



Louise Lighthouse

www.camplouisecircle.org

Winter 2012/2013



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President's Message

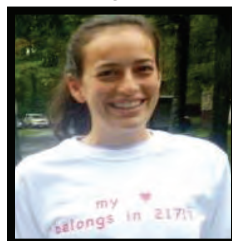
I would like to use my first message as Circle president to introduce myself. Camp has always been a part of my family as my dad, Frank Blatt, went to Airy in the '60s and '70s, and my sister Melanie has been coming to camp almost every summer that I have been at camp. I started coming to camp in 1995, I was a CIT in 2002, and made Circle in 2005. I was a bunk counselor and swim staff member, a unit leader, a division head, and now I currently make it up a few times a summer to volunteer. In the real world, I am a pediatric physical therapist in Columbia, Md., and just moved to North Bethesda from the Baltimore area.

I have been on Circle board for the past 5 years serving as the parliamentarian, and a member of several planning committees.

This past reunion we had a great turnout, great programming, and an overall great weekend to spend with our camp family. I would like to thank everyone who came, especially the people who helped make it happen. I am very excited for my upcoming term and to take on this new role. I have a great Circle board to work with and a great family of Circle members!

If you ever have any questions, suggestions, concerns, or just want to become more involved, feel free to contact me, or any of the board members. I look forward to hearing from you, working with you, and getting to know more of you!

- Lisa Blatt,
President, Camp
Louise Circle



Outgoing President's Message

Wow, three years really goes by fast. It was a pleasure serving as Circle president for the past three years. I feel we accomplished a lot in that time and I know we will continue to do so.

We have worked hard to keep Circle moving and changing as needed. Our 'Go Green to Save Green' initiative was successful, as we now have an email list-serv with more than 800 people! We are reaching out to even more Circle members with email and Facebook and are continuing to look for ways to keep people connected. This year, we accepted online payment for Circle reunion and we hope to expand that to mementos and donations.

I have been on the Circle board for 6 years and I have learned quite a lot! I hope to pass on what I have learned and continue helping Circle and your next president, Lisa Blatt. Lisa's dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment to Circle is easy to see. I know it is going to be a great year!

Thanks again for the opportunity to be your Circle president. Although my term is over, I will always be around to help camp and Circle in any way I can.

- Rachel Sanderoff
Past president, Camp Louise Circle



The Camp Louise Circle

Calendar of Events

- Sunday, June 23 - Opening Day (7AM - noon)
- Thursday, July 4 - Louise Carnival
- Thursday, July 4 - Library Dedication Ceremony
- Sunday, July 6 - 1st Short Session Campers Depart (morning)
- Sunday, July 7 - 2nd Short Session Campers Arrive (afternoon)
- Saturday, July 13 (4:30pm - 6pm) Circle Board Meeting
- Sunday, July 14 - Camper in Training Day (8am-5pm)
- Sunday, July 21 - 1st Full Session/2nd Short Session Campers Depart
- Monday, July 22 - 2nd Full Session Campers Arrive
- Sunday, July 28 (6:30pm - 9:30pm)
- Saturday, August 3 - History Day
- Saturday, August 3 - Circle Induction / Reception
- Sunday, August 12 - Campers Depart
- Bornstein Shabbat in Solarium - TBD
- Circle reunion Sept. 20-22

Library Project

We are pleased to announce that the beloved Aunt Lillian Straus Library will be getting a make-over this summer. Mother/daughter team Sandy Gohn and Liz Dye, who are also former campers, will be heading up this project. They have been collecting new and up-to-date books that will be used to supplement and replace our current collection. In addition, they will be donating a week of their time this summer to organize, label and catalogue all the books and priceless historical camp mementos that are housed in the library.

In order to make this much needed remodel a success, the library requires new shelves, chairs, tables and rugs. We are asking for your help to make this happen. You can donate to the library project by making a contribution online at <https://www.purchasepartner.com/airylouise/>. Please indicate in the "notes" section that your gift is for the Louise Library Project. Or you can send a check to the Baltimore office with "Louise Library Project" in the memo.

We know that the library will continue to be a special place for campers for years to come. Many thanks to Sandy and Liz for their dedication and passion!

History Day

Please mark your calendars: History Day is August 3, 2013! We are looking for ideas and volunteers to help today's campers remember and appreciate camp's past! Please send any suggestions you have for activities to Ali Brodsky at alib@camplouisecircle.org or to Erica Levinson at ehlevinson@gmail.com. More information will follow!

New Circle Board Members

We are pleased to welcome the new Circle board members who have been elected for a 3-year term. Each of them has unique skills and experiences to add to the group. Paula Bragg, Erica Levinson, Kate Perelman, Debbie Apple, Jana Kalish, and Leslie Levin are the new additions to the board. In addition, Shira Kahan and Lisa Yarmis have been elected for their second terms.

Circle board is a great way to be able to give back to Circle and camp while taking on the responsibility of planning and organizing. It is open to all Circle members both new and old. Elections take place every Circle reunion at the town hall meeting. If you are interested in running for the board, or nominating someone else, please let Debbie Apple or Jan Abraham know. Nominations are accepted until 2 weeks prior to Circle reunion.



Pinning

We are trying to complete accurate records to reflect Circle pinning information. If you have not already contacted me, please send me an email at missysk1@gmail.com, and give me your Circle information: the year you made Circle, who pinned you and whom you have pinned. We're making a big "family tree" and need your information to make it as complete as possible. Thank you!

Make A Contribution to Circle

Making a contribution to Circle? Contributions can be made for any purpose – to support general operations, to support the reunion scholarship fund, or anything else you'd like Circle to support at camp! Remember to save your cancelled check or bank statement for tax purposes. If you need additional documentation for tax purposes or have any other questions relating to contributions, please contact Circle treasurer Andie Snyder at andies@camplouisecircle.org. All checks should be made payable to "Camp Louise Circle."

Future Projects

We will be working on a service project for the counselors lounge. Materials will be collected and projects will be made during Open House.

Another idea we had is to put a large world map w/pins and names of international counselors; counselor/camper art, etc.

