



Camper Reunion '06 is on Dec. 3, 2006 in PA

CAMPERS



Info on new Israel Trip is coming soon

LEADERS



Don't forget about our \$100 Referral Credit

PARENTS



Nov. marks the start of Staff recruitment '07

STAFF



Alumni Day on July 15, 2007 - save the date!

ALUMNI



The Pinemerit

A Publication of Pinemere Camp

November 2006

Celebrating 65 Years by Making it Even Better!

NEW & Refurbished Bathrooms

Entrance & Road Improvements

Interior & Exterior Dining Hall Enhancement

"Cottage" Building & Bathroom Renovations

Pinemere Giving Projects

www.Pinemere.com

See this full-page update of the camp projects at www.Pinemere.com

Celebrating 65 Years by Making Pinemere Even Better

In our culture, 65 years is an age when some are expected to slow down. But as many people show us today, there is much that we can learn from those that continue to strive for excellence, refuse to "take it easy", and are never afraid to "redefine" themselves. Add "Pinemere Camp" to the list of "Active Seniors"!

As we've continued to grow Pinemere through innovative programs, exceptional staff, and committed leadership, the needs of our facility have been an ongoing challenge. Despite a sizeable investment in repairing and enhancing the Pinemere campus, the needs continue to mount. So it is with great excitement that we announce the most significant improvements to the campsite in many years.

Through our efforts in the "Pinemere Giving" campaign, and the sound management of our organization, we have already started the first major phase of work in a variety of areas at Pinemere. In time for the start of the summer of 2007, our campers and staff will find new and refurbished bathrooms in many buildings, changes to our Dining Hall, a new Activity Pavilion, landscaping upgrades, repairs and replacements to water and wastewater lines and a number of other completed projects.

Work is already underway and will continue throughout the off-season. On behalf of our professional staff and board of directors, we would like to thank all of the families, alumni, staff and friends that have supported our campaign to this point, and will look forward to additional support as we continue our dedicated efforts to securing the brightest future - and present - for Pinemere. Bring on the next 65 years!
(For a more specific list of projects, please download our new materials at www.Pinemere.com)

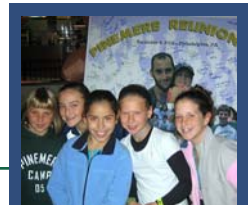
An Interview with Our New Assistant Director: Pam Levi



Pam Levi joined Pinemere's full-time team in November 2006 (replacing Andy Rosenberg, who has relocated to Chicago, IL). She comes to Pinemere after spending the last three years working as a Teen Director and Day Camp Director at the New Orleans Jewish Community Center (JCC). Pam has recently moved to Center City, Philadelphia.

One of our longtime summer staff, Aaron Weintraub (CIT Staff of 2006), recently spent time with Pam before she moved North, and has shared that interview with "The Pinemerit".

Continued Page 2



Please e-mail RSVP@Pinemere.com to let us know that you'll be coming to the Camp Reunion on December 3, 2006.

Aaron Selkow/Executive Director • Rachel Steinberg/Associate Director • Pam Levi/Assistant Director • Ann Selkow/Business Manager • David Judd/President



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A Summer Camp for Boys and Girls
Serving the Jewish Community
Since 1942





Interview: Pam Levi

Aaron: Where are you from?

Pam: I grew up in New York but have been living in New Orleans since college.

Did you go to college in New Orleans?

No, I attended the University of Arizona in Tucson.

What is your camp background?

I've been at camp every summer since I was 2 years old. I've worked at travel, day, and overnight camps, and I've been the camp director at the New Orleans JCC for the last 3 years.

How did you hear about Pinemere?

I had been involved with the JCC Association since college, and they have a web site which lists JCC-affiliated camps. When I knew I was ready to leave New Orleans, I researched and found Pinemere, and always wanted to live in Philadelphia.

What about Pinemere attracted you?

I like the size of the camp. I like the full-time staff and the spirit of innovation and commitment to Israel.

