOFAN FAMILY



MOSHE AND RACHEL COHEN



Mazal Tov on this special occasion! We are so thankful to be a part of this community, and for us, that is the essence of Loon Lake: community. We were reminded of this special Loon Lake quality last year, when numerous Loon Lakers made a special effort to attend our wedding, which truly enhanced our Simcha. We have been blessed to share in numerous personal and communal celebrations since joining this wonderful community, and we consider ourselves very fortunate to be a part of the Loon Lake Mishpacha. We look forward to sharing many more joyous occasions together for many years to come!

YOSEF MOSHE BANNETT



My first trip to Loon Lake was when I was almost 1 year old. It is a place where I can see my grandparents, cousins, uncles, and aunts. From going to the beach in the morning to going to bed at night it is always a fun packed day. Even on days when it rains we go to Saranac Lake and go to all sorts of different fun places. On Shabbat our family almost makes a Minyan. Lunch is always made by the one and only Mammy. The next day, back to the beach we go! One of the fun things you do every morning is play with your cousins until it is time to go to the beach.

- Yosef Moshe Bannett



BLOOM FAMILY



Every summer, our small Loon Lake community gets together and shares in the past years' special occasions: births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries and. However, with all the amazing celebrations we have shared together, what stands out when I think of the past ten years in Loon Lake, is the joy I get watching my children, nieces and nephews create their own Loon Lake memories with their parents and grandparents. From day long excursions at the beach, to kayak trips to the "island", berry picking, family BBQs, trips to Lake Placid and more. This past summer, my daughter Itiya, at 2 years old, enjoyed her very first live classical music concert. Where else does a 2-year-old get to enjoy such an experience? One she still talks about almost a year later. May we continue to create new memories with our loved ones, Beret Hashem, in good health and happiness for many more years.

Elli, Merav, Itiya Rachel and Elisha Avraham Bloom



FIERER FAMILY

The Jewish Center is a fixture of Loon Lake. For many years I was grateful to be able to play concerts in such an intimate setting where the experience truly felt collaborative although I was a performer. I came to appreciate it for the community as my children grew older and expressed to me how they feel such a part of the community. Ari chose to have his Bar Mitzvah at the Jewish Center due to the sense of community he felt as well as the overarching feeling of identity that the Jewish Center provides for many of the people that have a special connection with it. - *Sara Fierer*

For me, the Jewish Center is an integral part of what I deem to be a perfect day. Loon Lake has long been something that I have looked forward to all year, thinking about being on the lake, away from the city, and with classical music swirling in my ears. As I have grown up in this community, I have attended shabbat services, have had my bar mitzvah there, and have attended countless concerts within its walls. The Jewish Center has a much deeper meaning for me though. After attending shabbat services there, I feel like my best self, and there is nothing more admirable than having the affect that the Loon Lake Jewish Center has had on me. - *Ari Fierer*

From Ari's Bar Mitzvah Speech,

There were three aspects of the shul that made me want my Bar Mitzvah here. The first is the sense of community I felt. I would walk in here and people I didn't even know would come up to me and give me that I know you look. The second is acceptance. I was truly accepted as whatever I wished to be in this shul, and therefore I was able to go off on whatever path I wished to take here. That freedom allowed me to be the Jew I wanted to be. The last aspect of this shul is the sounds. Being a musician myself, I am always listening, and the tunes of this particular shul, the unity of voices and the setting struck the Jewish part of me in a way that just made sense. These aspects and the fact that I would just get to eat more food each Saturday at the kiddush, made me excited to have my Bar Mitzvah here.



UNGAR FAMILY

For many summers Stan starting counting heads for the minyan early every Friday afternoon, and I well remember him making and receiving calls to ensure at least ten men were available. Then on many a Shabbat morning our daughter Wendy would walk up our little hill to join me for shul after Stan had left. I was treasurer for ten years and that gave me an excuse to collect and visit at the same time! Our sons, Clifford and Richard, and families came at different times and always felt part of that wonderful Loon Lake community. After all, our children spent many summers there as little ones. And now it warms my heart to think of that lovely painting of the shul hanging on the wall done by our son, Richard. My parents' names appear on one of the wall plaques - we have a history there.

The shul brought families together and wonderful new friendships were formed. Mazal tov on 60 years and our warm wishes for many, more for this amazing little place known as the Loon Lake Jewish Center.

Goldie Ungar





HERSHTAL FAMILY

"Mi Dor L'Dor"

When I think about the last ten years in Loon Lake, what I am most excited about is seeing how my grandchildren have grown to love this place as much as I do. I first came to Loon Lake when I was seven years old; and I haven't missed a summer since. Even though I went to summer camp and travelled, I made sure that I made it back to Loon Lake for at least a few days every summer. Since we got married, Zev hasn't missed a summer either.

Our kids have always had a special place in their heart for Loon Lake. In fact, when my father thought of selling our place in the 1980's because the trip from Toronto was too long, it was Danny and Aaron who convinced him that Loon Lake was part of our DNA (though not in those words exactly). In fact, Danny and Aaron brought their prospective brides to Loon Lake before they got married and both Michal and Emily passed the "Loon Lake test" with flying colors; they loved it here from the beginning and have become LL devotees.

