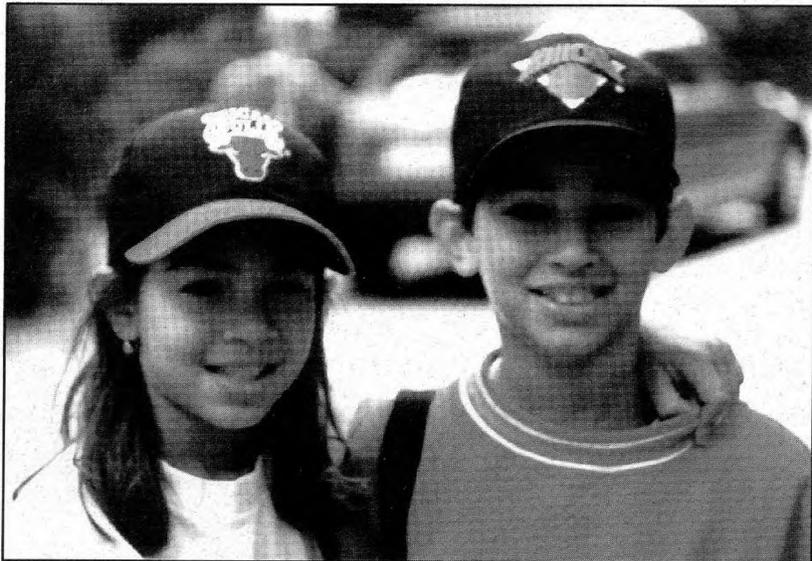


Center Day Camp 1996 Yearbook



A Program of the
JCC
Jewish Community Center



Thank you!

The following people gave generously to Center Day Camp or purchased trees to be planted there. Their support is greatly appreciated. You may still buy trees by contacting the Jewish Community Center.

Frederick and Jennifer Aronson
 Mildred Baker
 Ron, Gaye and Jamie Blumenthal
 Paul and Judy Bouchard
 Eleanor Burtman
 Dorothy Cohen
 Richard, Channa, Lena, James,
 Samuel and Rosi Eberhart
 Dr. and Mrs. Bernard Givertz
 Roz Kodis
 Harry Krigman
 Irene Krigman
 Levey Hebrew Day School Children

William and Harriet Levi
 Robert and Evelyn Litman
 Terry McRae
 Cliff Metzler
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With special thanks to:

Gary Vogel
 Former House Committee Chair

Jody Smith
 Portland Water District

Martin Kraemer
 Holly Sheehan
 Americorps

In 1940, I had the privilege, in the name of the University of Maine, to invite Norm Godfrey, the first Executive Director of the Jewish Community Center, to represent all the students of the Jewish faith in a week's religious symposium at the University of Maine. He represented us majestically. Meeting with students, ministers and priests, he was the star of the week. Many times, he said it was among the happiest weeks of his life.

We had many conversations at that time, but one in particular I could not forget. "Dave," he said, "I want you to help me with the formation of a day camp." The call to military service diverted my attention and many young Jewish Portlanders from local community life for several years. But after we returned from service in World War II, and sadly, after losing Norman on January 24, 1947, I set out to fulfill Norm's request.

One evening in early 1947, I cornered the president of the Center, Barney Shur, in the corridor and asked timidly if we could have a day camp. Barney's answer was short and to the point. "Okay, if it doesn't cost any money." These were his exact words. Then he added, "If you will be its chairman." I agreed. The first mention of camp made its way into official Center records in the Board of Directors meeting minutes of March 26, 1947, as a project "now underway."

The first camp committee enrolled twenty-five campers for the summer of 1947 and we were in business. Our play area was the Portland public playgrounds, our unit shelter was the Center and our waterfront was the YMCA pool. We begged for volunteer counselors to embark on the daily wagon train we made with the rickety Hebrew School bus and Vic Taylor's car. Much to their own surprise, the lawyers, housewives and businessmen who gave up a day to join the campers enjoyed themselves and became vocal supporters of the camp.

The camp committee was thrilled. The Center Board began to give us a little attention, and once in a while a

pat on the head, particularly when we explained with great enthusiasm we were going to spend the next camp season at Sebago Lake State Park. The camp committee became larger and more enthusiastic. We vowed that no children would be left out of camp because of lack of funds. Dorothy Goodman and Ann Rothstein volunteered to head the scholarship fund. We even began to receive more space in the official record of the Center Board. Under Vic Taylor's masterful direction, the camp program was a huge success.