What is going to be your role at camp?

I have a background in programming. I'd like to help program and add activities at camp, like adding new evening activities and other special activities at camp and year-round programming. I know I'll be involved with staff, as well.

What did you think/ your reaction of Pinemere from your visit (Pam visited for a few days in July 2006)?

I felt at home as soon as I got there. People were really friendly. I was worried about leaving New Orleans and the "Southern hospitality", but everyone was so nice. I definitely felt the sense of Pinemere tradition.

What are you most excited about/ looking forward to?

It's been 3 years since I was at an overnight camp, when I worked at Camp Canadensis. I'm excited to be in a sleep-away camp community again.

What do you think is going to be your biggest challenge?

It's tough when someone new comes in. I'm afraid of people thinking I am going to change stuff, but I have no intention to. It's difficult to come in as an outsider. I also want to make sure my dog gets adjusted well to camp!

What kind of dog do you have?

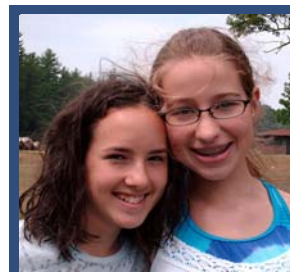
A mutt. She weighs 10 pounds and her name is Annie. She's really shy, so I don't know how she'll do with people approaching her. I think she'll hang out with Rinker!

In one sentence, what message would you like to tell the Pinemere campers and families?

I look forward to meeting everybody, and living up to their expectations.

Which lake toy are you more excited to go on, the "Aqua-Jump" or the "Iceberg"?

The "Aqua-Jump", for sure!



Make your plans to join us at our Camp Reunion at Brunswick Zone outside of Philadelphia, PA on Sunday, December 3, 2006. The Reunion brings hundreds of kids and teens (and some staff) together for a day of camp fun. E-mail if you're coming - RSVP@Pinemere.com

"Fellow" the Leaders



Rachel Steinberg and Aaron Selkow

Aaron Selkow (Executive Director) and Rachel Steinberg (Associate Director) have worked together at Pinemere since the 2001 season. Their leadership, and the

work of their fellow camp professionals at Pinemere, has had much to do with Pinemere's growth and innovation. And they both credit their involvement in programs outside of the typical responsibilities of camp managers as influential in making their vision reality. And in Pam Levi (Assistant Director), Pinemere has selected another full-time staff member with a similar commitment to professional growth.

In November, Aaron will complete his final seminar of a two-year program created by Rabbi Alvin Mars of the Mandel Center for Jewish Education, the **Lekhu Lakhem/Avi Chai Fellowship**. This program has brought together 12 directors of JCC-affiliated resident camps in North America for sessions in the US and Israel to assist in the development of the participants' Jewish educational vision and the strengths of their institutions.

In October, Aaron also began his experience in the **Foundation for Jewish Camping's brand-new Executive Leadership Institute** with 18 directors of Jewish camps in North America (including JCC-affiliated, Conservative and Reform movement, and independent camps). Aaron will spend 18 months in sessions to provide the best of private-sector thinking and practice in leadership and management development together with Jewish values and ethics as part of the premier training program for camp leaders. His upcoming seminar in Greensboro, NC will take place at the internationally-recognized Center for Creative Leadership.

For Rachel, the **Institute for Informal Jewish Education at Brandeis University (IJE)** has been a great inspirational outlet. The IJE, the acclaimed university-based organization, is uniquely qualified to strengthen informal Jewish education in North America by developing professional leadership, sponsoring dynamic new programs, and supporting communities and organizations.

Rachel completed the IJE's two-year Leadership Seminar after receiving a coveted invitation, and now is participating in their **Jewish Experiential Learning (JEL) program** (two years). JEL will tackle the question of how skilled informal educators integrate Jewish learning with informal education, as participants were selected from among some of the most innovative informal Jewish educators working in the field today.

For Pam, it was the **JCC Association's Teen Fellows** program that helped her connect her work as a Teen Director in a JCC to Israel, as the program in (2005-06) provided experiential institutes, mentoring and a seminar in Israel for professional development.