My grandkids look forward all year to their summer weeks in Loon Lake. And it's so special to see them playing and making friends with the grandchildren of my friends. There's a little bit of deja vu, a little bit of feeling young all over again, when we take our grandkids on the same adventures we took our kids – like discovering the hidden cove, Pirate's Cove, on the other side of the lake, climbing Silver Lake Mountain, canoeing through the locks on Saranac Lake, and singing Adon Olam from the bimah in shul.

Hovav, Kobe, Ariel, Tiferet, Maytal, Gilad, Ilan, and Levi are the fifth generation of our family to enjoy Loon Lake and the Loon Lake Jewish Center, and I think that makes our connection to this place very special. And it's not just about the lake, or the mountains, or the hikes, or Donnelley's; it's about connections and the friendships that we have made through the shul community throughout the generations.

It's so exciting to see our shul playground full of kids week in and week out. I know that there is another generation of Loon Lake loyalists building memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.

– Sybil Sandorfy Hershtal.

Black and white picture below: Loon Lake Public Beach circa. 1960. At the center back is Lilly Sandorfy with Sybil and her sister, Lisa. In front from right to left are Eugene Sandorfy and cousins Oskar and Esterita Rajskey.





HOVAV AND KOBE HERSHTAL

Loon Lake how great!

We always love visiting Loon lake because it has all the beauty and nature that we like. With all the peace and quiet there is the loving community that always greets us with a wide smile. Visiting Loon lake can never be a bad experience for us.

Hovav and Kobe Hershtal



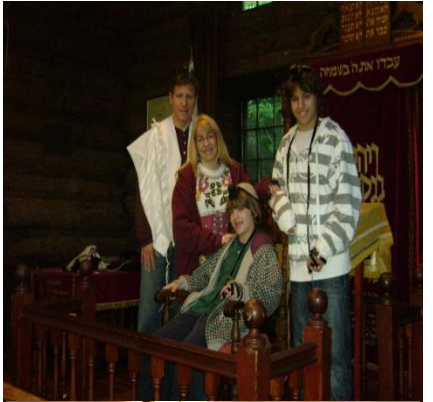


JOHNSON FAMILY

One Shabbas morning in August 2013, a bright and multi-talented young man, tall for 13 and with a crop of bright red hair, came to shul in search of someone to talk with about his questions about Judaism. We had never met, but I sensed he was earnest in his inquiries. At first I did nothing; but something inside told me to reach out to this young man. I suggested he come to shul the following Shabbas before services. The following week Sam Gewurz and I sat down with Ari Fierer. Ari, both a prodigy baseball player and a budding violinist, had many questions about what it meant to be Jewish. He raised astonishingly profound questions about the Shema, particularly about what it meant to listen. This led to meetings, more questions and sharing Jewish books. During the winter Ari decided that he felt a Jewish connection in Loon Lake that he had not found in Colorado and asked whether he could become bar mitzvah at our shul. With the encouragement of his family and the shul leadership, Ari's bar mitzvah was set for the summer. Ari prepared with a rabbi in Colorado recommended by Sam, and I gave him guidance on his *davar*, on the teachings of the Shema. August 9, 2014 was a day of nachas for Ari's family, the entire Loon Lake Jewish community and especially our family. Our first grandson, Eli Ziv Natanel Johnson, was born just before 2 am that Shabbas morning. It truly was a day of Kiruv. We all came closer to G-d that day. Ari and his family have strengthened their ties to our community and we have been strengthen in return. So too our own family – my wife Ayah, Ethan, Leora, Eli, Rami, Ari and Jessica. For it was the beginning of a new generation of Johnsons at Loon Lake. We watched Eli begin walking here and his little brother Rami begin crawling, starting down the wonderful road of life and Loon Lake.

—George Johnson





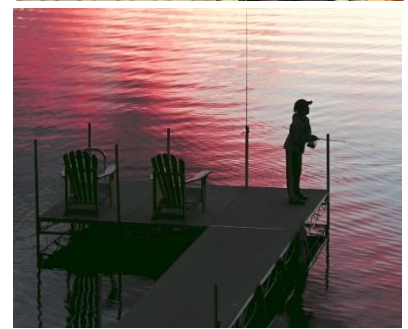
KERSHNER FAMILY

Every so often, when talking with friends about why we have a vacation home that is five hours driving time from our house in New Jersey, the normal reaction from most people is “why in the world would anyone have to travel that far!”. And then the explanation begins – the one that includes all those reasons that Loon Lakers know about: Family, yiddishkeit, mesorah, the log cabin Shul, community, the beauty of the Adirondacks and then the most important – legacy.

That a place exists that can connect and span multiple generations in a physical and spiritual environment that in many respects has remained unchanged for decades is remarkable in its own right. Add to that the fact that families have found this rare and special ability to form irreplaceable experiences and memories because of Loon Lake, and the result is a real Bracha for those having the good fortune to have Loon lake in our lives.

Our own family’s legacy began with my grandparents, Herman and Esther Wealcach, when they purchased Ridgewood cottage and Twin Pines in the mid 1950’s and the community was founded. I have been coming to Loon Lake since I was born; my siblings and I grew up here; my children grew up here; I had my Bar Mitzvah in Loon Lake; my son had his Bar Mitzvah on the same Parsha Ki-Tezeh on the exact spot in the shul, which looked the same as it was forty years earlier. We fish and pick berries in the exact same places where my grandparents, my mother and my father took us, nothing changes generation to generation and year to year.

