



CAMP YOUNG JUDAEA MIDWEST

Celebrates

BRIAN JAFFEE

October 24, 2021





FROM THE DIRECTOR

During the 2015 Thanksgiving week, Brian and I had our first official meeting as we started a transition for camp for both of us. Brian said to me, "Take your time and make sure each decision is what you and the camp needs". It was the start of many years of incredible advice, mentorship for a newly minted camp director and next steps for Camp Young Judaea Midwest.

Brian - over the past six years (we appreciate you 'stepping' up for that second term!), CYJ has learned from your passion, drive and leadership. Through your tenure as president, CYJ has hit record enrollment numbers and rebuilt a successful and devoted board of directors. We increased fundraising dollars exponentially, started an endowment fund and created a new legacy program. We have engaged more alumni in the past six years than ever before, including more second generation campers! We weathered a pandemic and came out stronger together.

None of it was easy - it took the work of a team with you at the helm and when problems came up, and they always do in every project, you were there to help us navigate them effectively and with a piece of advice only you could give. You make each person on the team feel valued and listened to. Our camp is better as a result of your leadership and the words "Thank you" don't go far enough to express the gratitude this camp community owes you.

CYJ Midwest's future is bright - you continue the spirit of our previous board presidents and your wisdom will be passed on to the next group of board leaders.

I am glad to call you a friend, a colleague and a mentor.

Robin Anderson

CYJ Midwest Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Brian,

Thank you for the leadership you've shown over the past 6 years as board chair. You've launched CYJ Midwest into a future of growth and abundance. You've done this through your ability to personally connect with each board member, work collaboratively to accomplish our shared goals, and inspire each of us to contribute to CYJ's future.

"Lo alecha hamlacha ligmor, v'lo atah ben chorin l'hivatel mimena" –
"You are not expected to complete the task, but neither are you free to avoid it."
(Rabbi Tarfon, Pirkei Avot 2:21)

We look forward to continuing to work together on the tasks of CYJ Midwest so that each person coming after us can contribute as well.

With gratitude and our best wishes,

בהצלחה

The 2021 CYJ Midwest Board of Directors

Barbara Baumann
Brian Nagorsky
Gila Marcus Robinson
Miffie Nagorsky
Linda Ravvin
Debbie Zarnow
Josh Goldstein
Jonathan Lowe
Anat Geva
Danny Glaser
Cheryl Wilson Hanson
Julie Ruskin Ohana
Ellen Finestone



575 Eighth Ave. / FL 11 / New York, NY 10018

October 1, 2021

Thank you Brian Jaffee for your years of dedication to Camp Young Judaea Midwest. Brian, you are an exemplar of everything that we teach at Young Judaea. Your leadership acumen, tenacity to changing the world, and commitment to passing along these values to the next generation, are inspiring for all your Young Judaea *hevre*. We are grateful for all you have done to ensure the success of CYJ Midwest, and the Young Judaea movement at large.

We wish you much success on your next chapter!

M'chayil L'chayil

Sincerely,

CEO, Young Judaea Global

President, Young Judaea Global Board of Directors





MAZAL TOV **BRIAN!**

MAZAL TOV

TO THE WORLD'S BEST DAD & HUSBAND!

Dear **BRIAN**,

Since the day we first met and you were literally wearing a Young Judaea sweatshirt, it was clear how deeply and beautifully your experiences as a camper, counselor and movement leader for Young Judaea have helped you become, well, YOU.

While Maya, Noa and I do not have personal memories of your time at camp, the friendships you formed and the skills and wisdom you gained through growing up at CYJ Midwest are evident daily in the way you live in this world. You are kind, compassionate and funny, all the while holding close to your values of loving the Jewish people and trying to make the world a better place.

Our family is immensely grateful to CYJ Midwest for the role it has played in your life. You are an incredible partner and father. Maya and Noa have been so lucky to also be able to call CYJ Midwest home as they form their own friendships, values, and memories.

What a privilege it has been these past six years to watch you work with CYJ Midwest as Board Chair – your passion for this community, your leadership combined with the dedication of so many camp alumni, staff and friends who each contribute to the excellent continuity of CYJ Midwest, is inspiring.

Your family is so very proud of you. We look forward to more stories and creating more memories with CYJ Midwest in the years ahead.

Mazal tov!

Love you,

SHENA, MAYA & NOA



DEAR BRI,

When we sent you off to Ortonville that first summer of camp at CYJ, little did we know that moment was the beginning of a lifelong relationship with the camp, with friends with whom you are still close, and with your commitment to living a Jewish life. That summer at CYJ was the seed that continued to grow as you became an older camper, went to Tel Yehudah as a teen, and came back to CYJ as a counselor. It grew further as you came home and led the YJ clubs in our synagogue and grew further as you took on regional responsibilities as a college student. Not to mention the incredible experience of year-course in Israel (even with your mother freaking out over certain activities)!

And the seed that was instilled at CYJ didn't stop growing with college graduation. As your first job you chose to work for Hadassah in New York as National Senior advisor of Young Judaea, leading tours in Israel and then as Director of the College Program. You stretched yourself further by taking the job with AIPAC and used your knowledge and people skills to widen the horizons and the commitment of many college students.

And then, as a husband and father, you took your skills to Cincinnati to work for the Jewish Federation. You put everything you learned and cared about into your position with JCRC to build bridges between Jews and other groups in Cincinnati. We will never forget the first time we heard you on the radio; so clear in your thoughts, so ready to really listen to what others were saying, so passionate about your beliefs.

And now, in the latest iteration of your commitment to a Jewish life, you have spent the last ten years as Executive Director of the Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati, building bridges between members of the community, helping make life better for children and adults. You came full circle when the little boy who went off to camp became the accomplished adult who chaired a CYJ board determined to make that special place better than ever for all the little CYJers to come.

We've said it before and we will happily say it again. A Jewish parent hopes and prays that their child will grow up to be a mensch. You, Brian, have fulfilled that hope and more.

We love you,

MOM & DAD



Many thanks to CYJ Midwest
for growing one of the best sons, brothers, husbands, sons-in-law and uncles, EVER!

We are so proud of you,

BRIAN!

With love,

MOM & DAD

SAM & MAXINE

SHENA, MAYA & NOA

SARA & ALAN, HANNAH, RACHEL, JONAH, LEORA, GIDEON & RAFAEL

CHALUTZIM

(PIONEERS) \$12,000



CHALUTZIM

LINDA RAVVIN



YASHER KOACH

BRIAN!

Watching you grow from a young camper to a role model for our children, to a consummate professional, leader and volunteer has been amazing! It has been (and continues to be) a privilege to work with you. Thank you for your dedication to CYJ Midwest.