Leadership Development for Teens at Pinemere

By Aaron Weintraub (CIT Staff 2006)

While most people are aware of the **CIT (Counselors In Training)** program, the group of 15 year-olds that live across the road and constantly try to trick camp into thinking it's "CIT Hunt," some do not quite understand the role of the Pinemere CIT, who are seen by campers, walking back and forth from camp to the shady CIT Unit (marked by a newly constructed CIT sign!). In short, they are becoming leaders. They are learning the skills to become great counselors, but also to become great people, and are armed with some of the tools necessary to succeed in anything they do. In the process, they go through an experience that many recall as the best summer of their life!

Pinemere got to thinking, "How can this be better?" After much planning, Pinemere sandwiched a third summer into the Leadership continuum, between the CIT program and **Junior Counselor (JC)** experience, called **CIT-TWO (Leadership/Travel)**.

Last summer, Pinemere campers, teens and staff interacted and learned from this new group during the few weeks they were at camp. While not at camp, the CIT-TWOs enjoyed the experience of a lifetime,



CIT-TWOs together with Aaron Selkow at Camp Barney Medintz (Cleveland, GA)

traveling around the east coast visiting other Jewish camps for each Shabbat, visiting cities like Washington D.C., Boston, and Atlanta, stopping at many colleges and universities in these cities, and enjoying the outdoors. They sailed in Connecticut, rock climbed and caved in West Virginia, and canoed in Maine for five days straight! While all of this was going on, the CIT-TWOs learned new team-building strategies, leadership skills, performed community service and developed their friendships to extraordinary levels.

The CIT-TWOs of '06 will now become the first to complete the new three-year program, returning as JCs in 2007. At the end of the process, these young adults will have an incredible amount of knowledge that will hopefully benefit camp as future staff and benefit themselves as they move on through each new step in life.

Each group interacted with each other in 2006, sharing what they were going through and receiving help from the group ahead of them through a mentoring program. Partnered and meeting for sessions of all varieties, writing weekly letters, and along the way encountering a few surprises, the CITs and CIT-TWOs really made a meaningful connection.

The summer of 2007 is gearing up to be a great one, and the inaugural summer of the full three-year leadership program should make it that much better.

Pinemere Offers its First Israel Experience in 2007

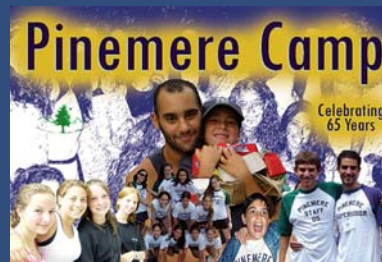
In recent years, Pinemere has benefited from a stronger connection to Israel for our campers, teens and staff. We have seen a small delegation of **Shlichim** (Israeli Staff) expand to 16 men and women, many of whom have returned for multiple summers. What began as an experiment



in bringing **Israeli children** to camp for our Second Session (3-weeks), has now grown to a tradition of creating a meaningful *mifgash* (encounter) between Jewish kids from the US and Israel. And with encouragement from our professional staff, more than 15 staff members have participated in the **Birthright** program to make their first organized visit to Israel.

Now we are excited to take this to a new level. After years of talking with our families and teens, we are rolling out our first opportunity for teens to **travel to Israel during the summer of 2007**. In partnership with the JCC Association's Maccabi Israel office, Pinemere is making a special program for teens available this year, open for 17 year-olds that have completed at least the first-year CIT program. These teens will come to camp for a short time, then leave with other JCC-affiliated camp teens for 4 weeks in Israel, fully packed with exceptional programs with a camp focus. After their time in Israel, the teens will return to complete their summer at Pinemere as Junior Counselors (JCs). Open to a limited number of participants, costs for the program are very reasonable.

Program information was mailed to eligible participants, and developments will be shared with the camp community. If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Steinberg.