At the graduation exercises of the 1948 camp season, Center president Harold Nelson was sitting beside me. He was most impressed with the program. Just before he was to give his official remarks, I said, "Harold, wouldn't it be nice if we had our own camp site?" I'll never forget Harold's concluding remarks to the campers and their families that day.

"Next year," he announced, "you'll have your own camp site."

When Harold came off the stage, he said to me, "My God, what did I say? Davie, you've got to get me off the hook!"

"Harold," I said, "did you have authorization for what you just said?"

"No," he replied, "but I'll get it within 24 hours," and he did.

We set out to get Harold off the hook. With Barney Shur as my co-chairman, a good-sized committee took on a single mission; find a camp site! The fact that we didn't have two cents as a down payment didn't matter; we sent search parties all over to find a suitable location. On one such memorable occasion, in the middle of winter, thirty men met to investigate a potential site. To our chagrin, a foot of snow had fallen during the night and the site lay a mile and a half from the highway on an unplowed road. What-

ever goodwill we had generated with some of the big wheels almost dissipated that day with our Jewish Olympic snow team, but Charlie Rosenbloom, 75 years young, led the way. It was a sight to see him 100 yards ahead of a puffing Barney Shur, a pooped Zeke Rich, and a determined Harold Nelson.

Zeke Rich and Carl Webber discovered what appeared to be the culmination of our dreams - our present



site. Zeke cried when he telephoned to say, "We found it!" The site had antiquated buildings, a terribly rocky beach and a price tag of \$10,000. But to us, it was beautiful.

We had to get the Center Board to approve the final purchase price of \$9,500. The camp committee packed that board meeting and had done a considerable amount of politicking. I reported the finding of a perfect camp site to the Board; Irv Small moved for its purchase; and Barney Shur seconded. A unanimous vote followed the discussion. Now we had no money, but a vote of confidence. We were committed.

How would the camp be paid for? Somehow Judge Louis Bernstein and others found \$2,000 from a special building fund. But what of the rest, plus money needed for remodeling? We talked and talked and suddenly came up with a solution: the Norman I. Godfrey Fund, dreamed up by Harold

Nelson. At a camp committee meeting held November 6, 1949, Harold reported that "it was the committee's intention to ask at least a hundred people to contribute \$100 each, payable over a four year period." He further stated that this was not a drive, but that each individual contacted would undoubtedly feel that it was a pleasure to sponsor such a noble cause. I dubbed the whole thing affectionately the Nelson Plan. Harold became its chairman and Ed Sacknoff, its treasurer. Together, these two led a vigorous and highly successful campaign. Some 140 people pledged \$100 each. In the meantime, Israel Bernstein arranged a \$7,500 note to be drawn on Casco Bank, for which Ed Berman, Louis Bernstein, Sam Cohen, Julius Greenstein, Harold Nelson, Barney Shur and I volunteered our signatures. Sumner Bernstein gave his legal services.

The work in preparing the site for its first campers was a group - sometimes a mob - activity but it was an abundance of fun.