Loon lake has the magical ability to span the generations and keep memories of loved ones no longer with us alive. The feeling is so strong that you can feel their presence here and see them in your mind’s eye. It is as if Loon lake has provided a window, an always open and welcoming window, to experience and see the things in life which binds generations of families together. - David Kershner
[Drone photo by Eliot Kershner]





VASILEVSKY/MILLER FAMILIES

We are not Loon Lakers from birth. Prior to 1996 Loon Lake was something we had heard about, some sort of community with a shul somewhere in upstate New York, but which of the various Loon Lakes on the map was anyone's guess. In 1996 Donnie Pearson dragged us on a cold, miserable April day to see Sam Gewurz's mother's house in Loon Lake. He had a vision that we might like the place and urged us to rent it, which we did for 1 or 2 weeks in the summer. We tried it and really did like it and returned for 1-2 weeks for the next 2 years. In 1997 our Labrador retriever, Jamie, joined our family. Karen decided that Jamie needed a quality summer holiday and arranged to rent the house for the whole summer, which we did together with friends. We became more and more attached to Loon Lake. The combination of a remarkable community, beautiful lake and pristine setting was irresistible. We were fortunate to be able to buy the house from Sam and Brenda in 2006 and became full-fledged citizens of Loon Lake. We will always be grateful to Donnie Pearson for opening the door to Loon Lake for us and to Sammy and Brenda for renting the house to us and allowing us to purchase it. Loon Lake would be pretty wonderful just by itself. The icing on the cake is the shul and community which has become our extended family and really enriched our lives. Our children were young when we started coming to Loon Lake. They have grown and together with their spouses have become an enthusiastic second generation of Loon Lakers. We are blessed with grandchildren who share our love for Loon Lake. We love seeing the growth of the next generations of Loon Lakers through the addition of so many children and to the grandchildren various Loon Lake families and are confident that our special community of Loon Lake will continue to thrive for generations.



NADAV, MAYTAL, ELIANA AND AYELET MILLER

My name is Nadav Miller. I am 6 years old.
My goal is to spend as much time as possible in Loon Lake.
Given a choice between Disney World and Loon Lake I choose Loon Lake!
I love to swim in the lake.
In fact, I have been known to spend the entire day in the lake.
I love to play with friends in the lake and on the beach.
I love my house in Loon Lake
I love going to shul in Loon Lake.
I love the carousel and toy store in Saranac Lake

Hi!
My name is Maytal Miller. I am 4 years old.
I also love Loon Lake so much!
I love playing in the lake and going to shul.

