I carry CAMP with me. 6 PERSONAL STORIES
Camp BELONGS TO YOU forever.

That’s by careful design. When you pack your bags, camp sends home with you every extraordinary and brave and compassionate moment. Every skill, every life lesson, every time you made a friend. Every Shabbat tune. Every late-night bunk talk. Every hilarious joke where “it’s a camp thing” and “you just had to be there.” It’s possible you’ll have lost a t-shirt – or mysteriously gained an extra. But you’ll always have your values, your confidence, and your community. Camp is your mishpacha, your family, for life.

In this year’s Impact Report, we share with you stories from lifetimes strengthened by camp. YOU make these possible – as a camper, parent, alum, staffperson, donor, or many of those. Your generosity of spirit and giving are vital to the entire camp experience. We are deeply grateful for your impact on camp every day. Camp is WHERE WE BELONG, TOGETHER.

Todah rabah. Thank you very much.

Jonathan Cohen
Third-generation President

1 Friendship and Teamwork
2 Diversity and Inclusiveness
3 Shabbat
4 Learning
5 Rituals
6 Service and Responsibility
7 Roots
8 Israel
9 Nature
10 Leadership

The Eli and Bessie Cohen Camps and Eli and Bessie Cohen Camps of Massachusetts, Inc., as tax-exempt nonprofit charities, file Form 990 tax returns annually. Copies of our 990 reports are available on the Guidestar website.
In 1947, I became Tevya’s youngest-ever camper. I came back for 20 years – and can still feel the freezing water when we put in the docks each spring. Camp has never left me; camp people are still part of my life now. What I learned at camp is essential to who I am. At camp, I found role models and internalized what they showed me: kinship, the importance of tzedakah, the birkat, the values that permeate every day at camp. In fact, on my first day leading CAJE, The Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education, the first thing I did was type a letter to Eli and Bessie Cohen. I told them how grateful I was that my new job would let me do for others some of what camp had done for me, and how much camp had inspired in me this desire to join the world of service. I see Jewish camping as essential for Jewish continuity, and I am proud to support my beloved Camp Tevya.

Eliot is a “Tevya legend” who recently retired from nonprofit leadership, recognized for shaping Jewish education across North America. He and his wife Barbara play pivotal roles in many local and national Jewish organizations. Together, they are longstanding champions of Jewish summer camp.

Camp gives you the opportunity to exceed your own expectations. It’s where I learned to manage pressure and stress with creativity, patience and humor, and to listen with empathy. Looking back, I’m grateful for how Judaism at camp, seamlessly integrated day-to-day, helped me grow. I joined a Jewish youth group and my college Hillel largely because of camp. Now I use camp’s values and teachings and work to build Jewish community every day: what Tel Noar gave to me, I can now give to others.

A drama director at CTN, Jeremy studied Drama and Economics, worked on Broadway and in political fundraising, and is now a program and development officer for the Young Adult Initiative of CJP, the Boston-area Jewish Federation. Research confirms Jeremy’s experience: attending Jewish summer camp is one of the greatest predictors of Jewish engagement as an adult.

Camp has taught me how to connect with others, to work as a team, to think critically about who I am. This summer, I lived and worked like a citizen of Israel – then came back as a counselor to my favorite place in the world. One evening this summer we held a bunk activity we called “If You Really Knew Me.” We talked late into the night about identity, leadership, and becoming the person you want to be. My campers spoke with such encouragement and empathy for each other. I felt so lucky to get to facilitate that; I think it will stick with all of us.

Danny is a college sophomore who has spent his last 11 summers at Camp Tel Noar. For this interview, he took time from writing an essay for Spanish class. The topic of his essay? Camp Tel Noar.

Please share YOUR OWN camp story!

www.cohencamps.org/share-your-story
IRVING BACKMAN
Friend

I started camp later than most, at age 85, invited by Arnold z”l and Annebelle Cohen, whom I admire very much. We’ve always heard how Camp Pembroke builds character, and we’ve seen that in friends’ children and grandchildren. So we supported the S-Team Project to encourage girls’ confidence, and helped build the Climbing Wall where girls can conquer challenges. This summer, the salad harvest from our hydroponic mini-farm fed their health and connection to the environment. It gives us such pride to nurture these young women and their futures, at camp and in the world.