LINDA & LEON RAVVIN



BONIM

(BUILDERS) \$7,200



BONIM

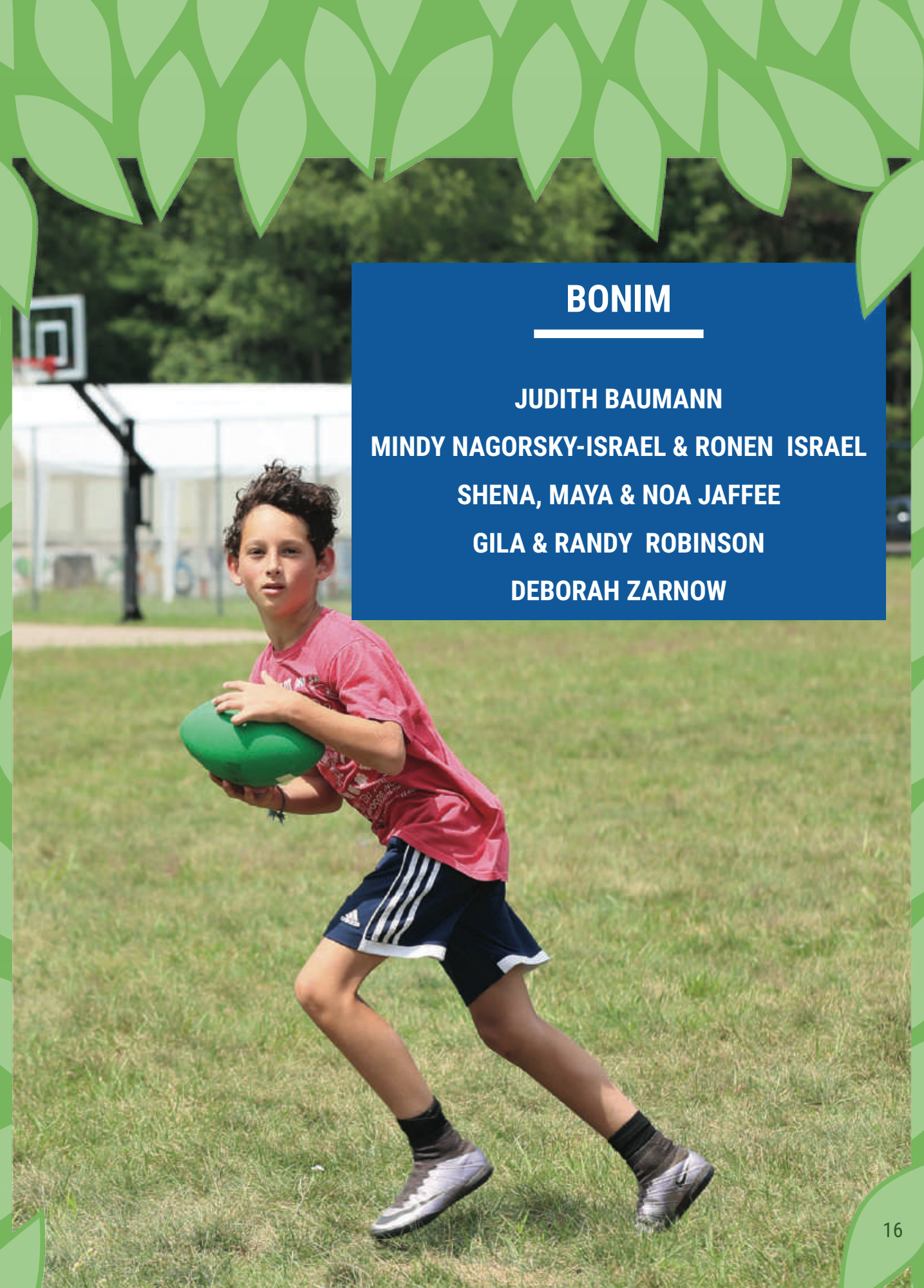
JUDITH BAUMANN

MINDY NAGORSKY-ISRAEL & RONEN ISRAEL

SHENA, MAYA & NOA JAFFEE

GILA & RANDY ROBINSON

DEBORAH ZARNOW



BRIAN

Has always been an outstanding Judaeen but his leadership of the board has been remarkable and helped to preserve CYJ for future generations!



DEBORAH ZARNOW



BRIAN

Thank you for taking care of camp for the next generation.

Fondly,

THE ROBINSON FAMILY

BRIAN,

Congratulations on being tonight's honoree – it is well deserved. CYJ Midwest is thriving; campers had a wonderful summer at camp.

They and their counselors were so happy to be back with their friends and camp community.

You've come a long way since we knew you as a young camper and later when you worked with Lauren – you as kitchen manager and she as dining room manager.

You were quite a team!

You've been so good at reaching out to and establishing rapport with the greater camp community of alumni, parents and grandparents.

We wish you all the best,
as you move on from your role as president of the CYJ Midwest Board of Directors.

JUDITH & BOB BAUMANN



I have known **BRIAN** since our days at CYJ Midwest in Ortonville, when he was “Sara’s little brother” and my cousin’s friend. That happy smile and easy way has always been a joy to be around. The years that I spent on the CYJ board with Brian were incredibly productive for camp but also a lot of fun. I will be forever thankful to Brian for helping to secure the future of the place that I always referred to as “my happy place where I could always be my true self.” Thank you Brian for all you have done. I am proud to call you a friend.

MINDY NAGORSKY-ISRAEL & RONEN ISRAEL

BOGRIM

(ALUMNI) \$5,400



BOGRIM

BARRY & ELLEN FINESTONE
THE JEWISH FOUNDATION OF CINCINNATI
MIFFIE & SY NAGORSKY





Dear **BRIAN,**

Thank You for doing such an outstanding job as the President of the Camp Young Judaea Board. Your hard work and determination has taken us to heights beyond what any of us could have dreamt. You involved so many new and capable members to the Camp board and our financial and enrollment figures are spectacular. After these many years I still find the meetings fun and interesting and wish you and the board many more years of success. Mazel Tov on this honor and we know you will continue doing great things as Fundraising Chair.

With love and admiration,

MIFFIE & SY



Thank You
for this
enduring
friendship

Love, Ellen & Barry

MAZAL TOV

BRIAN,

Your dedication to CYJ Midwest for nearly 40 years
is a gift to the camp and to this amazing community.

We are all so fortunate to be blessed by your
leadership, friendship, humor & your beautiful family.

SPLENDID!