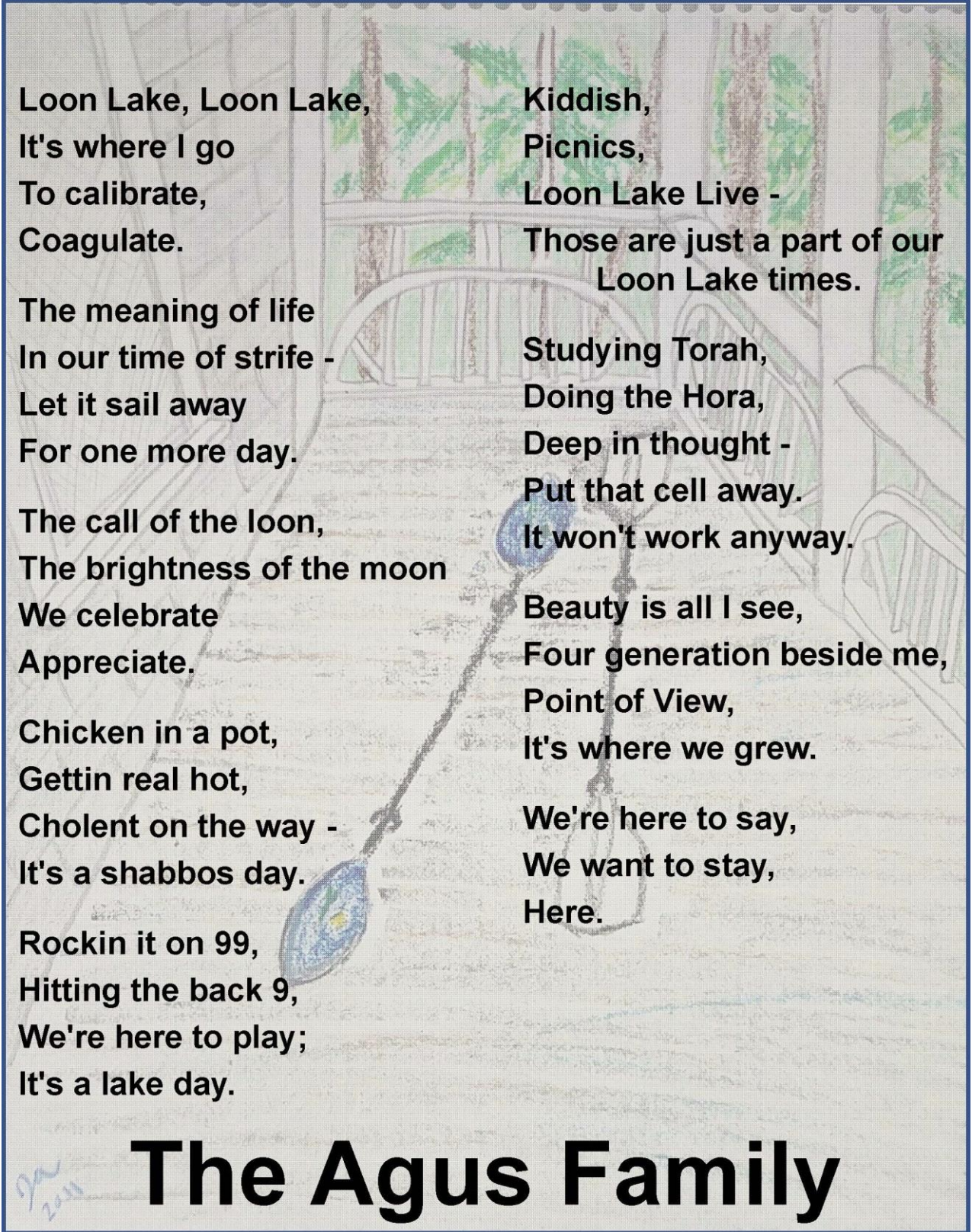


Hi!
My name is Eliana Miller. I am 2 years old.
I love going to Loon Lake with my family!



My name is Ayelet Miller. I am 3 months old.
I'm not sure what I like yet but Loon Lake seems pretty good so far!





Loon Lake, Loon Lake,
It's where I go
To calibrate,
Coagulate.

The meaning of life
In our time of strife -
Let it sail away
For one more day.

The call of the loon,
The brightness of the moon
We celebrate
Appreciate.

Chicken in a pot,
Gettin real hot,
Cholent on the way -
It's a shabbos day.

Rockin it on 99,
Hitting the back 9,
We're here to play;
It's a lake day.

Kiddish,
Picnics,
Loon Lake Live -
Those are just a part of our
Loon Lake times.

Studying Torah,
Doing the Hora,
Deep in thought -
Put that cell away.
It won't work anyway.

Beauty is all I see,
Four generation beside me,
Point of View,
It's where we grew.

We're here to say,
We want to stay,
Here.

**The Agus Family**



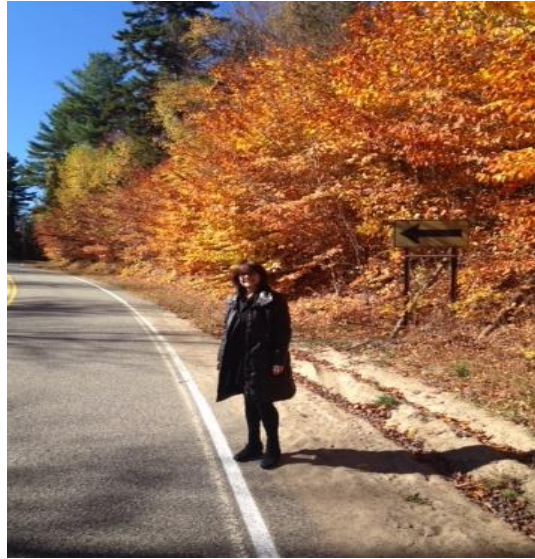
The Agus Family



CHALUPOVITSCH FAMILY

In the Summer of '97, on a wet, chilly, bug-swarming day high in the Adirondacks, we arrived at our newly acquired camp called, The Woodbine. We were enchanted by the sights and sounds of the loons diving into the cold, black lake. The loons we heard that long ago are the ancestors of the loons that we hear today. Loon Lake became an escape to another time and place where people stopped and chatted and actually cared about one another! Since then we have made many memories in this mystical place and hopefully we will continue to make more. One of the memories that brings a smile to my face is the time we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Loon Lake Shul. The hunting cabin was filled to the brim, children were darting in and out. Screen door always knocking every time they left the cabin. It has such a distinct sound. Familiar melodies were sung by all. Everybody just loves to sing with all their heart and soul. Then we had a huge kiddush with lots of good Scotch and mouth-watering food. No dieting that day!! Families made their way to the outside tent (which is now a playground for the grandchildren) and prepared to eat and drink with great gusto! Speeches were made – Sammy, the perfect storyteller, was first in line. There was a great atmosphere, and everyone had an opportunity to say something. Then Mrs. Sidloi Sr. stood up. She was so taken by the warmth and hospitality that she decided to sing a Yiddish song. Wow! I thought . . . only in Loon Lake! I was so overwhelmed that my chair toppled over, and the rest is history! I need not say anymore . . . Since then the Chalupovitsch Family have celebrated many life moments . . . wedding anniversaries (we will be celebrating our 40th this year), engagements, etc. Last year, Stefanie (our daughter-in-law) celebrated her Bat Mitzvah. It was so memorable and touching. A forever moment!!! She wanted to celebrate in Loon Lake Shul with the Loon Lake Family. Isn't that what it's all about? After all – life is for celebrating. Mazal tov for the 60th Anniversary! And we will certainly drink to that! – Gloria, Eli, Ryan & Stefanie, Michael





PEARSON FAMILY

Loon Lake is Pearson's "Happy Place." A place for family, community life and dear friends. A place for reflection, a place for great time, a place for adventure and discovering life and nature. A wonderful Shul that has special meaning to our family. A place where "Pearson's Kosher Pickles" are created.





WECHSLER FAMILY

It's a Friday afternoon in late June 1958. My mom Marilyn Wechsler parks the Ford station wagon squarely in front of PS 114 in Rockaway, Queens, New York City. My infant brother Robert is already in the car and my older brother Emmet and I are just finishing our last day of the school year. The car is packed but there is plenty of room in the middle seat for the three of us. There is a strong feeling of excitement. We pick up dad, Milton Wechsler, who is an Engineer at the New York City Department of Buildings and off we go on a seemingly endless journey. The next thing I recall is being carried and placed into a narrow camp cot, then waking up in Loon Lake!