Camp Louise License Plates

License plates are available for almost any Maryland-registered vehicle (sorry, no motorcycles!). These plates are NOT vanity plates and do NOT require additional renewal costs (the fee is the same as you pay for your plates now).

The ONLY fee is the one-time donation of \$50 to Circle (\$25 is tax deductible). More details are available on the Circle Website - <http://www.camplouisecircle.org/licenseplate.html> or call Neil Berlin: 410-363-3877.



Circle Contributions

We would like to acknowledge the following contributions to Circle for the year 2011.

General contributions

Debbie Apple, Wendy Fredericks, Wendy Gill, Paula Graham (in memory of Mark Abrams,) Serene Israel, Mary Maslow, Amy Ross (in honor of Sarah Sherman's birthday), Drazia Rubenstein, Sharon Selko, Ricci Silberman, Andie Snyder, Audrey Tell, Erin Weinblatt, Lisa Yarmis (in honor of Sue Sterling making Circle.)

Reunion scholarship fund

Alicia & Neil Berlin, Joan Bornstein, Becky Gutin (in honor of Elissa Sachs-Kohen's birthday,) Ellen Mae Kaye, Stephanie Klein, Lawrence Kravitz, Mickie McKenna, Amy Corbman Moncarz, Reesa Pearlman, Amy Rollins, Drazia Rubenstein (in honor of her summer 2011 co-workers), Missy & Elissa Sachs-Kohen, Lisa Yarmis, Robin Zenick and anonymous.

Camper scholarship fund

Marji Arnheim, Beverly Goldstein Legum (in memory of Ethel Lowenthal), Marilyn Schneider Kellam, Ruth Legum.

Every effort has been made to ensure the completeness of this list. We apologize if any contributor has been left off – you can be sure that every dollar helps!

- Andie Snyder



Fundraising/Reunion Scholarship Fund

Several years ago, a number of generous Circle members created a fund to make Circle reunion more affordable for members with financial challenges. In our ever-changing economic environment, more and more Circle members have needed to utilize these funds to make attending reunion a possibility in recent years. This year, we are pleased to announce that 15 of your fellow Circle members were able to attend reunion at a more affordable cost, and we know our reunion experience would not have been the same without them there. As with all things, this fund continues to need replenishing in order to support reunion scholarships for 2013 and for many years in to the future. Please consider a donation to the reunion Scholarship Fund to help ensure all of your Circle sisters and brothers will be able to attend reunion for many years to come!

Remember to save your cancelled check or bank statement for tax purposes. If you need additional documentation for tax purposes or have any other questions relating to contributions, please contact Circle treasurer Andie Snyder (andies@camplouisecircle.org). All checks should be made payable to "Camp Louise Circle."

- Andie Snyder



Note and Mitzvah Card Sales

The Circle would like to acknowledge the following contributions through the purchase of mitzvah and note cards. Thank you all!

- Amy Ross: a "double chai" mitzvah card to celebrate Sara Sherman's 22nd birthday
- Lisa Yarmis: a mitzvah card in honor of Sue Sterling FINALLY making Circle! It's never too late!
- Joan Block: purchase of 10 mitzvah cards
- Karen Gerton: in memory of Boris Rodner, Joan Block's brother
- Lisa Yarmis: in appreciation for a wonderful evening to Steve and Ellen Blume Morgan
- Karen Gerton and Nancy Rosenstadt: in memory of Dr. Bill Loebman
- Karen and Manny Gerton: in memory of Marian Mirmelstein, Jan's mother
- Serene Israel: purchase of 10 mitzvah cards
- Sally Henning: purchase of note cards
- Alicia Block Berlin: purchase of 10 mitzvah cards
- Lisa Yarmis: in memory of Harriet Cohn
- Lisa Yarmis: thanks to Pearl Diamond Sterling for letting us borrow her condo.
- Ronda Max Pozoulakis: in memory of Ruth Daly

If anyone needs information on how to purchase either note cards or mitzvah cards, please contact Lisa Yarmis at 443-690-4770.

Remember, all donations to the Circle are tax deductible, and help us fund Circle projects around camp!



Camp Update

What an incredible summer we had at camp! We brought back Friday night flag lowering on the White House lawn, and we added a new twist to this old tradition. In addition to the flag ceremony, we stayed on the lawn for our before-dinner Shabbat service. It was so nice seeing everyone in their whites lined up on the gorgeous lawn, singing the Shabbat prayers, and then walking to the dining hall. If you close your eyes, I am sure you can see yourself in this parade of girls in white celebrating Shabbat at camp.

Our Circle ceremony was beautiful, as always. The last Friday night of camp, we gathered in the library for this ceremony as we welcomed 28 new members into our family. We read from the charter which starts with the words: Drawn together by the common bond of friendship and loyalty....

Staff members Audrey Tell and Sarah "Swoogs" Woogen spoke about the Circle of Friendship and the Circle of Loyalty. See their speeches on this page.

Once again, I would like to thank the many members of Circle who donate their time, money, and support to Camp Louise. Here's to another 90 years!

- Alicia Berlin
Director, Camp Louise



Circle of Loyalty

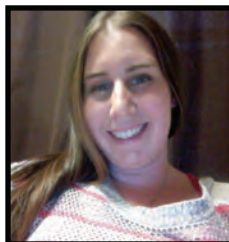
My first summer at camp was not the best. I was just a little unit A camper who was home-missing and cried all the time. When I left that summer I swore to myself that I was never coming back. Two years later my best friend was coming to camp and asked me to go with her, I said "sure, why not?" From that summer on, there was never the question of whether I'd be coming back to camp the next year — I always knew I'd be back.

After my CIT summer, I knew I had to come back on staff, but I never even considered the thought that I might make Circle. Yet here I am, 12 years after I stepped through the gates of Camp Louise, a member of Circle. Our charter talks about loyalty, but until joining Circle last summer, I never truly understood what it meant.