BARRY & ELLEN FINESTONE

THE JEWISH FOUNDATION TRUSTEES
congratulate

BRIAN JAFFEE

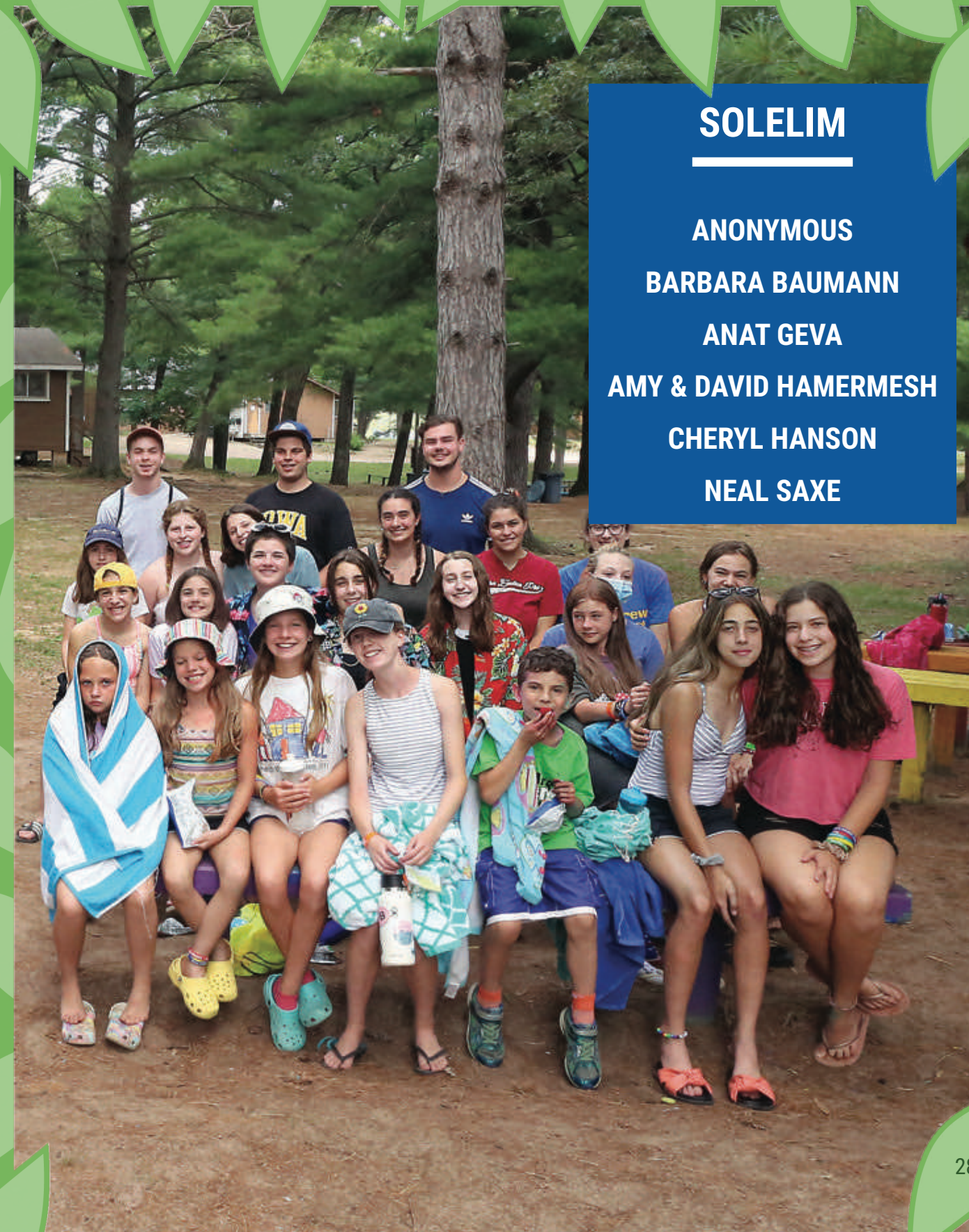
for his outstanding volunteer leadership of CYJ Midwest.



Jewish Foundation
of Cincinnati
INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

SOLELIM

(TRAILBLAZERS) \$3,600



SOLELIM

ANONYMOUS

BARBARA BAUMANN

ANAT GEVA

AMY & DAVID HAMERMESH

CHERYL HANSON

NEAL SAXE

From working together in 1990 in Waupaca
to working together the past 5 years on the CYJ Midwest Board,
I've always appreciated your people skills and commitment to your community.

It's been a pleasure to learn from you and with you. You truly embody
"ani v'ata n'shaneh et ha'olam - You and I will change the world."

Thank you for the changes you've made to the world
that have made it such a better place.



BARBARA BAUMANN





Dear **BRIAN**: Thank you for making me feel so welcome and valued as a new Board member in 2019! I am grateful to know you and to work with you.

Hugs,

CHERYL HANSON (and thanks from Eric too!)

Though I first met
BRIAN
when we worked together at CYJ in 1994,
my strongest memories start when we reconnected at a CYJ fundraiser in Chicago,
where he emceed with such panache. His skills made me think we needed to get
that guy on the Board! And what a success he has been there.

It has been such a thrill to watch all his accomplishments:
the board members he has recruited, the succession plan he made
(and implemented -- GO Brian!), and the funds he has raised.
I've been thrilled to continue getting his regular updates
about all the great things happening at CYJ.