Our tiny house is called the "Hurd". It is a rustic 2-bedroom green shingled cabin overlooking a beautiful clear lake. The windows are shaped like diamonds and are too heavy to open. The big porch is high up and you can see a long way across the still mirror of water. My brothers and I run out the door without a thought of breakfast. The sun shines brightly, and everything is exciting. The colors are vivid, the brown of the dirt road, the blue of the water and everything else is green.

We run and we play. After a while we dress up and go with my dad to a small brown building that is attached to this huge metal building with a basketball court and a big stage inside. The men are seriously engaged in prayer and Emmet and I are seriously engaged in exploring. After a while mom greets us with Robert in tow and we walk to someone's home where there are a lot of tasty treats. I recall the excitement of the adults as they talk and laugh. I knew something special was happening here but I was too young to understand.

Later we shed our nice clothes and went back to play. And so went the summer of 1958. A couple of years later we assembled for prayer in our current log cabin Shul. In 1962 my sister Andrea arrived. Commemorating my sister's birth my parents added a sign to the shul saying, "Loon Lake Jewish Center". Around 1968 my parents purchased "Fairview" a house on the 18th fairway and the Hurd remains for family, friends and guests. – *David Wechsler*





KERSHNER FINKELSTEIN FAMILY

My grandparents, Esther and Herman Wealcatch were one of the founding members of the Loon Lake community and I fondly recall spending summers with them. I can't believe that my parents, Sydney and Aileen Kershner and my 3 brothers, Joel, David and Gary would all sleep in one big bedroom! Talk about lack of privacy, but we did not mind in those days. These were happy times and we enjoyed playing with all the kids and going to summer camp. When we got older, we continued to spend part of our summer in Loon Lake, even when we lived in Florida. The 1980's brought some welcome changes to our home when my parents decided to renovate by splitting one bedroom into two and updating the kitchen and bathrooms. At this time, we were young adults ourselves and starting our own families. My parents continued spending summers there, relaxing and catering to the children and spoiling the grandchildren. We were very lucky. My Mom enjoyed cooking and baking enormous quantities of food, but somehow it all was devoured. This was her way of showing her love for the family. Sadly, she passed away in 2006 and a chapter in our Loon Lake story closed. Fast forward to now. Not much has changed in our house since that time (except for the tiny cabin in our front yard) and when we enter it, we immediately think of my mother. Steve, my husband, and Jessica my daughter have come to love Loon Lake as much as I do, and we are making our own memories and family stories. I hope Loon Lake does not change too much and my husband and I can enjoy some of our retirement years there, and my daughter will continue to enjoy this magical place for years to come. -- *Jenny-Ann Kershner*





GRUNSTEIN FAMILY

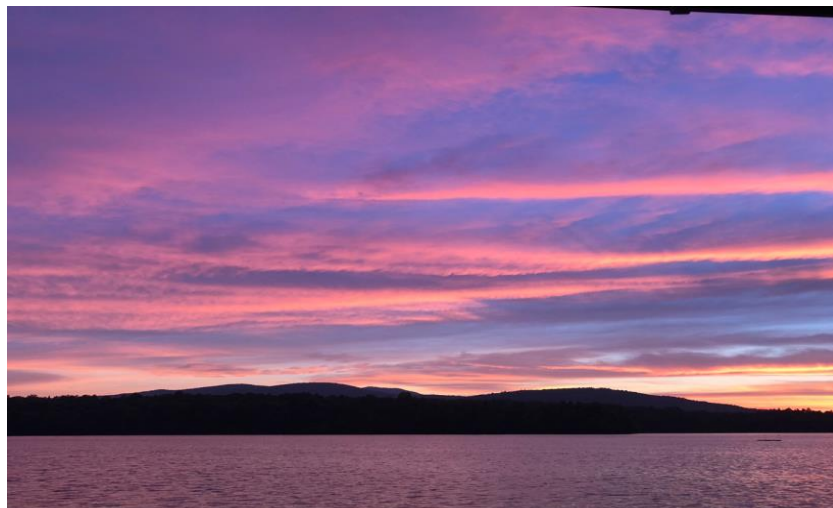
We are relative newbies at Loon Lake. We've been renting for the last five years and purchased our home this past fall. We love the lake, the mountains, the crisp, clean air, but more than anything the wonderful community. The community respects and is accepting of everyone whether they wear a streimel or just come to enjoy the kiddish in shul. Many of the Loon Lakers have histories here going back generations and speak fondly of lasting friendships built, bar mitzvahs, sheva brachas and other life cycle events enjoyed here. Bonnie and I purchased our home so that our grandchildren will enjoy the same type of memories as they grow up.





ROSMARIN FAMILY

Since our first visit, in 1987, with our son David, to Sybil and Zev Hershtal's Studio Cottage, we have loved spending time in Loon Lake. Loon Lake has become an important gathering place for our family. We were fortunate, in 2008, when we visited to participate in the LLJC's 50th anniversary celebration, to purchase Happy Days Cottage from the Muss Family. It took a couple of years to restore the cottage and since then our children and grandchildren have joined us annually, in August, to enjoy each other, the wonderful Jewish community, and the beautiful surroundings. We are so grateful for this opportunity to enjoy our family, our Loon Lake friends, the shul, the hiking, the rivers, the lakes, the mountains and now the 60th anniversary of LLJC! May our unique, warm, open and welcoming community go from strength to strength and may we all be blessed with many more delightful stays in Loon Lake.