When it comes to Circle, loyalty is a two-way street. Being a member means that you must be loyal to the organization of Circle. It means being there for your Circle sisters when they need a helping hand or a shoulder to cry on. It means being there for camp to preserve its traditions and help make new memories. But loyalty also means that Circle will do the same for you in return. It means that years later you can come back and still feel like you are a part of the magic of camp, like I did as a camper.

Congratulations to the new 2012 Circle inductees. And I want you to know that no matter what happens or where your life takes you, as a member of Circle you will always have a home here at Camp Louise.

- Sarah "Swoogs"
Woogen
Circle 2011



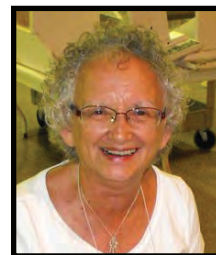
Circle of Friendship

In 1955, I was so excited and honored to become a Circle member, pinned by my former counselor June Weinstein. Here it is, 57 years later and I am here to tell you that the friendships that I formed at Camp Louise are still as strong as ever! In 57 years, we have had a lifetime of experiences, good times and bad: marriages, children, the deaths of our parents, good health and illness.

Living near or living far from each other, the distance didn't matter. In the beginning it was letters — no email in the '50s and long-distance phone calls were expensive. Now we are just a phone call or email away. The common bond of camp and Circle and the shared values of being a good and honest friend that you learn here will be with you for life.

We still laugh at our adventures and misadventures at camp and can recall (most of the time) the names of those with whom we shared so much. Some of us speak to each other more frequently than others, but the bond is always there. As I have said to my other friends when they hear that I am going to camp, Tom Wolfe was wrong. You can go home again... and this is home.

- Audrey Astrin Tell
Circle 1955



Points on the Circle

Births

What It's Like to Deliver Your Wife's Baby – A harrowing experience turns into one very special delivery.

Melanie Lasoff Levs (Circle 1992) of Atlanta, sent us this story written by her husband Josh, who is an anchor at CNN.

About three weeks before her due date, my wife, Melanie, suddenly doubled over in pain and started having intense contractions. One minute she was fine, the next minute she was moaning, all the agony of childbirth hitting her in a single wave. She managed to squeeze out a sentence: "Call an ambulance."

I knew something was wrong, but I didn't think, "Oh my God, I'm about to deliver my baby." It wasn't until the 911 operator started giving me instructions on how to catch the baby's head that I realized what was about to happen.

I felt a hard-charging rush of adrenaline and extreme focus. There was no time to think or consider options. Whatever emotions were there — nervousness, confusion, fear — were crushed under the weight of doing the right thing in a situation with life-or-death stakes for my own baby. Obviously, I was overwhelmed. But I knew in that moment that I had this responsibility whether I wanted it or not, and I was going to do everything I could to bring my baby into this world, to help my wife, and to keep in mind my older child, then three, who was standing on the other side of the room. (Doctors told me later that letting him stay in the room, but at a distance, was the right call.) So while I was on the phone with 911 and focusing on the delivery, I kept

saying to him things like "Don't worry, buddy. Everything's fine. This just happens."

My wife was doing all the hard work, but I could see that she was OK. Even though she couldn't talk, I saw that she was breathing and following my instructions, in pain but not in danger. Then I saw the very top of the baby's head emerge — a shock even though I knew it was coming — then a tiny scrunched-up face, and then the umbilical cord wrapped around the neck. All the way up, like a turtleneck. The baby's eyes were shut, and it was not moving. My adrenaline went from overdrive to supersonic.

After the baby was all the way out, the 911 operator told me to sever the umbilical cord. But I remembered a story about friends of ours whose baby was born blue and lifeless. It turned out he was still getting oxygen from the umbilical cord. He didn't breathe for about two minutes, but he was fine. I was not going to tie off the umbilical cord with a shoelace, as 911 instructed, until I saw my child breathe.

The baby was so fragile, a small, purplish-reddish body covered in blood and goo. I was holding not only the baby but also some of what had given it life. I started to unravel the umbilical cord. One, two, three, four, five times to remove it from the baby's neck.

Then I followed the operator's instructions to lay the baby down on the floor. I didn't stop to check the gender. Its eyes were closed; there was no sign of any kind of movement. I didn't know if I was witnessing life or death.

I stroked the baby gently a couple of times, and I could hear the 911 operator telling me she could give me CPR instructions. But then miraculously, the baby's

eyes popped open. It appeared to be breathing. That moment — the eyes opening — was not about joy or a celestial choir suddenly singing from the heavens. It was hope. I had hope that my baby would live.

That's when the paramedics arrived. My son and I raced downstairs to let them in, and by the time we charged up the stairs again, they had checked my wife and the baby. I said, "Just tell me the baby's breathing, and they're both OK."

"You did great, Dad," one of them said. That's when I took a breath. My wife said, "It's a boy."

I am in awe of my wife and women everywhere who go through childbirth. The day I helped deliver my son, I felt a sense of connection to my family that will never fade. Forever it will have been just the four of us in that room, each of us doing our best for one another. So while I wouldn't wish this experience on anyone, and we would never choose to repeat it, I'm grateful that it happened to me.

Professionally, it's easy to get lost in my ambition. But in that moment of delivering my son, the game of life that we call "success" didn't exist. Having a child isn't part of that game. It's real, immediate, and primal, the very stuff of what actually matters: love. And that's another thing I will never forget.



Photo by Tamara Reynolds

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Points on the Circle

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Jo (Joanne) Levin Phillips (Circle 1970) wrote to say “Hi from Jerusalem. Granddaughter # 4, born August 13, 2012, Kayla Yocheved Phillips. “

Congratulations

Alison Cederbaum (Circle 2006) became engaged to Harris Kaplan on October 20, 2012. Harris also spent some summers at Louise working as part of the catering team. In true camp fashion, he popped the question at Cunningham Falls after a delicious lunch at Sheetz!

Alison is from Columbia, Md. and currently lives in Pikesville. She was in the dance and athletics departments as a counselor, and was a unit leader in 2008.

Amanda Epstein (Circle 2006) became engaged to Matt Mosgin on October 20, 2012. The couple is very excited to begin planning their special day! Amanda is from Reisterstown, Md. and currently lives in Jessup, Md. She was in the arts & crafts department as a counselor.