Under Dave Novick's shrewd direction, we spent \$1,164 for \$4,000

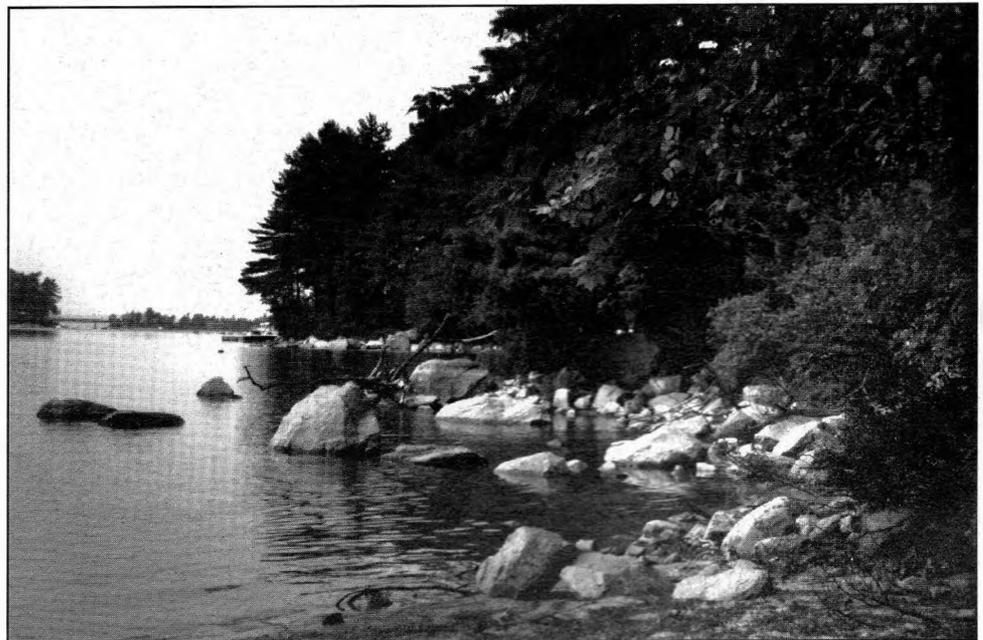
worth of projects. Charlie Rosenbaum built a bath house, and P. Reuben & Co. added a new waterline and toilet facilities, both for less than cost. Abe Seigal contributed vigorous assistance to the building of a bathing area on a beach covered with huge boulders.

How well we remember the operation cleanup, May 16, 1949, under the direction of Henry Pollard. To ready the camp for its first family picnic, we pulled scrub brush with bare hands and attacked small growth with borrowed machetes. We formed boulder-removing committees. Generally these were composed of five to seven men: one man worked and the rest supervised. Yet somehow, boulders were removed, paint was splashed on buildings, structures were fixed up, and the camp was made ready. Many people will remember these working picnics from camp's pioneering days. Theirs was a job well done, and when the first camp season opened at the new site, it was a very proud day.

The first season proved to be a great success under the directorship of Vic Taylor. The camp grew in prestige

each year. Happily, we found enthusiastic cooperation from the Center Women's Club, which has been most valuable to the success of Center Day Camp, especially in fund raising. Carl Webber gave invaluable assistance in the early years, undertaking to enlarge the facilities and to plan a long-range building program. Ernie Baker as House Committee assisted Carl in accomplishing these goals. Zeke Rich's mission was to keep me loose and to head the Parent Club. The support of subsequent camp chairman Buddy Goodman and every Center president thereafter made the camp more prominent in our community life.

In 1949 the deed for the camp property was conveyed to the Portland Jewish Community Center. Two years later, the Center Day Camp mortgage note was burned at the Bar Mitzvah celebration of the Center. With the help of so many members of our community, I kept my promise to Norm. For nearly 50 years, Center Day Camp has thrived, a living memorial to the vision Norman I. Godfrey had for all of us.



DEAR FRIEND OF CENTER DAY CAMP

Another successful camping season has drawn to a close, and as the leaves turn colors on Sebago Lake, we are pleased to present a harvest of the summer's images in the 1996 CDC Yearbook. It also conveys important information about the conservation activities that have come to the forefront of camp operations.

This summer, we received a wake-up call, like an early shofar blast, from the Portland Water District. They let us know that our heavy use of the land for nearly five decades without adequate precautions against erosion must give way to new conservation-conscious practices, or we could face penalties from environmental agencies. We view this challenge as an opportunity to combine Jewish values about respecting Nature and repairing the world with camp programming and appropriate new rules of conduct for all camp visitors.

Conservation has become our theme as we prepare Center Day Camp for its 50th Reunion in 1998 and the 21st century. Fortunately, the Portland Water District staff and Americorps volunteers worked closely with us this summer, teaching and helping us to implement initial changes. We made a good start with new plantings, rerouted footpaths, and programs to educate and involve campers. But we need your help to make a revitalized CDC a reality for the next generation. Please take the time to read the Conservation Report.

As we expected when we presented the CDC Yearbook last fall,



many alumni were delighted to hear about camp today. We thank those who led the way in contributing funds to help preserve camp for the future. Many of you have also donated for the planting of trees at camp. The names of these generous supporters may be found on page two.

We hope that you will use the enclosed envelope to send a voluntary chai donation of \$18 to help us defray the costs of producing the 1996 CDC Yearbook. Of course, donations of any size are greatly appreciated.