Irving Backman is still enjoying his long career in sustainability technology. He and his wife Charlotte cultivate the growth of many Jewish causes, with major commitments to Camp Pembroke.

PHOEBE
Current Camper

Camp is where I find myself as a leader, as a Jew, as a person. I come out of my shell at camp – I’m definitely louder here! It’s just easier to connect with people at camp. You know that you’re always going to have something in common because everyone here has some sort of Jewish background. When we talk, they know exactly what I’m talking about. I think my confidence at camp carries over during the school year, but it just takes longer to get to know people at school. My camp friends are my sisters. If I could do each summer at camp over again, I would – and again and again and again.

Phoebe is a high school sophomore, daughter of a Camp Pembroke alum, who has attended camp for six years, since age ten.

STACEY LIEBERMAN
Parent

For my kids, camp is truly home and where they can be themselves. This summer, my younger daughter picked electives she had never tried before; I see her new confidence and adventurousness carry over back at home. My older daughter recently taught her Hebrew school class some of the camp rikkud (dance) she loves so much. What really struck me is how she did it, using leadership skills she discovered at camp: rather than tell the class, she showed them, giving her classmates ways to share the experience – to share the love – just like camp does.

Stacey and her husband Matt, a Tevya alumnus, have two daughters at Camp Tevya. Stacey works in corporate leadership and organizational learning, and serves as the vice president of her synagogue board.

This enduring impact is made possible by

DONORS PARENTS CAMPERS FRIENDS ALUMNI GRANDPARENTS STAFF YOU

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

WE HONOR EACH GENEROUS DONOR AT:

www.cohencamps.org/thankyou
Using **TUITION** and **DONATIONS** carefully

**1 IN EVERY 4 CAMPERS RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP AID**

- Outreach/Administration: 5%
- Facilities: 9%
- Insurance: 3%
- Program/Supplies: 5%
- Food: 20%
- Staff/Personnel: 40%
- Camper Fees: 39%
- Alumni (Including Alumni Parents): 54%
- Friends: 7%

**GENEROUS DONORS INCLUDING 113 FIRST-TIMERS**

gave 565 tax-deductible gifts raising $300,000+ in critical support for scholarships and more.

Please join in! Make an impact on young lives:

Visit [www.cohencamps.org/give2camp](http://www.cohencamps.org/give2camp) or text PEMBROKE, TEVYA OR TEL NOAR to 50155

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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The Cohen Camps are nonprofit. This year, we are honored to welcome two new Trustees to our Board, bringing fresh perspectives and skills.

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Thank **YOU**.

Camp feeds the soul and replenishes the spirit, one cheer, one pitch, one hug, one song, one Shabbat at a time. We are grateful to those who replenish camp, supporting programs, staff, scholarships, and so much more through gifts and volunteering.
“There is not one night, during the 10 months our kids are not at camp, that camp is not a part of our dinner conversation. There is always a **NEW STORY TO TELL**, a **NEW SKILL TO SHARE** or just a **MEMORY THAT POPS UP.**” – A CAMP PARENT

Nurturing campers with
- **15** year-round staff
- **252** years among them as Cohen Camps campers, parents, and/or staff
- **462** paid seasonal staff

Cohen Campers reenrolled in 2017 **91%**

**Jewish camp average** **75%**

**SOURCE:** FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CAMP 2016 CENSUS

**ALUMNI STATES** **45** SO FAR

**ALUMNI COUNTRIES** **27** SO FAR

DO YOU KNOW ALUMNI IN ALASKA, ARKANSAS, IOWA, NEBRASKA, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA OR WYOMING? WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM THEM AT ALUMNI@COHENCAMPS.ORG!

WHO WENT TO ISRAEL?

- **118** Dor L’Dor Leadership Program teens
- **24** college-age counselors for Onward Israel internships
- **3** Camp Directors to hire and train **31** Israeli counselors

Campers come from
- **29** **STATES**
- **3** **COUNTRIES** MOSTLY ISRAEL