Gutin (AKA Rachel Gutin, Circle 2008, of Baltimore, Md.) is engaged to Mike Medvin; they are planning a late summer 2013 wedding. Mom Becky (Circle 2006) is very excited!

The couple met on Rachel's Birthright trip in January, 2009. It was beshert because she was notified of the trip two days before, on December 30, to leave on January 1. It was a mad scramble to get everything ready in two days!

Rachel was a 2005 CIT, a counselor for two years, and folk dance department head for several years. She was also a Goodman Educator last summer.

Passings

Ellen Hirsch Berman (Circle 1966) of Brooklyn, N.Y. passed away on May 11, 2011, after a three month bout with metastatic gall bladder and liver cancer.

Longtime Camp Airy physician, Dr. Philip (Phil) Band, passed away on October 3, 2012. Dr. Band, originally from Philadelphia was living in Thurmont, Md. He was a camper at Airy, and a counselor there in the '40s, and joined the staff as a doctor in 1964, working every summer until 2010. He often helped at Camp Louise, when asked, and was a member of Circle, as well as the Order of the Leaf.

Dr. Band met his wife at camp when they were both counselors. He and his wife Mitzi married in 1949, and were married for 63 years. Dr. Band was the devoted father of David (Susan Klein), Steven (Eve), and Lisa Band; dear brother of Raymond Band; and cherished grandfather of Adam, Michael, Anna, Mallory, and Rebecca Band.

Memorial contributions may be made to Camp Airy, 5750 Park Heights Ave., Baltimore, MD, 21215 or to the National Parks and Conservation Association, www.npca.org.

This & That

Lawrence Kravitz wrote to say “Returned from a nature trip to Mongolia. Saw the Gobi in the south and the wetlands in the north. Traveled between several local ger tent camps while in the nomadic wilderness outside the capitol Ulaanbaatar. Enjoyed the local food, particularly the fermented camel mare's milk and fermented horse mare's milk, with a taste much like the familiar kefir yogurt drink.”

A recent posting on the Camp Louise Circle Facebook page contained a photo of a beautiful mandala. It contains four intertwined hearts labeled for Aaron and Lilly, S'Ida and Sara. The inside says “Camp Louise est. 1922” and the outer edge contains the “Now you belong to us” quote. The mandala is hanging in one of the dining hall cases. Neither Bobbie nor Alicia knows who created this beautiful work of art. If you are the artist, or know who is, please post that information on Circle's Facebook page, or contact Henri at hgoettel@publicnetworking.org or 816.795.8361.

Got news? You can send it to Karen Levin at borninablizzard@gmail.com. Please be sure to include the following with your news:

- Your full name, including maiden name if applicable.
- The year you made Circle, or the years you were at camp (approximation OK).
- The department you worked in at camp.
- City and state where you live.



This post card was postmarked in 1931 and it cost .01 to mail.

The Story of Camp Louise

By Sara Yudlson, August 1972

In the early 1900s, when the number of immigrants coming to the United States from the countries of Eastern Europe was significant, the Baltimore Jewish community was deeply concerned with the problems that adjustment to living in a new country presented to the newcomers. Since Baltimore was an important point of entry for the foreign-born, the native Jewish population was acutely aware of the difficulties and frustrations that these people faced. Many services were, therefore, developed in order to give assistance to families and individuals.

One of the most vital facilities was the Daughters of Israel, a residence home, located at Baltimore and Asquith Streets. Here, young immigrant women could find a pleasant, comfortable place to live, companionship, and aid for their problems of employment and integration into a new way of life. The residence was one of the constituencies of the newly formed Associated Jewish Charities, but many benevolent ladies in the community added the personal interest and devotion that made living at the "D. In I." a warm, happy opportunity rather than an institutional experience.

Outstanding among those women who took special interest in each individual resident was a member of the Board of the Daughters of Israel, Lillie Mayer Straus, the wife of Aaron Straus, a Baltimore merchant, and Ida Sharogrodsky, whose particular areas of service were counseling and guidance to help each young woman resolve her problems.

Most of the young women worked in clothing factories or small stores, where working conditions were difficult and laborious. Hours were

long, with a work-day starting very early in the morning, and ending in the evening. Safety precautions and comforts were poor, with little thought for the benefit of the workers. Wages were low.

The one-week vacation period that some of the employees did get spelled a release from the other fifty-one weeks of the year, and presented a need to change from the daily city sights and routines to an environment that offered rest and relaxation. A new opportunity, a summer place, became the challenge.

In those days, the "country," or the mountains, was the place to go! And, for this group of young women, and for others who lived independently but who had the same needs, the answer was a small rented house in Highfield, Maryland, in the Blue Ridge Mountains. The area was not too far from Baltimore. The surrounding country was inspiringly beautiful at all times, and, of course, could offer the needed change for these young ladies. The Sand-Mar House, as the cottage was named, was readied and outfitted and became the "summer scene" for those for whom it had been planned. The Associated Jewish Charities provided a budget of \$500 for the project. From this amount, \$300 had to be paid for rent. The remaining amount of \$200, and the very minimal fee that each vacationer paid, if any, comprised the funds for all other necessities. There were "counselors," more fortunate young women from Baltimore, who volunteered their time and interest to make the Sand-Mar House vacation relaxing and attractive. The important responsibilities of management and operation were given to "Miss Ida," already a vital personality with experience in helping young people attain high levels of personal achievement and stimulation.

Miss Ida worked in Baltimore on the details related to opening the Sand-Mar House, but every week-end found her in the mountain spot, adding her warmth and abilities to the volunteer leaders and guests alike. Soon her kindness and sensitivity to the needs and feelings of others took on another dimension. The name "Miss Ida" became a beloved and respected name among the residents of the Highfield-Blue Ridge-Cascade-Pen Mar area, as she walked through the countryside with the girls, or as she dealt with the native population in more practical matters of purchasing commodities, arranging building repairs, and necessary services.