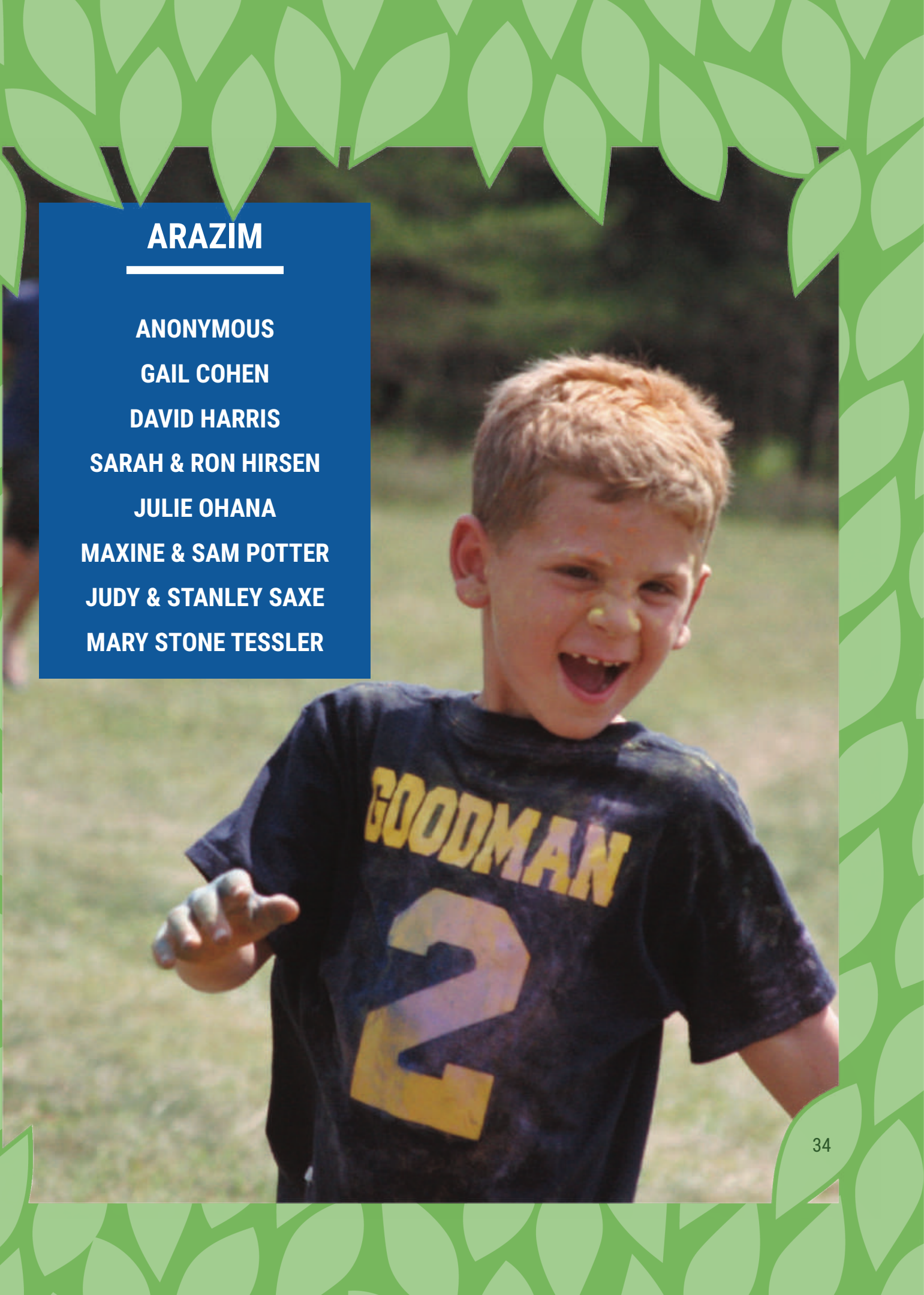
AMY & DAVID HAMERMESH

ARAZIM
(CEDARS) \$1,800



ARAZIM

- ANONYMOUS
- GAIL COHEN
- DAVID HARRIS
- SARAH & RON HIRSEN
- JULIE OHANA
- MAXINE & SAM POTTER
- JUDY & STANLEY SAXE
- MARY STONE TESSLER





DEAR BRIAN,

We're very proud of you.

Love,

MAXINE & SAM POTTER



BRIAN,

We became friends through a spin of the work-wheel in our different Bogrim cabins that landed us both on Toranut Mitbach (Kitchen Duty) on the same days. That was my first summer, 1987. You stood by our friendship, even after I put a snake in your baseball hat at TY. You carried me on your shoulders as we paraded around the Chadar Ochel (Dining Room) leading the camp in Lo Alecha. You stood by our friendship when I made Aliyah and left you looking for a new roommate at college. We worked together for Young Judaea in New York. We followed one another as Year Course Madrichim. You stood by me when I hoisted you in the air on a tablecloth at your wedding and when I needed to find a place to live, you invited me to be part of your family in Cincinnati. For 34 years, you've carried me and stood by me, and it has always been an honor to stand by you, brother.

Love,

DAVID

My memories of **BRIAN** precede him,
with the memory of his mother, Kathy, a young Hadassah leader from Oberlin, Ohio.

Kathy brought the skills of a professional educator,
warmth and commitment to Hadassah and its mission.
With all that she brought two beautiful young children,
who became campers at CYJ Midwest.

The hope for progression in Young Judaea
is to go from being a chanich (a camper) to becoming a madrich (a counselor),
perhaps moving on to the position of merakez (unit head),
and beyond to other leadership positions.
Brian did just that.

It was my great pleasure, when I was serving as Hadassah's
Chair of YJ Israel Programs, to see Brian in the National Office,
working as Director of Hamagshimim, and National Senior YJ Advisor. From there as
we all know, his professional life has been tied to the Jewish Community.
Along with all that I particularly think of his warmth, his smile, and his willingness
to contribute his considerable skill and knowledge as a volunteer for CYJ Midwest.

In the early days of our camp, the Board was deeply committed,
but often functioning by the seat of our pants.
What we have today, thanks to Brian and other committed volunteers,
most of you CYJ alums, is a knowledgeable and professional group
who will take CYJ into the future.

Even better, Brian is staying on as Chair of Development.
What more could we ask?
Thank you, Brian!

Kol ha-Kavod!

JUDY SAXE



I remember a Senior Advisor sitting in the corner of the meeting room blushing at
the skits put on by the Hadassah women of Central States Region. Were we really
that outrageous?

Seriously, Brian, how proud we are of what you have accomplished. Thank you for
your involvement in, and service to, CYJ Midwest. It's so special when we grow
our own leadership from the seeds we plant by sending our children to our camp.

GAIL COHEN

MAZAL TOV

DEAR BRIAN,

I am so grateful for your leadership and for your friendship. I look back on many amazing memories over our summers at camp together and I love that we get to continue our friendship on the board.

Our commitment to camp remains strong and I look forward to our kids carrying on the camp traditions for many years to come.

Thank you for all that you have done to ensure CYJ continues to be the best camp experience!

Mazal tov on this well deserved honor!
Yashar Koach!



JULIE RUSKIN OHANA & FAMILY



TSOFIM

(SCOUTS) \$1,000



TSOFIM

MARCIE BACHRACH

BRET CALLER

JEWISH CENTER

YISROEL & CHANA MANGEL CHABAD

CHIP & LESLIE EDELSBERG

FRANKEL FAMILY FOUNDATION

BETSY AUGUST GOLD & RON GOLD

SARA JAFFEE

BEKKI & DAN KAPLAN

J DAVID ROSENBERG

GRETA ROTHSCHILD

CAROL ANN & MICHAEL SCHWARTZ

JONATHAN WEINKLE

CAROLE WILSON





When Leslie and I first met you some twenty-five years ago as a high school student in Oberlin, we knew you would grow up to be a mensch. You have not disappointed--with a beautiful family and decades of significant professional contributions of note to the Jewish community.

CONGRATULATIONS

on your service to, and leadership of, Camp Young Judaea Midwest. The Camp is no doubt stronger because of your commitment. And thank you for the many years of monthly conversations we have enjoyed, privileging me to be a part of your life-long learning.

CHIP & LESLIE EDELSBERG

BRIAN,

My time at CYJ was wonderful even the day I took the baseball bat shot to the forehead and got 20 stitches.

It explains a lot about me today.



BRET CALLER



Thank you,
BRIAN
 for your devotion, dedication and years of service to CYJ Midwest.

MAZEL TOV!

CAROLE WILSON



Dear
BRI,

I am so lucky to have been able to share so much with you: growing up in Oberlin with our amazing parents, memories of ABI and everyone we knew there, CYJ in Ortonville and later in Waupaca, family vacations to Boston, DC, Williamsburg, trips to Campbell and Youngstown to see family, Carroll Gardens, Madison! And now that we have kids of our own, it is so precious to me when we can all spend time together, whether it's on a trip to Israel or hanging out at your house in Cincinnati.