SIDLOI FAMILY

We have been coming to Loon Lake since 2006. Our best memories are of the 50th Anniversary celebration. We had a wonderful party on Shabbos on the lawn with good food and wonderful company. My mother O.B.M. sang a beautiful song/ballad in Yiddish. This song was always reserved and sung by my Parents O.B.M. at special occasions: weddings and other Simchas in the family. When she offered to sing this beautiful ballad, Michael and I were a little concerned that she might not remember the lyrics. But she did, and she sang the song with her beautiful voice. That was the last time that she sang it. The song/ballad was about the Jewish life, with its joys and sorrows, and Jewish Holidays. We are thankful to our Jewish community in Loon Lake for the kindness and respect that was accorded to my Mother. My Mother spent some of the most happy times in Loon Lake. – *Riva Sidloi*



SCHACHTER WISSE FAMILY

Loon Lake life: Bobbe and Zeyde, the public beach, kayaking, fishing, the Gewurz's house, celebrations at the shul, Fourth of July, Saranac Lake Independence Day parade, Loon Lake Home Owners Annual picnic, hiking, canoeing, caught in the rain, Saranac Lake carousel, Donnelly's!, swimming, drip castles, campfires, s'mores, sparklers, family, slack line, badminton, archery, food, tennis, Mt. Baker, the "Bump," Owl's Head, Big Salmon River, Mimi, summer birthdays, sponsoring Kiddush, water fights, plays, throwing rocks in the lake, playing house together, making videos, Goody Goody's toy store, Shabbat, writing letters, frog pond, bugs!, exploring the golf course, pirate minigolf, motorboat waves, loons, beach clearing, the pickle store, the rock store, Noon Mark Diner, Saranac Lake, Lake Placid, the Saranac Lake Free Library, chips and salsa ... no, ranch!, slip-n-slide, heaven, dinner with friends, Vermontville day camp, pizza, birds, friends, jokes, tea parties, the Down Hill Grill, Blue Moon Café, the hammock, books, the trampoline, jumping off the dock, our Texas friends, Camp Carnival day, sunshine, rain, board games, puzzles, cards, towels on the balcony, cousins, grandparents, Jello cake, big duffle bag on the car. MORE FUN! -- *Written by: Sonia, Theresa, Pearl, and Isaiah Schachter, Nate and Claire Wisse, Maddy and Camilla Wisse – Compiled by Ben Schachter.*





SANTORIELLO FAMILY

I love going on the swings and the food at Kiddush. **Leora Santoriello**

I learned my Scotch limits the hard way at Kiddush club with my father before my gap year in Israel. **Gabriel Santoriello**

I love the rustic, spiritual, warm and welcoming feel of the shul. **Arianna Santoriello**

When I moved in 2003 to Riverdale in the Bronx I thought I didn't know a single person. I went to a local function and looked at a woman knowing I had seen her somewhere before. With recognition in her eyes as well we both said to each other "Loon Lake!" Who was this woman that instantly made me feel I wasn't alone in a new town? Bryna Landes! **Melanie Santoriello**

One of our finest memories from our honeymoon in Loon Lake was being honored with sheva berachos when we went to the Loon Lake Jewish Center for the first time in July of 1982. **Bob Santoriello**



SHUCHAT LANDES FAMILY

Loon Lake is my happy place. It is filled with the past, presence and future. It is the sweet nostalgia of the location where my parents met, fell in love and decided to spend their summers. It embodies the values of my family, a celebration of natural beauty with all of its wholesome wonders with a focus on shul and community. It is the sweetest memories of my childhood. It is the place where I brought Josh when we first met 26 years ago and who luckily for me has embraced it in the same way. It is the place where my children love to come and enjoy the outdoors with neighbors and friends. It embodies the special bond that I feel with the all of the Loon Lake community. Anybody who knows me understands the special feeling of love that I have for Loon Lakers. I am so grateful that my father has been blessed be able to spend time with us every summer at Loon Lake. His love for the community and the shul are boundless. My father has given hundreds of Pirkei Avot classes in the Loon Lake Jewish Center so it is appropriate to quote from there. Aizeh who ha ashir? Hasameach bechelko. Who is rich? Who is happy with their lot. What a gift Loon Lake has been to me and my family.

Mazel Tov Loon Lake Jewish Center on this very special milestone. May you continue to thrive from strength to strength! All our love -- *The Shuchat and Landes Families*



THE EARLY DAYS AT LOON LAKE - ROB AGUS' RECOLLECTIONS

AS INTERVIEWED BY GEORGE JOHNSON

G: When did you first come to Loon Lake?

R: In the summer of 1958. My father brought all the children for summer activities. It was the summer before my bar mitzvah.

G: Did all the children come?

R: All the children came. My older brother was working during that period as a bellboy at one of the hotels in the Catskills. Zalman would come on Shabbat. We usually came up for the month of July. My father and mother came up. For the month of July. It was his vacation.

G: What did you do in August?

R: We went back to Baltimore. Occasionally during the month of July when we were at Loon Lake, my father was called back to Baltimore for emergencies, funerals and the like.

G: What kind of activities did you do during your stay?