Every Monday morning, Miss Ida was back in Baltimore, and her most interested listener, as she talked about the San-Mar House, was Lillie Straus, who quietly, but lovingly, added the "extra touches" that the limited budget on which the project was operated needed but did not have.

After several very pleasant summers, Miss Ida was told that the Sand-Mar House would no longer be available, unless the Associated Jewish Charities agreed to purchase the building. The owner did not want to rent it any longer! This was really a challenging piece of news for Miss Ida to relate to Lillie Straus! One can imagine these two conjecturing on ways to save the situation. Lillie Straus had one possible answer! Perhaps Aaron, her devoted husband, would buy the house and rent it to the Associated Jewish Charities so that the Sand-Mar House could fulfill its real need!

And so it was – or seemed to be! Aaron Straus, in his customary way of responding to Lillie's requests to help other people, agreed. Negotiations were about to begin, when Miss Ida, on one of her visits

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The Story of Louise

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to the mountain, decided to take a walk to Pen-Mar.

Almost there, she was passing the Melview House, a hotel that had been closed for several years. Standing on the lawn, the son of the owner greeted Miss Ida, and in the general course of the conversation which followed, he told her that the hotel was for sale. In fact, he was waiting for a prospective buyer. Immediately, Miss Ida had a new idea! Would the gentleman hold off his client until she could speak to Mr. Aaron Straus? He would and did and Mr. Straus was interested! For an option of \$1, the owner delayed selling the property until Aaron Straus could see it.

Not many days later Mr. and Mrs. Straus and Miss Ida left Baltimore for this important adventure. Mr. Straus drove, and it must be remembered that neither cars nor roads were as smoothly constructed as they are today, so the traveling was far slower. In Westminster, about halfway between Baltimore and Cascade, Md., the party stopped for lunch. Mr. Straus, unaware of how intense and impatient Lillie and Ida were, ate leisurely, very leisurely, and then, decided to relax awhile! Finally, they were ready to start again. When they came out of the restaurant, it was raining, and threatening clouds hung overhead. Aaron wanted to return to Baltimore, but Lillie was sure that she could see a break in the clouds, and a tiny ray of sunshine ahead! Aaron allowed himself to be persuaded to continue the trip, and the next thirty miles to the Melview House were made, with Aaron still wanting to turn back to Baltimore, and with Lillie and Ida seeing only the promise of sunshine beyond the horizon!

The sunshine was there! It burst out in fullest glory as the three

arrived at their destination. Uncle Airy looked over the grounds, and then, he inspected the house. He went through the first floor, then the second, and, finally to the third. He was looking with a very practical eye, and neither Lillie nor Ida could guess how he felt about this "find." In his examination of the third floor, he saw a door that let out to an open porch, and it was the vista from this height that became the decisive factor. He would buy the Melview House! Lillie and Ida were, of course, ecstatic!

Mr. Straus presented the building to the Associated Jewish Charities for the purpose of continuing the function which had begun in the Sand-Mar House. He did not want nor expect to be paid any rent for these premises!

Just about this time, he suffered a loss in the death of his sister, Louise Straus. To commemorate her name, and as an expression of his love for her, he asked that the new facility memorialize her name, and thus, Camp Louise came into being.

Since the Melview had been closed for so many years, the elements and neglect had taken over. How does one begin to make the necessary, simple renovations that had to be attended to before the building could be used again? Here again, Aaron Straus provided the answer. He authorized \$8,000 for the purpose, and left all of the details of planning and supervision to Miss Ida, because he and Lillie were preparing for a trip to Europe.

The hills came to life! Lawn movers, hammers, saws, and paint brushes were soon in operation, as workers from the local community set about getting Camp Louise ready for opening by the following June. Miss Ida was the recognized leader, and the respect and loyalties that she engendered, added to the skills of the artisans, accomplished the goal.

On June 22, 1922, Camp Louise

opened with twelve campers.

Among the guests who were invited to the opening were the members of the boards of directors of various community organizations in Baltimore. Their enthusiasm and admiration then was the same as the support that endured throughout the years and is evidenced by the current activity of the trustees of the Aaron and Lillie Straus Foundation.

As Miss Ida proudly showed the new camp to the visitors, she pointed to the fresh curtains, the containers of flowers, and the other home-like touches. All the contributions of such good, loyal neighborhood friends as the Sturdevants, the Wests, the Harbaughs, are names deeply ingrained in the richness of Camp Louise. The Russel Browns, the Eylers and Olsens have continued that warm tradition. Miss Ida recognized, with much appreciation, the efforts of many volunteer workers from Baltimore who were doing their part to make the "campers" happy.

Toward the end of that summer, Aaron and Lillie Straus returned from Europe, and came to Cascade to see what their benevolence, although they never regarded it as such, had stimulated. Their delight can be imagined and understood. It made possible the ensuing history of Camp Louise, and later Camp Airy, established for the boys in 1924.

Mr. Straus immediately decided to make Camp Louise a personal project for himself and his wife, and to relieve the Associated Jewish Charities of all financial responsibilities, or any part in policy making or operation. The principle of a non-profit, privately endowed organization was established. From that day, the already established Camp Louise, and yet to be, Airy, became one of the closest and fondest interests of Aaron and Lillie Straus.

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The Story of Louise

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What was Camp Louise like when it opened? Simple, and in some ways, primitive! The main house held all of the facilities – sleeping quarters on part of the first, second, and third floors, dining room, kitchen, infirmary, living room and offices. Plays and other entertainment were held on the front porch between the two large posts which still mark the entrance. The audience sat on the first level of the lawn and looked up. Mail was distributed from a basket by a “counselor” who called out each name. Maximum capacity meant twenty to thirty campers.