You're one of the people I want to see when I'm feeling wonderful because I know you'll keep me laughing and you're one of the people I want to see when I'm feeling lousy because you're such a great shoulder to cry on and I know you'll get me laughing again. You make it fun to fill out the paperwork for a COVID test, and that's saying something.

You've been there all along (except for those first two and a half years, but who remembers those!?) and I'm so grateful. I'm in awe of your dedication to CYJ and the effort you have devoted to making sure it remains a place that is meaningful and fun and inspiring. I love you so much!

Love,

SARA



BRIAN

Thank you for your dynamic leadership!

MAZEL TOV!

MARCIE & NATHAN BACHRACH



CHAVERIM

(FRIENDS) UP TO \$999



CHAVERIM

RABBI ELKA ABRAHAMSON
LEXI ALPERT
MICHAEL APPEL
ROB ARONSON
BETH BADIK
ROBERT BARR
LAURA BAUM
LAUREN BAUMANN
LESLEY BENEDIKT
MICHAEL BERMAN
ALIZA BIELAK
STEVEN BIRENBAUM
CHRISSIE BLATT
MIKE BOBERG
DANIEL & SALLY STEINBERG BRENT
JIM BROOKS
MICHAEL BROOKS
LINDA BROWN
DAVID BURSTEIN
RABBI BENJAMIN CHAIDELL
JOEL CHASNOFF
SETH COHEN
LAURA CROEN
ERIC DAUER
CHARLIE & MARY DEZARN
JOSHUA DONNER
DAN & MICHELE ELBAUM
SHEPARD ENGLANDER
SHEILA EVENCHIK
ABBE FEDER
ETHAN FINESTONE
GABRIELLE FINESTONE
MIA FINESTONE
JEFFREY FINKELSTEIN
ARNA & BOBBY FISHER
MARC FISHER
JOEL FRANKEL
VALLIE FREEMAN
SHERRI & TEDD FRIEDMAN
LAUREN & NOAH GALLAGHER
MATTHEW GANAHL
ELI GARFINKEL
TERRI GINSBURG
DANNY GLASER
KARA GOELLER
ALLISON GOLDBERG

REBECCA GOLDBERG
EDWARD GOLDBERGER
KAREN GOODMAN
TRACEY GRANT
MIRIAM GREENBLATT
TALI GRIFFIN
MEIRA GUMERMAN
ANDREW HARRIS
MARCIA HARRIS
TERESA HAUGHT
NOAM HIRSCHBERGER
TALIA HORAN-BLOCK
DEBBIE HOREWITZ
LARA & RONNEN ISAKOV
LOUIS & ZELDA JACOBS
JULIE JACOBSON
KATHY & MARK JAFFEE
TRACY JURAN
LISA KADOSH
YOSEF & ROCHEL KALMANSON
RABBI LEWIS KAMRASS
ROBERT & LYNNE KANTER
RACHEL KAPLAN
ALISON KARABIN
LIVIA KARON
REBECCA KATZMAN
SHERYL KATZMAN
ALISON BENDER KELLNER
TOBY KEREKES
JONATHAN KESSLER
ROB KOCH
FANNY KORMAN
MARVIN KRISLOV
MIKE LASDAY
KAREN LEITNER
MICHAL LERNER
RICK & BEQI LERNER & FAMILY
NORMAN LEVINE
JOSHUA LEVY
GLORIA LIPSON
TOM LOPEZ
ANNE & DAVID LOWE
MONIQUE & JONATHAN LOWE
AMY LUI
MICHAEL & JAN MALTINSKY
AMY MATTHUSEN
KIRT & HEATHER MCKEE
JOSH MEDLEY
MOLLI MONK
KAREN MORRIS

DANIEL & Yael NEWMAN
LESLIE NEWMAN
KIM NEWSTADT
MICHAEL OESTREICHER
NINA & EDWARD PAUL
ELIZABETH PHILLIPS
SUSAN PROHOFSKY
DANIELA RABBIE & JEFF KRIEGER
MIKE & ANNA RAVVIN
DANIEL RICHTER
AUDREY RONIS-TOBIN
JOSH ROSEN
ADAM ROSENZWEIG
WENDY ROSOV
GLORIA RUSKIN
LAURIE RUSKIN
RACHEL RUSKIN
LISA SAMICK
ELANA SCHANZER
SHARON SCHOENFELD
SUSIE SCHOENFELD
TRACY SCHWETSCHENAU
LAUREN SEAL
SHAWN SHAFNER
YONI SHEAR
SHARA SHEINBERG
ASHERITH SHULMAN
FRANK SILBERLICHT
ELAINE & STEVEN SILVER
ANDREW SIMON
MELISSA SIMON
LISA SIMONS
MARCI SOIFER
JACOB SOLOMON
DANNY STEINBERG
NOAH & BRETT STERN
SUZAN SULTAN
SHERRI & ADAM SYMSON
JEFF & KATIE SYRONEY
KAREN THOMASHOW
NELLO VIGNOCCHI
DANIEL VOGEL
LIZ VOGEL
MAIDA WASSERMANN
ARIEL WEISS
DEBRA WEKSTEIN
HOLLY WOLFSON
DR. GARY P. ZOLA

Once upon on a shabbat morning at Camp Tel Yehudah,

BRIAN

was playing the role of Moses in a parsha players for Parshat Korach.

Just as he finished describing the consequences that Korach and his fellow insurrectionists would face for their rebellion, the earth opened up beneath the feet of the person playing Korach. (Fortunately, since this was only a dramatization of real events, no one was hurt.)

This demonstrated not only Brian's skill at biblical exegesis in the context of informal education, but also his ability to call forth divine miracles when warranted.

Most of the time, however, Brian leads not by performing wonders, but by being a digma ishit, exemplifying commitment to the Jewish community.

Thank you for your friendship and leadership these many years.

MIKE & ANNA RAVVIN

I was fortunate to be able to get lots of

BRIAN JAFFEE

memories.

I first met Brian in 1987, when I was a madrich in Bogrim. He was one of a just a few chanichim who would take time and just chat with us madrichim during chofesh. I guess he was already thinking he was on Tsevet.

In 1990 Brian was in a Machon bunk with me at TY, when I was madriching and Michael Seth Wolfson was Merekez. And then we flew on over to CYJ to work second session where we worked as Tsevet together in a Tsofim bunk.

In 1992, Brian and I worked together again in Machon. Before that, during the prior school year, Brian was the Central States AVP, and I was Senior Advisor, based in Ann Arbor. So there were many convention planning meetings and brain storms, club meetings, and the sort the whole year where I schlepped out to various Michigan and Ohio locales with Neal Saxe. It was always good to have a Brian in the AVP corner to get the peer leading done, or else there would have been more schlepping.