R: During the first summer, I was still recovering from a fall into a broken-up house in Baltimore. I fell and was trapped between two big rocks. Some people came and pulled me out. That summer, I still had trouble walking, so I was very limited in my activities. I couldn't do many of the things other people were doing.

G: In my interview with Rabbi Shuchat, he said that he often would go over to Rabbi Agus' house to talk with him. Do you remember anything about those visits?

R: I remember Rabbi Shuchat telling me that as Jacob Agus' son, I had the opportunity and a special responsibility to make a contribution to the Jewish people, and that is something that I took to heart.

G: During the next summers did you get back on your feet and more involved in activities?

R: Yes, somewhat. I tried to get back into activities like tennis and swimming. I remember being my father's companion when he took our row boat on the lake.

G: Did you study with your father?

R: My father was always reading and studying. When he wasn't reading or working on a project, we would often talk. We would study together.

G: What was it like for you at shul on Shabbas?

R: Morris Propp was the gabbi in those days, and I was his assistant. I liked to daven, but the leaders were at a higher level.

G: Did you ever play golf with your father?

R: Yes.

G: Was he a good golfer?

R: He was a terrible golfer . . . but he wasn't aware of it.

G: What made Loon Lake special to you?

R: What was nice is that whatever troubles people had, they put them aside in a corner. They came to Loon Lake to have a good time.



INTERVIEW WITH RABBI WILFRED SHUCHAT

Our Loon Lake Rabbi

Rabbi, when did you first come to Loon Lake?

I stayed at the Loon Lake hotel one weekend in 1947. The owners were Jewish hotel keepers. They had hotels in Florida. Like the ones in Florida, the hotel had a minyan, which I attended. It met in an auditorium behind the Irish House. Sometimes, when it rained, it met in the hotel lobby. The hotel closed after a few years. The owners, mistakenly, in my opinion, focused on getting people to come up from New York. I tried to persuade them to try to recruit a few families from Montreal, which had 100,000 Jews. But the owners missed that chance.

How did you meet Miriam, your wife?

I met her here in 1952 in the main building of the hotel. I was here for the weekend. I was staying in No. 17, where the lake curved. I was walking up the stairs of the old hotel building. Two women were walking down the stairs and we said hello. That was all that happened. Later that afternoon, we took a long walk along Route 99, along the lake. We arranged to see each other in New York. But the next weekend, by chance, we both came back. This time, there was no separation. After that I made many trips to New York throughout 1953.

An interesting story. She kept saying she wasn't interested in getting married. So, I visited her just before Yom Kippur. I was all prepared to tell her that this is it; I was all prepared to end it. But as I walked in the door of her home in the Bronx, before I had a chance to say anything, she said, I changed my mind. Well, that changed everything. And we were married in 1954, in New York City, at Bnai Jeshurun, a beautiful place. We took our honeymoon in England and Israel. We established an apartment in Montreal. Then we regularly started coming up to Loon Lake. We stayed in my old place, No. 17. We came during the summer weekends.

How did the Loon Lake Jewish Center begin?

After the hotel closed, the minyan moved around. When I came up in 1950 or 1951, it was meeting in the auditorium, behind the Irish House. It was there that I met Morris Propp. Later, there was an auction of hotel property. Morris Propp, who had attended the minyan at the hotel, saw that a number of Jews had bought homes in the auction. He saw an opportunity to build a minyan. When people came, he was continually recruiting them for the minyan.

What was the history of the current shul house?

After the hotel closed, the hotel owners formed a camp, which met for a few years. The owners hoped to keep out of bankruptcy. The camp staff for the little children lived in the house that later became our synagogue. It was a dormitory. Later it was reconfigured for davening.

How were you able to come to Loon Lake each summer weekend, as senior rabbi at Sha'ar Shamayim in Montreal?

My predecessor had established the precedent of taking off during the summer, and I just continued that practice.

You said, in your remarks in the 50th anniversary journal that the 60s -70s – 80s were the “pinnacle of Loon Lake Jewish Center.” What about that period made it so special?

Rabbi Agus used to give beautiful lectures each Saturday afternoon. I tried to get him to publish them, but that never happened.

Did the two of you – you, the senior rabbi at a big shul in Montreal, and he, the senior rabbi of a large shul in Baltimore – did you study in chavruta together during that time?

We had different projects, I was doing Midrash; he was doing other things. But we talked all the time. I visited him every Saturday afternoon, and we talked about all sorts of subjects. We talked about everything and anything, including gossip about certain rabbis. At the time, he was on his seventh or eighth book. He was much more liberal, I was much more traditional. Intellectually, though, we were on the same level. Agus and Muss and two others would meet during the week to study Talmud. Sometimes there were visiting rabbis who would attend.

When did the shul meet?

On weekends in the summer and during Chanukah. People would come up. But I never came in the winter. I had too many obligations in Montreal.

What were the Shabbas kiddushes like?

One of the reasons we stopped them: They were getting out of hand, becoming too good. The women did not like being expected to produce a banquet. One family killed it. The Sandorfys! She had all these wonderful pasteries. We decided we can't do this anymore. The homes outdid themselves.

What was it like here a generation ago, when many of the members who currently are in their 60s or 70s were children here – how did that affect the dynamic?

We had a children's camp. My children were involved, and so were the others. There was a home [around the big curve on Route 99], past the Wealcatch house where they had the camp. The mothers got together, hired counselors from Montreal for a couple of summers.

Who stayed all summer in those days?