While our children adjust to school days and parents' thoughts turn to the colder days ahead, we on the Camp Committee feel the excitement of planning for next summer

begin. We thank you for your continued support and encourage you to find your way back to camp next year.

Shalom,

Candy Anderson
Camp Director

Sarah Putney
Yearbook Editor

Harry Krigman
Yearbook Committee Chair

Over a year ago, a very real concern about the continual erosion problems at Center Day Camp came to the attention of the Camp Vice Presidents. Subsequently, the Camp Committee, along with then-House Committee Chair, Gary Vogel and the Portland Water District, began aggressive measures to remove dead trees and to replant trees and shrub layers in areas where years of excessive foot traffic had seriously challenged the already low-grade erosion. Through intensive use over the years and past summers of heavy rainfall, erosion rates had accelerated dramatically, and a dangerous gully had formed at the lower end of the property.

After visits from Portland Water District educators, the water problem was determined to begin at the top of a significant incline. Many conversations and much thought went into finding ways in which CDC should begin to try to divert water as it begins to channelize across more stable, vegetated, depressional areas. By slowing down the water and allowing it to puddle on its way to the lake, water could infiltrate or percolate into the ground before it could channelize.

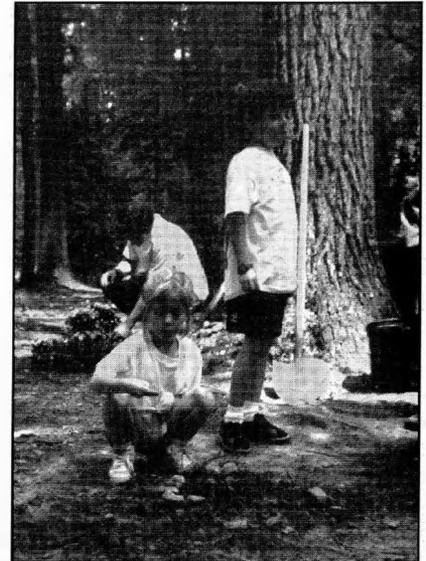
The sheer density of the hard-packed earth presented the challenge of finding a way to increase soil permeability. "Retiring" sections of worn-down areas by guiding foot traffic into designated walkways allowed us to schedule areas for replanting efforts. To increase vegetation in the puddling/infiltration areas, CDC campers and staff worked alongside Americorps volunteers and Jody Smith of the Portland Water District, to loosen the soil, to mulch the surface, to seed, and to plant. Through the generosity of PWD and a Plant Grant Program, plants and terracing timbers were purchased and installed on August

13, 1996, "A Day of Planting."

In addition, a riprap channel was created to further slow water runoff. This open channel is inlaid with large rocks to make culverts in which water collects and settles.

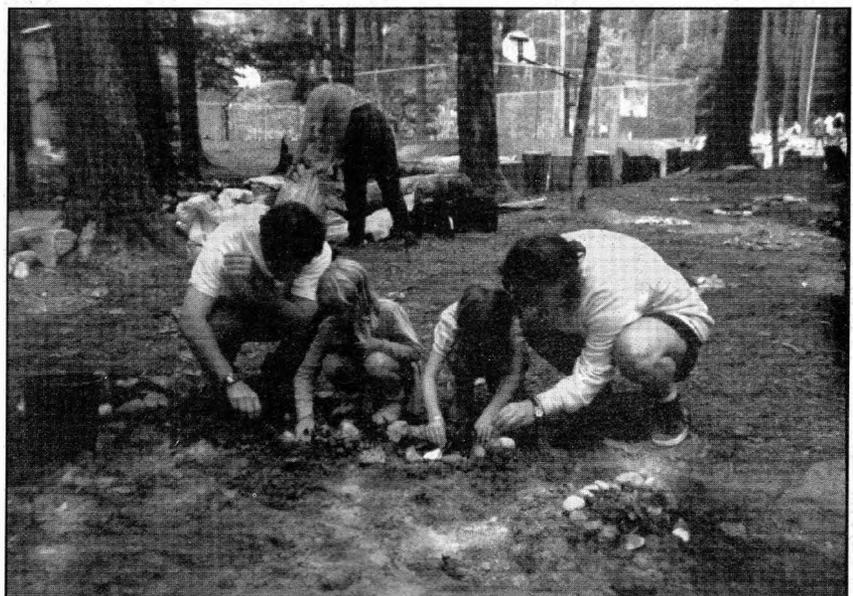
Capitalizing on CDC as an educational as well as social program, we initiated an education program to explain to campers and camp families how they are impacting the property when they take short cuts or park in certain green areas. Americorps volunteer Holly Sheehan facilitated this endeavor, working with the children during their Nature time alongside CDC staff Nature specialist Dan Schwartz.