Activities were leisurely. To just sit on the front porch and rock in a chair, and to look out on green grass and young trees, was rewarding and restful enough to many of the young women. More active campers indulged in “athletics,” in the form of croquet on the front lawn, or they enjoyed walking or hiking, to use camping vocabulary. They always found Miss Ida ready to lead! Off they would go – to Pen-Mar for a short hike, to Mount Overlook to see the moon rise, to the Cascades to see the water flowing over the rocks! There were so many new things to see and to experience by these girls who felt so removed from the factory, the store, and the city. Sometimes the temptation to pick a beautiful flower from a neighbor’s garden was too enticing to resist. Miss Ida, the public relations expert, foresaw how the local residents could misunderstand and, thus, one of her next projects was to plant gardens within camp so the campers could live surrounded by flowers which they could pick when they were so inclined. “Aunt Lillie” as Mrs. Straus was now called by everyone at camp, liked the idea and

established a garden fund to which she contributed birthday monies given to her by “Uncle Airy,” as her husband was now known affectionately.

Pen-Mar Park, in those days an active area with many amusements, was another “activity”, whether for the motion pictures, where the audience sat on movable metal chairs that scraped when any person moved even slightly, or the roller coaster, the bowling alley, or the dance hall, where there was dancing in the morning and in the evening. Of course, what to wear to Pen-Mar hotels. Should it be this dress or that? Not knickers. Should it be appropriate for camp, or for hiking, but certainly not for “going out?”

There were no swimming facilities in camp, and Lake Royer, at Fort Ritchie, had not yet been excavated and filled from the mountain streams. But, there was a small pool in Chocolate Park. Here the girls went for their “water sports.” Often, after their “swim,” they bought some “Blue Mountain Chocolates”, which were made right there, in a small factory.

Folk singing, even then, could be heard at Louise! The songs were those that many of the young women remembered from Russia, Poland, and other foreign homelands. With these melodic reminiscences, many quiet evenings of fun ended.

Sunday night supper was always very informal, because it was the cook’s day off. The campers, ladies past their teens, washed the dishes, and usually had Lillie Straus as a very cheerful assistant.

Camp Louise days made many memories for the campers, and when the one or two week vacation period was over, and the young women prepared for the long, hot trip home on the Western Maryland Railroad they knew that the six or seven dollars that they had paid for

each week’s stay were investments that had brought turns of warmth, congeniality, and lasting friendship. Back home, they told their friends about camp. These friends told others, and soon the demands on Camp Louise had outgrown its capacity.

In anticipation of this situation, Aunt Lillie, Miss Ida and Uncle Airy had done some research into new types of buildings for summer vacation living. In 1924, the first bold step was taken. The first bunk was built! Mr. Thomas Eyler, who was to build for Camp Louise and Camp Airy for the next forty years, and his most skilled and interested master artisan, Walter Olsen, known lovingly as “Slim,” followed every direction given by Aunt Lillie and Miss Ida and added some ideas of their own.

At last, the bunk was ready! But, another problem presented itself! Who would occupy it? The campers were afraid to sleep outdoors in a very small wooden building with only screens for windows and only canvas flaps to protect them from rain and cold and – insects! Again, Miss Ida, the confidence builder, showed the way. She would sleep there! And, as always, where she led, others would happily follow.

Every year, since that first pioneer effort in 1924, bunks were added, because every year the numbers of those who wanted to enjoy Camp Louise increased.

However, changes were in the air. The flow of immigrants was decreasing, working conditions had improved due to better labor legislation, many of the original “campers” had married, new avenues of adult recreation were being offered, and at Camp Louise, younger girls were asking to be admitted. Gradually, Louise became the camp that it is today, dedicated to

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The Story of Louise

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the needs, interests, and aspirations of young people.

The transition was made so smoothly that hardly anyone realized that it was happening. As younger campers came, more and different supervision was needed. Consequently, counselors whose interests and skills lay in working with younger girls were recruited. Program planning evolved in relation to interests of campers. Building plans were made to accommodate increasing numbers and the needs of new generations of Louise enthusiasts. Uncle Airy continued to purchase surrounding acreage, both to provide "elbow room" and to protect the area from other tenancies, until the total amount reached 490 acres. The basic concern of every area of planning was and is the comfort, stimulation, and happiness of the campers.

When by 1930, the Camp Louise population had grown so considerably that the water source was inadequate, Uncle Airy through his attorney, Louis N. Frank, Uncle Lou of "Hot Stuff" fame, negotiated with Camp Ritchie authorities, at that time a Maryland National Guard operation, to supply more water to the camp, in exchange for some land and some monies. This transaction began a firm and respected relationship with the commanding personnel at Fort Ritchie, now a United States Government installation, which has been unlimited in its friendly assistance. Especially significant in that relationship was the ongoing privilege extended to Camp Louise by both commands for the use of Lake Royer on which Camp Louise built its own swimming facilities. During World War II, not only was the privilege continued, but

additional life guard services were supplied as well. Even when Camp Louise built its own pool, dedicated to Miss Ida, in 1964, the privilege for the use of the lake facilities at Fort Ritchie remained in effect. In any emergency situations or security needs, Fort Ritchie personnel have always been most cooperative and helpful.

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As younger campers, the "Juniors" became a distinctive group. Two loyal friends, Theresa and Sam Barnett, Aunt Lillie's sister and brother-in-law, who always evinced love and interest for the camp and the campers, donated Barnett Lodge as a Junior social hall.

It was Uncle Airy's premise that he wanted no outside gifts for either

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The Story of Louise

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camp. Many times he counseled Miss Ida to decline such offers, suggesting that donors give their aid to institutions and organizations that did not have the support that he and Aunt Lillie could provide to Louise and Airy. Yet, there were individuals who wanted to be identified in tangible ways with the camp because of some personal experience or because of their respect for its purpose and its sponsors. The first bunk was contributed by Mr. Simon Dalsheimer, a well-known leader in the Baltimore Jewish Community and a close friend of the Strauses. Years later, Uncle Lou Frank commemorated the names of his parents by donating the Simon Frank Lodge and the Amelia Frank Lodge. The Helen and Morton Hamburger Lodge, a memorial to Uncle Airy's niece and her husband, was presented by the children of the Hamburgers, and the Rosenthal Staff Lodge as well as the Vera Ottenheimer Lodge was donated by members of those two families.