DANIEL RICHTER



BRIAN and I grew up together in Oberlin, and he is in large part responsible for my involvement in Young Judaea. He encouraged me to work at camp in Waupaca in the early 90's, which was a formative experience in my life. Some of my fondest memories of working at camp are playing basketball with him, Barry, and others. It is really impossible to think of one particular memory, as Brian and I have been in each other's lives for seemingly forever. I remember him attending my high school graduation, being best men at each other's weddings, and him making the cross country flight to be at my son's bris. He was always there and has been like family to me. He is an irrepressibly positive person, and being in his orbit for all of these years has made me better for it. I can't think of someone who is more emblematic of a Young Judaeen, and his devotion to the movement for nearly 40 years is worthy of recognition. Congratulations and we love you!

JOSH, CHANIN, AARON & JORDAN ROSEN



MAZAL TOV!

DAN & MICHELE ELBAUM

A man becomes preeminent, he's expected to have enthusiasms.
Enthusiasms, enthusiasms... What are his? What draws our admiration?
What is that which gives him joy?
CYJ!

A man stands alone at the Toren.
This is the time for what? For individual flag raising.

There he stands alone. But in the Keshet, what? Part of a Tzevet.
Staff...Davening, rikkud, shirah, optional mandatories.
Part of one big staff.

Laughs himself the live-long day and half the summer night,
Zelda Lowy, Miffie Nagorsky, Barry Finestone, and so on.

If his Merekez don't lead... what is he? You follow me? No one.

Sunny day, the bunks are full of kids. What does he have to say?
I'm goin' out there for myself. But... I get nowhere unless the camp succeeds.

BRIAN

you are truly UNTOUCHABLE.

Congratulations on this well deserved honor and best of luck going forward.



DANIEL VOGEL

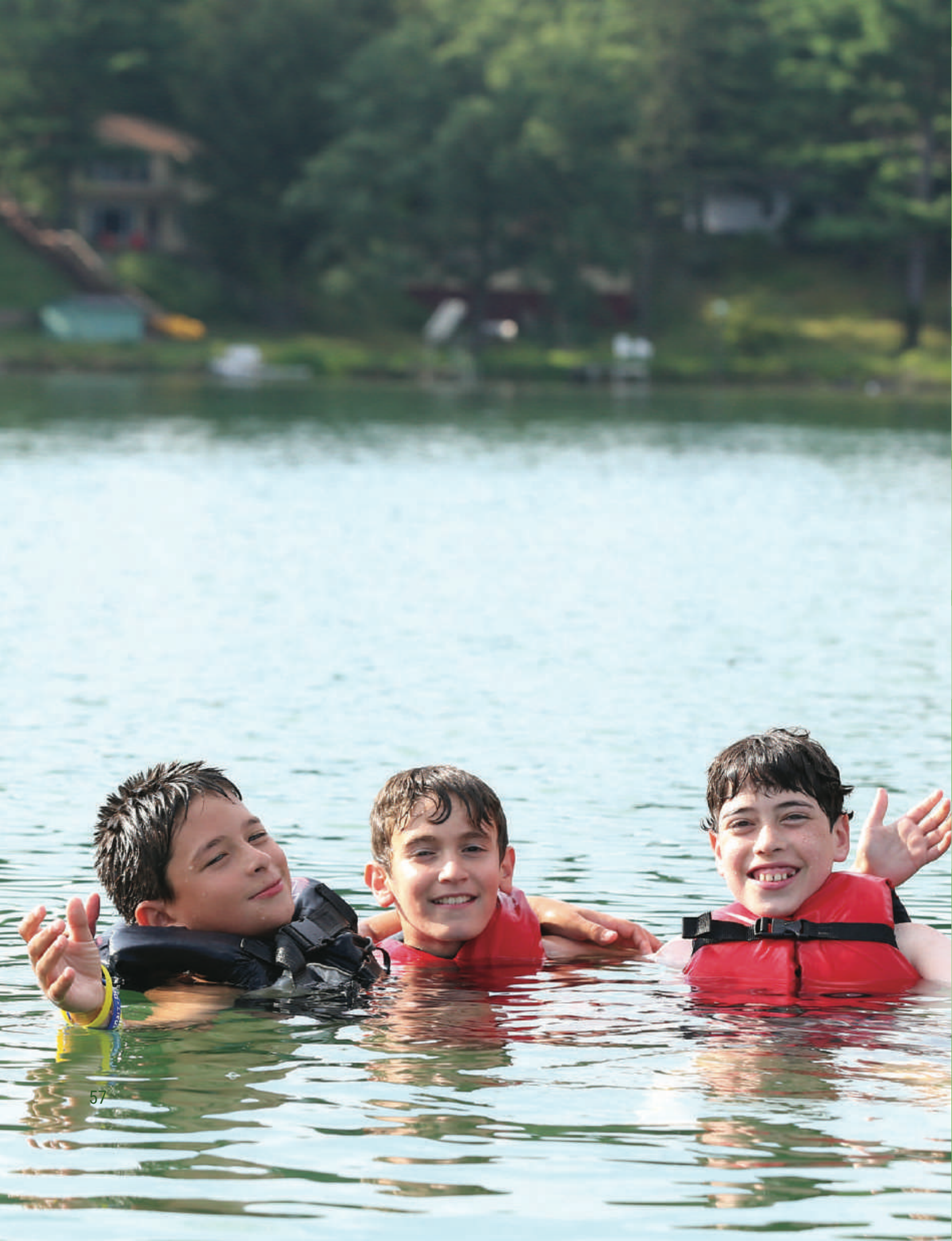


More than a friend; a brother in every sense of the word...

BRIAN

illuminates the world, brings insight, competence, and good cheer
to all his endeavors,
and makes each of us better human beings.

JONATHAN KESSLER



BRIAN

was such a joyful kid.

I remember he gave me a Hebrew nickname, which I really liked.
We lived down the street from each other and sometimes would arrange
to play after school by phone.

Then we would walk outside and down the street towards each other.
When he saw me, he would shout out that nickname,
and I would shout out his nickname back,
and it was a happy childhood moment.

Simple joys go deep and make the soul grateful.

JOSH MEDLEY



BRIAN

led the YJ club in Lorain, Ohio where I grew up. This was my first exposure to YJ and I am so grateful that he introduced it to me - the impetus for my lifelong friendships and marriage to a fellow Midwestie!

ALLISON GOLDBERG



MAZAL TOV **BRIAN JAFFEE!**

REBECCA GOLDBERG



I remember his Jaffeeness walking off the bus at Sprout Lake wearing penny loafers in the snow.

Confident and fun would describe Brian.
He was Senior Advisor at that time and someone that we all were able to learn from.
To sum up Brian, our world, Young Judaea, and CYJ Midwest is better because of
BRIAN JAFFEE!