We cannot make more land. But we can do more to protect what we have. Our campers are learning that if we live in peace with the environment, we won't have to put the pieces back together. So good it was to behold the true labor of love of CDC campers on our Day of Planting. They gave themselves gladly to the land, in the spirit of ensuring that we may all live life abundantly for years to come at Center Day Camp.



Center Day Camp Rules For Visitors

- 1. Carry in, carry out. Leave camp better than you found it.
- 2. Vehicles must be parked in parking areas only.
- 3. Foot traffic must keep to paths.





- 4.** No driving of vehicles on grassy areas.
 - 5.** Beach is open only to JCC members summer Sundays 11 am to 4 pm for lifeguard-supervised swimming.
 - 6.** Red Cross certified lifeguards strictly prohibit the use of all flotation devices.
 - 7.** No launching watercraft of any kind.
 - 8.** Kosher dietary laws apply to grills.
 - 9.** Grill users must extinguish thoroughly all flames and coals before leaving campsite.
 - 10.** Parties interested in renting camp facilities should contact the JCC Executive Director.
- THANK YOU for your cooperation!



ISRAELI CULTURE

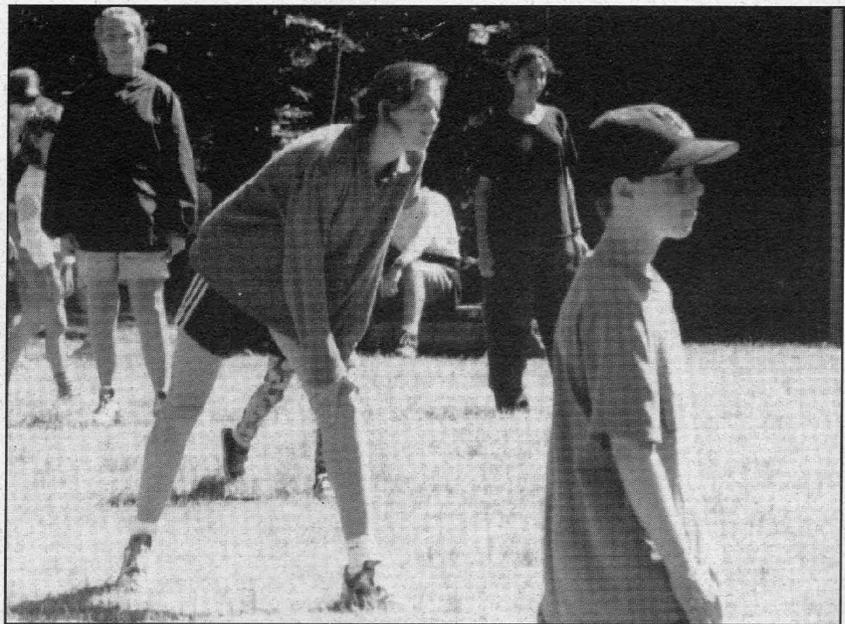
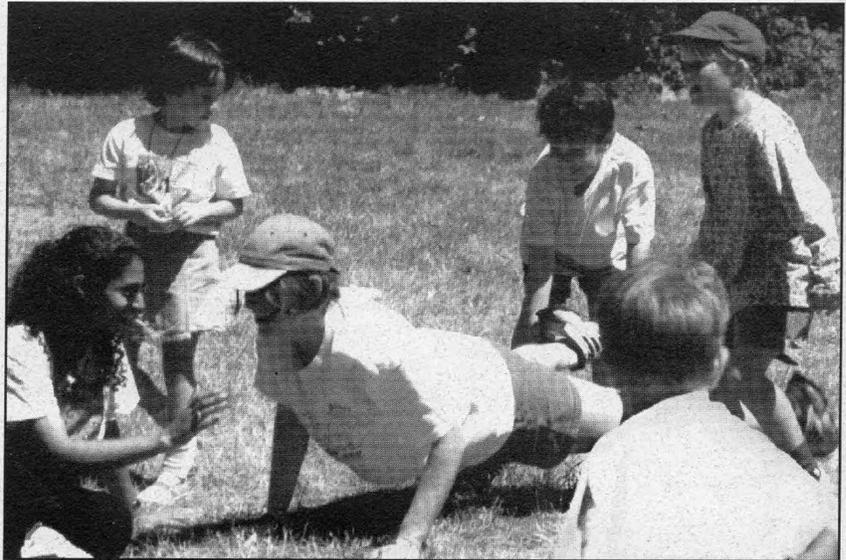
Efrat Sharabi, our schliach from Petah Tikva, Israel