Everything in Camp Louise is evidence of the beneficence of Aaron and Lillie Straus, but most meaningful to Uncle Airy were the Martin Straus Lodge and the Babette Straus Lodge, two camper bunks for which special architectural services were employed, since these were his memorial to his parents. When, in 1953, Aunt Lillie passed on, Uncle Airy's immediate wish was to build the Aunt Lillie Straus Memorial Library, a facility that she had long wanted for the Louise girls.

Thus, Camp Louise has grown, and continues to grow. Today, there are forty-four bunks, accommodating a capacity of 475 campers, and numerous auxiliary structures for their pleasure and comfort. The solarium, built and dedicated in

1947 on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Camp Louise, is a source of real pleasure and a site of real creativity to all performing arts departments. The social hall, enlarged many times, serves the same needs and, in addition, is a place in which the entire camp can gather when activities cannot be held in the outdoors. A functional arts and crafts area serves the many campers and staff who enjoy working in various media, while enlarged athletic facilities and outdoor camping areas add to the stimulation of the program. Beautiful campsites and a host of smaller areas for small group interests may be found throughout the camp. Every year, now, buildings that are no longer adequate are being replaced with modern structures to better serve camping objectives. Foremost in the planning at the present time is an entirely new dining room facility, with the most modern equipment in its kitchen.

The total staff now numbers about one hundred and sixty people, giving their best efforts to make every aspect of camp experience pleasurable and memorable.

The growth of the camp can be paralleled by much of the natural beauty of Louise. Many of the large trees on the front lawn were mere saplings when Miss Ida planted them, in the early days. Now they rise to the skies, spreading their cooling shade and restful green, growing strong still, as they symbolize the love and zeal and strength that the founders envisioned.

Camp Airy and Camp Louise are the admixture of many personalities, but everyone is quick to recognize the inspiration of the Strauses and Miss Ida that permeates the entire spirit of both camps.

Aaron and Lillie Straus were very special people. Their names are

identifiable with many humanitarian efforts, but the camps and the campers were their "children." In the early years of camp they spent only weekends at Louise happily occupying the front-porch room on the second floor of the main house. As Mr. Straus transferred some of his business responsibilities to other capable associates, the couple began to spend entire summers at camp.

It was not until 1939, when they celebrated their fiftieth anniversary, that they submitted to constant suggestions from their families and Miss Ida, and allowed the building of a cottage for their use and comfort. Into it, they brought the genuine things of Louise, too! All of the exterior and interior wood and much of the furniture of the house was made from the trees on Camp Louise grounds. The beautiful quilted bedspreads are the work of women in the local community. The Strauses often said that the cottage was their only real home, since, in the city, they resided in a hotel apartment.

As "campers," Aunt Lillie and Uncle Airy were exemplary! They complied, implicitly, with every regulation. They were never late for meals, and never asked any special services for themselves. They were appreciative of the work that each person did, and when they did have comments to make about program or procedure, these were made as suggestions and not as commands or directives from donors.

The campers brought them real joy. Aaron and Lillie Straus loved children and helped them. Nothing gave Aunt Lillie greater pleasure than to tell campers about their shell collections, or their paperweight collections. Nothing gave Uncle Airy more pleasure than to sit on the porch and play work games with campers, and, of course, to greet his

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The Story of Louise

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favorite age group with “Hooray for the Juniors.” Until Uncle Airy’s eyesight failed him, he was, in fact, the spiritual leader of Camp Louise as he conducted Sabbath services, and brought messages of inspiration gleaned from his wide readings. He loved the “Good Shabbas” from each camper!

To Aunt Lillie, the Camp Louise Circle, the organization composed of staff members who have served for three years, was the symbol that bound her with the continuing spirit of service and dedication to the camp she loved. Her words to new Circle members, as they were initiated, remain the keynote of Circle attainment – “Now you belong to us, to Camp Louise. Live the good that you have learned here.”

In times of crisis, or need, for individuals or families, their greatest goodnesses remain untold. They wanted it so!

Aaron and Lillie Straus were fortunate people. Among their greatest fortunes, they would have admitted, were the circumstances that brought Ida Sharogrodsky to them. Without Miss Ida, their most beloved benefaction, the camps, could never have become what they are. Louise and Airy stand as monumental salutes to her!

To the countless numbers of staff members and campers, to neighbors of both camps, and to the Baltimore Jewish community, Miss Ida represents the finest values that any person could hold or offer. Her belief in the innate goodness of the individual, in the capacity of individuals to realize their finest talents and skills, her faith, against all contrary elements, in people has lifted and inspired all who have been fortunate enough to come under her influence. Miss Ida’s dissatisfaction

with mediocrity has made her associates set higher standards and goals for themselves. Her insight into the needs of people has brought more happiness into more lives. Her abilities, her dignity, her simplicity, have been real beacons in many fields of leadership! The spirit that Miss Ida has given to Louise has made it a name and a place endeared to three generations of girls and women.

These three, Uncle Airy, Aunt Lillie, and Miss Ida, saw the opportunity that they envisioned become a truth!

Uncle Airy believed deeply in that opportunity and saw continuing generations enjoying, learning, and developing at Louise and Airy. To ensure the continuity of support to all of his philanthropic interests, he established the Aaron Straus and Lillie Straus Foundation, into which is written his hope that both camps will continue to serve boys and girls of the Jewish faith, in the highest ideals of American citizenship and Jewish tradition, and to operate as a non-profit organization with assistance for those who need it. When, in his wisdom, he knew that this trust, this legacy, had to be placed in wise and kindly hands, he entrusted it to Aunt Lillie’s nephew, S. Meyer Barnett, who is continuing the tradition of interest in people that the Strauses kindled. Since Uncle Airy’s death in 1958, Meyer Barnett has provided the leadership in both the business interests and the charitable interests of Aaron and Lillie Straus.

Now, Camp Louise and Camp Airy look to new opportunities. Inspired by their founders, aware of the rarity of Ida Sharogrodsky’s leadership, secure in the depth of Meyer Barnett’s wisdom and understanding, and hopeful that succeeding generations of campers and staff will keep alive their

certain goals, they set their sights on the next fifty years, and to the commitment that the Camps will make even greater contributions to the best in the American and Jewish philosophies, through their service to youth.