FRANK SILBERLICHT



RACHEL RUSKIN



BRIAN,

when we were Ofies in 1984, I never could have imagined we'd become lifelong friends!

You are kind and giving, a most wonderful dugma ishit to your friends, family, and community.

Thanks for all you do for our camp and beyond.

Look forward to many years of continued friendship
- now with our kids knowing each other, too, thanks to CYJ.

Much love now and always,

ELANA (& THE WHOLE SCHANZER CREW)



My son, Joel, brought Brian home to West Lafayette, IN from the University of Wisconsin for Rosh HaShonah.

He enhanced our holiday so very much! Was a great guest!

I met him many years later at a Bat Mitzvah and was amazed to find that both he and Joel married girls named Shana!

**MAZAL TOV
BRIAN!**

SUSAN PROHOFSKY

My time at CYJ did not overlap with Brian's, but it did with my sister Mollie. As the story goes, Brian, who was then in a management role at Midwest, was a huge comfort and resource to Mollie, a very homesick camper. This is not surprising as Brian is one of the kindest people I know. His work in Cincinnati has helped transform our Jewish community to be one of the best in North America.

On a personal note, Brian has mentored me throughout my career in the Jewish world, offering guidance and humor on several occasions. And now we are neighbors too!

CYJ is a special place and I am grateful for BRIAN'S leadership!!

ARIEL WEISS



Brian is such a mensch! I've sat on Board meetings and committees with him for Young Judea and our various YJ camps.

It's always such a pleasure and an inspiration.

MAZAL TOV

BRIAN

on a much deserved honor!

FANNY KORMAN



We met Brian when he was a young boy living in Oberlin and we were good friends with his parents.

As Brian got older he became an amazing babysitter and role model for my young children. We maintained the connection with Brian over the years when our kids went to camp CYJ and later when we lived in Ann Arbor and he was dating Shena.

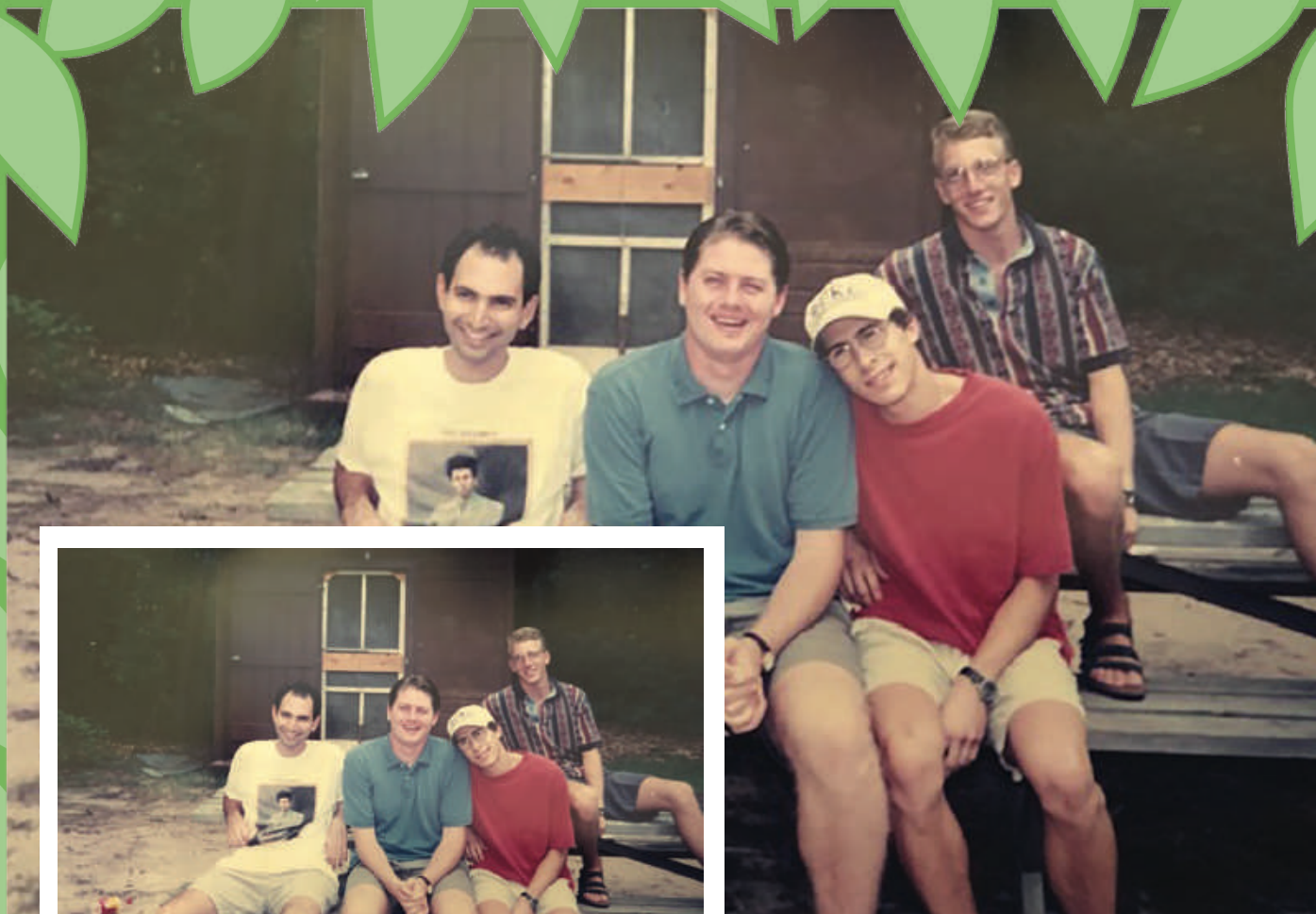
Brian's warmth, intelligence, commitment to Jewish causes and to his beautiful family make him a role model for all of us.

TERRI GINSBURG



CONGRATULATIONS
on well deserved recognition!

SHERRI & TEDD FRIEDMAN



When we were in Machon, our hatzagh was a series of “vignettes” featuring the world’s sappiest and delightful friendship songs, like “You’ve Got a Friend” and “Leaving on a Jet Plane.”

It seems to me that

BRIAN

played a large role in writing that hatzagh! Brian, you’ve been a true friend all this time. You live up to each and every one of those songs.

We love you!

MIRIAM GREENBLATT



BRIAN

has been a mensch probably from birth. A great friend, wonderful father and all-around fabulous human being. Or as my mom Margie likes to say, he’s so “hamish”. Sharing a pic from the good old age of 18 or so after we came back from year course.

Brain Jaffee you’re like a fine wine!

XOXOX,

KAREN LEITNER



BRIAN'S

indefatigable and unwavering support and passion for the things that matter most in life are hallmarks of the legacy he continues to build. As a friend and colleague, he is always to be counted on to provide whatever support is most needed for any situation, and he delivers it with grace and wit.

We are all better for knowing Brian Jaffee, and I am proud to call him my brother.