The Ungars, the Kershners, the Sandorfys, the Sterns, Gerson and Zalman, both Aguses, the Rabbi and the Doctor. Rabbi Agus stayed for a month. Miller for the whole year. Morris Propp for the summer. Also, the older Gewurz, Judah and Regina. I stayed the whole summer, because of the arrangement at Sha'ar Shamayim.

What did you do?

We played golf. It was wonderful. And tennis. There was a tournament. Actually there were two participants, and I won. I have a trophy (awarded in 1952). I was on the McGill team, but never played. I played golf with anyone who was available. My family had a lot of good golfers. Elliot, my cousin, was a champ.

When you think about things you miss, what stands out?

One of the worst things is the absence of the golf course. It was by far the most popular activity here. People came from all over. All gone, for no reason. The owners broke it up for no reason. It deprived us. Very hard to celebrate without the golf course. The only thing we have to celebrate is the synagogue.

What do you think about the shul and its future?

The coming of a number of families in the last few years has eliminated any doubt about whether the synagogue will survive. It will survive because families will continue to come. What will happen after that anyone knows.

What is your reaction when, as they often do, people say that you are the “rabbi of Loon Lake?”

Sam Gewurz has the habit of telling everyone that I am “the rabbi of Loon Lake.” No one ever officially appointed me to that position. But, when Rabbi Agus was no longer able to come, I had to take over what he was doing. He gave a lecture every week. So, I have taught Pirke Avot after Shabbat mincha. And when I come I am usually asked to say something. Although that doesn’t happen as much anymore, I always try to come prepared to say something. I am reminded by my daughter that I read Torah for 25 years. But I had to stop. What happened: During the twenty-fifth year, I began reading that sedrah, everything was okay until just before the end, before the maftir, I couldn’t see the words, I couldn’t read them. One of the Agus children was there and had prepared that. He came and finished the Torah reading. After that I couldn’t read again. Up to that point, I had been doing that for 25 years.

As a spiritual experience, is there something special about davening in this shul, the LLJC?

The people who are here are Reform, Orthodox, and Conservative. But it doesn’t make a difference. There is only one kind of davening. Everyone is willing to conform. Nobody has ever said, at least not yet, I want davening to be Reform style or Conservative style. We are all one. Whether we are or we aren’t one, the synagogue is one.

Transcribed from an interview with George Johnson that took place on July 23, 2017.

Loon Lake Jewish Center

Invites you to join us for our

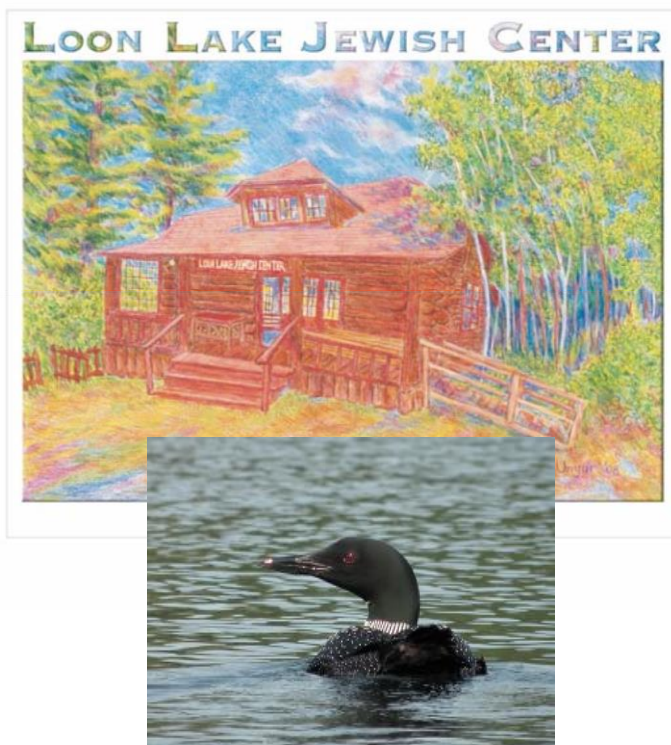
60th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, August 4th, 2018

At the Center

Saturday morning services at 9:30 a.m.

Luncheon & Program at 12 noon



Children's Art Activities with Bonnie Grunstein

Dates: July 8 & August 12, 2018

MEMBERSHIP LIST 2018

Agus, Debbie & Robert Kleinman
Agus, Robert & Rochelle Helzner
Chalupovitsch, Gloria & Eli
Cohen, Rachel & Paul
Fierer, Nancy & Robert
Finkelstein, Jenny Ann & Steve
Gewurz, Brenda & Sam
Gewurz, Risa & Zev
Gewurz, Ilan & Julie Shugarman
Grunstein, Bonnie and Leo
Hershtal, Sybil & Zev
Hershtal, Danny & Michal
Hershtal, Emily & Aaron
Johnson, Ayah & George
Kershner, Judy & David
Kershner, Sydney
Landes, Bryna & Josh
Pearson, Millie & Donald
Santoriello, Melanie & Bob
Shuchat, Rabbi Wilfred
Ungar, Goldie & Stan
Ungar, Richard & Dayna Albert
Ungar, Wendy
Urman, Rita & Sol
Vasilevsky, Karen & Murray
Wechsler, Marilyn & Milton
Wechsler, David & Julie Alter Wechsler
Wisse, Ruth & Len





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"THREE SISTERS"
BY RICHARD UNGAR