With thanks to Judith Lytel for typing this story.



Key Dates:

- Opening Days - Sunday, June 23rd (8 am - 11 am)*
- Sunday, July 7th (8 am - 11am)*
- Monday, July 22nd (7:30 am - 10:30 am)*
- Library Dedication Ceremony and July 4th Carnival (Louise only) - Thursday, July 4th*
- Circle Board Meeting - Saturday, July 13 (4:30 pm - 6:00 pm)
- Camper in Training Day - Sunday, July 14 (8:00 am - 5:00 pm)*
- Louise Fair/ Theme Night (both camps at Louise) - Sunday, July 28 (6:30 pm - 9:30 pm)*
- History Day followed by Circle Induction and Reception - Saturday, August 3rd*
- Bornstein Shabbat in Solarium - TBD

* VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you are interested in volunteering for any of the above starred events, please contact Jen Falik Rains at jen@airylouise.org

Camp Louise Circle Board

Officers

President - Lisa Blatt
lisab@camplouisecircle.org
Circle 2005

VP of Membership - Shira Kahan
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Circle 2004

VP of Reunion - Robyn Kleiner
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Circle 2010

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Circle 1990

Rita Drapkin
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Circle 1988

Bobbie Miller
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Circle 1969

Rachel Sanderoff
rachels@camplouisecircle.org
Circle 2000

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Camp Louise Alumnae Communications

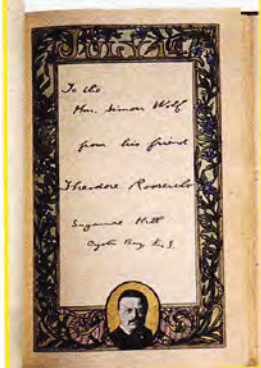
- Henri Goettel maintains the master database of Circle members, former camp staff and former campers. The master database is used to create the directory and the mailing labels for all alumnae mailings, including the reunion packet. Email: hgoettel@publicnetworking.org.
- Robbin Myerberg produces and sends out all printed alumnae mailings except for the reunion packet. Email: robbinm@camplouisecircle.org.
- Karen Levin produces and sends out the reunion packet. Email: karenl@camplouisecircle.org.
- Rachel Sanderoff is the webmaster for the Camp Louise Circle Web site and sends out the emails to those in the database for whom we have e-mail addresses. To register as a member of the Circle forum, contact Rachel at webmaster@camplouisecircle.org.
- Henri, Robbin, Karen and Rachel are in contact with each other throughout the year. They provide each other with all additions and updates to camp alumnae information. Contact any one of the four of them to change any of your information or to add someone new. Your information will get to all four.



Closer Inspection



These **commemorative books** were given to Jewish leader Simon Wolf by his daughter Florence Gotthold to mark his 70th birthday in 1906. Each page is hand-illustrated by Gotthold. The books feature notes from such figures as Mark Twain and President Theodore Roosevelt.



A **felt banner** made during World War II honors Jewish Lions Club members who fought in the war. Formed by D.C. teen boys in 1937 and incorporated in 1941, the club met every Sunday.



As each member went off to war, a **star** was sewn on the banner. "To our good fortune, all 25 came back from the service," says original member Louis Kornhauser, now 92. After the club's last reunion three years ago, members donated the banner to the society.



A former camper donated this 1950s **bracelet** from Camp Louise in Cascade, Md. The camp has offered generations of Jewish girls a summer camp experience since its founding in 1922. "That really resonates with people," Turman says.



From 1898 to 1954, this brass **ner tamid** ("eternal light") hung in the sanctuary at Washington Hebrew Congregation, formerly at 816 Eighth St. NW. An inscription honors businessman Henry King Jr., who helped raise money to build the synagogue.



A slice of D.C. Jewish life

Society's collection highlights local history

BY KRIS CORONADO

In the past 30 years, the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington has been acquiring artifacts from residents and groups with the mission of preserving the area's Jewish history. The society houses hundreds of objects, photos and documents with the aim of giving a personal perspective on the evolution of Jewish life in Washington.

"Individual objects and stories take on greater meaning when they're put into the larger context of our collection,"

says archivist Wendy Turman.

Although the collection is not on display — despite its name, the society's historical synagogue, now called the Lillian & Albert Small Jewish Museum, hosts special events and seminars and does not permanently house exhibits — many items can be seen online (jhsgw.org) or by appointment (202-789-0900; 701 Third St. NW).

Here, Turman gives us a glimpse of Jewish history through the donated belongings of Washingtonians.



Residents wore **buttons** supporting Soviet Jews, many of whom were trying to emigrate from the Soviet Union, in the late '80s. In addition to participating in a rally on Dec. 6, 1987, many local Jews took part in a vigil in front of the Soviet Union embassy from 1970 to 1991.

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Questions? Call Lisa at 443-690-4770

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Mitzvah Card Order Form

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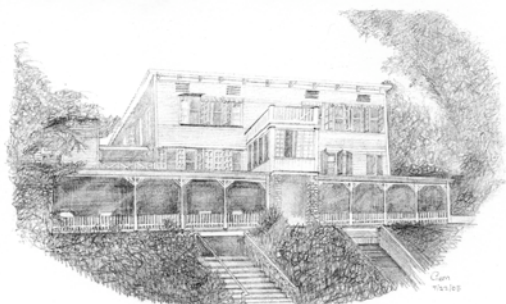
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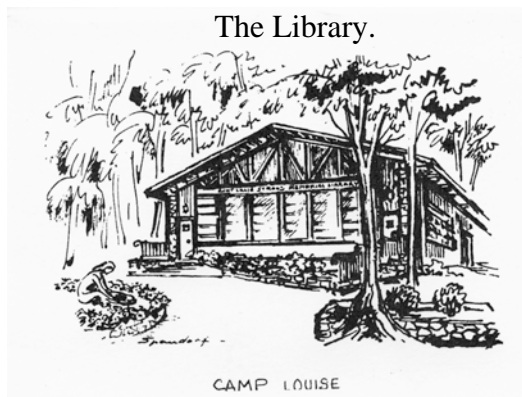
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