JEFF & KATIE SYRONEY



MAZAL TOV BRIAN!

SHERRI & ADAM SYMSON



BRIAN,
We'll always have Itasca!
Thank you for all you do for our people.

JEFFREY FINKELSTEIN



LAUREN BAUMANN



I like to think that I played at least a small role in your meeting the love of your life, but if it weren't for her I would never have met you and that would have left a hole in my life.

Don't ever stop learning and growing, Brian.
You do both so well.

MICHAEL BROOKS

I'm sure my best memories of Brian are from our years of working as counselors, merakzim at CYJ Midwest together - lots of laughing, teasing, staying up way too late and great days off at the Wisconsin Dells with so many wonderful friends. Our family's Youngstown roots, as well, will always bond us to Brian and his family.

Lots of love, to you,
BRIAN,
with your huge smile and your huge heart.

Much deserved honor!!



LESLEY BENEDIKT



MAZAL TOV BRIAN!

We know what a positive influence camp had on your life and how much your girls now enjoy it.

We want to send you a big Mazel Tov from Baltimore!

Love,

SUSIE & MATT SCHOENFELD & FAMILY



When I think of
BRIAN,
I picture him wearing his staples - always penny loafers and a warm smile!

LISA SIMONS



MAZAL TOV BRIAN!

It's been wonderful to be with you and your family at Adath Israel.
Your commitment to Torah, our community, and Judaism is inspiring.
Maya's bat mitzvah was so beautiful.

This is such a well deserved honor!

RABBI BENJAMIN CHAIDELL



I went to CYJ in 9th grade and only knew Bri from working at camp. We all used to hang out and talk in the evenings. He was a great guy then and an even more amazing guy now.

I know we live in the same city and don't see each other very often but you will always have a special place in my heart.

MOLLI MONK

THE JAFF!

We've shared addresses from the Madison Sellery dorms to good ole 166 Union St.



I am so lucky to call you my good friend all these years and school you in the Oscars.

Congrats!!!

AMY MATTHUSEN



MAZAL TOV

BRIAN JAFFEE

Thanks for your continued leadership and devotion to CYJ all these years Brian! You've changed the world for many campers and future leaders.

אני ואתה נשנה את העולם

Love,

BECCA & SHERYL KATZMAN



I remember **BRIAN** as a camper. He was always so sweet, fun, and nice!
I was thrilled to be staff while he was a camper.

KAREN MORRIS



VINCENT!

SETH COHEN



I have so many happy Young Judea memories with
BRIAN.

Growing up at ABI with our club meetings and going to conventions. Funnily enough, we never actually went to CYJ at the same time, though we were at Tel Yehudah together. So proud of you, Brian, and so glad you've been in my life all these years!

ASHERITH SHULMAN



MAZAL TOV
BRIAN!

Thank you for all you have done for CYJ. We knew you when!

Fondly,

MARCIA & RON HARRIS



CONGRATULATIONS BRIAN!

From Merakez to board Pres, thanks for your leadership, ruach and dedication to CYJ Midwest all these years.

Best wishes on this much deserved honor.

SHARA SHEINBERG



BRIAN

knew since the age of 14 how to sell CYJ & YJ to those of us who joined.

Brian, thank you for all you do for CYJ Midwest and YJ!

DANNY STEINBERG



It was fun serving on regional Young Judeaea Board with you back in high school, Brian!

AUDREY RONIS-TOBIN



BRIAN

was a friendly camper and a fun madrich.
He is a role model for CYJ alumni.
He gives to his local and larger community.

Thank you for your years of service, Brian!

Mazel Tov on your accomplishments!

SUZAN SULTAN



I've enjoyed getting to know you throughout our Wexner program. I appreciate the words of wisdom you'll share on occasion, and equally respect your honesty during hard conversations.

MAZAL TOV!

VALLIE FREEMAN



BRIAN

is a true mensch -- we all know that. What you might not know is that he was a mensch even at age 11.

I met Brian at CYJ Midwest that summer (1985) and was so terribly homesick...but Brian took care of me, comforted me, and reassured me like the older brother I never had.

JOEL CHASNOFF



I loved seeing you every summer at camp, and it was so special to have you and the whole family at my bat mitzvah.

MIA FINESTONE



MAZAL TOV

BRIAN,

You have done such incredible work for CYJ and the entire Jewish community.

We are excited to see the work you will continue to do!

LAURA BAUM & SCOTT TREMAIN



ABBY & NORM LEVINE
are very happy to be part of the Midwest family and to have
BRIAN
as part of many of our happy memories
(camp to our wedding and more)

ABBY & NORM LEVINE



I've known **BRIAN** since he was born
& cannot think of anyone else as deserving as he is of this honor.
Brian is a compassionate, loyal, dedicated & loving individual.
He is and always has been an asset to our Synagogue in Lorain, Oh.
His Jewish education has carried him through, and his service to Young Judaea
has been outstanding. He nurtured our teens & they, in turn, nurtured others.

Thank you, my Brian, for being such a wonderful & caring individual.
You have worked hard & this award shows just how much you are valued..
I love you,

SHEILA



BRIAN:

You will always be famous in my family because you taught me my torah portion at camp. With a September bat mitzvah, and a serious lack of preparation going into the summer, my family was really hoping I would learn things at camp. You made it happen, and we'll always be grateful. But, making things happen and taking care of us was something I always remember when you were my counselor. And, for so many years, that's what you've continued to do for camp.

Thank you for always giving so much of yourself to this place that is special to so many of us, and for truly making a difference.

Always,

MARCI SOIFER



I have absolutely no pictures that I can find of Brian and I.
But I know I spent several summers at camp with him!
I found 2 from 1st session summer '92 in Waupaca.
I have loved reconnecting with Brian during Covid over zoom.
Can't wait to give you a hug in person when we can all get together in person.

MAZAL TOV

on all you have done for CYJ

BRIAN!

MAIDA WASSERMANN



**Terrific person and outstanding
Torah reader!**

LOUIS & ZELDA JACOBS



MAZAL TOV!

From,

THE KADOSH FAMILY



Enthusiasms.
 A man needs enthusiasms.
 What are mine? CYJ.
 A kid lives alone in Oberlin, OH.
 Now is the time for what? Individual achievement.
 Get good grades. Make your family proud.
 But at CYJ? What? PART OF A TEAM!
 Camp isn't special unless the TEAM is special.
 I've been on plenty of teams with

BRIAN JAFFEE,

and he always comes through.

But none perhaps so special as the Banquet planning team in 1992,
 when our theme was the God-Abba, and Brian put on his memorable
 performance of the 'Enthusiasms' speech from the Untouchables.

It was a piece of camp theater I will never forget.

JONATHAN WEINKLE



BRIAN

was the type of really positive kid that always brought out the best in others.

Not so easy or common as a tween.

DAVID BRODY