Pinemere's first-ever Promotional DVD has been completed and is being sent to prospective families. If

you'd like to take a "sneak-peek", visit www.Pinemere.com. For a copy to share with friends, please contact our camp office.



Looking Back at '06 and Forward to '07

It's hard to believe it was just two and a half months ago that we all gathered on the beach and gazed across the lake as we said good-bye to our summer. There were tears, many



hugs, but most importantly, we shared the stories and memories from the summer of '06 that we will never forget. From the downpours at the start of the summer

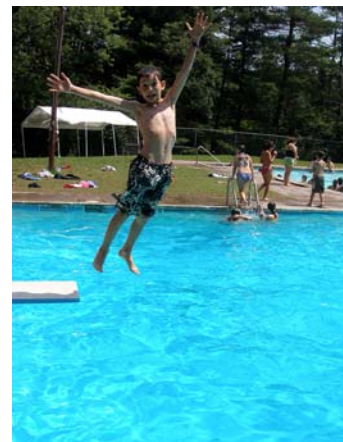
to the extreme heat, Pinemere camp endured; the weather could do nothing to spoil another amazing season.

The Village will remember **Village Day** spent in that incredible *Sukkah*, the Hilltop may think back fondly on another energized **Sing**, the Row will likely remember **Row Rage** and **Love Day**, the Line can easily recall another incredible **Battle of the Line** between the White Warriors and the Red Knights (and not to forget **Mitzvah Day**).

But let's not forget the times we all spent together cheering in **Maccabi Games** or laughing hysterically as we made a fool of ourselves on-stage during "**Let's Make a Deal**". From **Lazy Day** to **Lip Sync**, to **cookouts and overnights**, the list seems endless. We hope everyone has taken the time to think back on all the fun we had together.

More important than the jam-packed Pinemere calendar were the friendships that developed and renewed during the summer of '06. The friendships at camp are something extraordinary and can last for the rest of our lives.

We hope that you are adjusting back to life at home, hard at work with school, jobs, traveling, etc. But it's never too early to look ahead to the summer of 2007! **The summer of '07 will feature new programs, old traditions and lots of cool improvements to our camp facilities.** Keep in touch with your Pinemere friends, old and new, and start talking about next summer, because while it seems far away, the summer of '07 will arrive before you know it!



Announcement Coming Soon of New "Work Days" at Camp

Our **Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)** started in 2006, and in the first year of this group of parents meeting with the camp directors to assist in Pinemere's development, they struck gold. New ideas flowed during these conference call meetings, including the creation of our successful **SPARK (3-day) Program**, outreach and recruitment with prospective families and more.

In our first call this year, a plan was hatched to roll-out a new program in the Spring of 2007 to invite members of the camp community, including campers, teens, parents and staff, back to Pinemere for a day of "giving back" to their summer home.

Loosely modeled on the long-standing CIT "Work Project" program, and spurred by the many new projects already underway at camp for the summer of 2007, these "**Work Days**" (a "working" title!) will be a mix of friendship, *tikkun olam*

(giving back), and good old-fashioned, roll-up-your-sleeves, hard work.



A wide variety of projects will be considered and shared in time for you to make your plans to come up to lend a hand, including interior work inside the newly-renovated Cottage building (Line's youngest cabin). If you have any suggestions for projects, please send them to Suggestions@Pinemere.com.

"Refer a Friend" and \$ Save

Pinemere Camp's growth, which now has **225 campers, over 60 teens and more than 100 staff members** spending their summers with us in Bartonsville, PA, has been built on reputation and the standard of excellence we strive to provide to our entire community.

We rely on our "family" members to share the Pinemere experience with others - younger siblings, other relatives, friends, neighbors and members of the greater Jewish community. This is how we've become who we are today, and how we'll secure our future...and you can **get a \$100 credit for referrals** that enroll at camp!



Our Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) has started its meeting schedule for 2007. We would like to thank everyone that has volunteered to assist us through this group of Moms and Dads who care about Pinemere. For more information, please contact our camp office.