I can't believe how the summer flew by. It began three months before the first day of camp, with interviews and preparations. Finally, after a last-minute reassignment, I found myself in Portland, Maine. This was my first visit to the United States and my first time to travel outside of Israel.

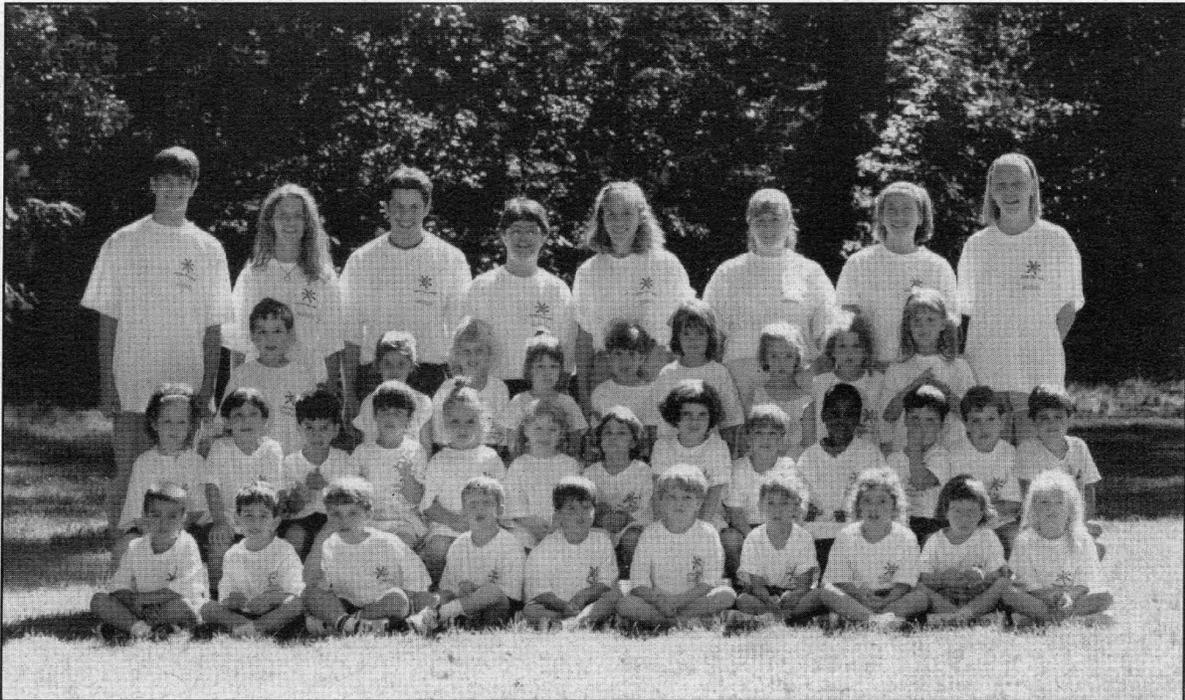
During my first week, I was amazed to hear the children say the motzi blessing before lunch and sing Hatikva at flag lowering every day. I started to feel at home right away.

We worked together in different ways and campers had many adventures at CDC. Some of our Israeli cultural projects involved language, coins, dance, songs, and games. We ended every week with a beautiful service welcoming Shabbat, with the blessings on the candles, challah, and wine.

I want to thank everyone who helped me feel at home! I'll remember you all.



CDC'S TOP TEN



New Horizons



Discoverers



Pioneers

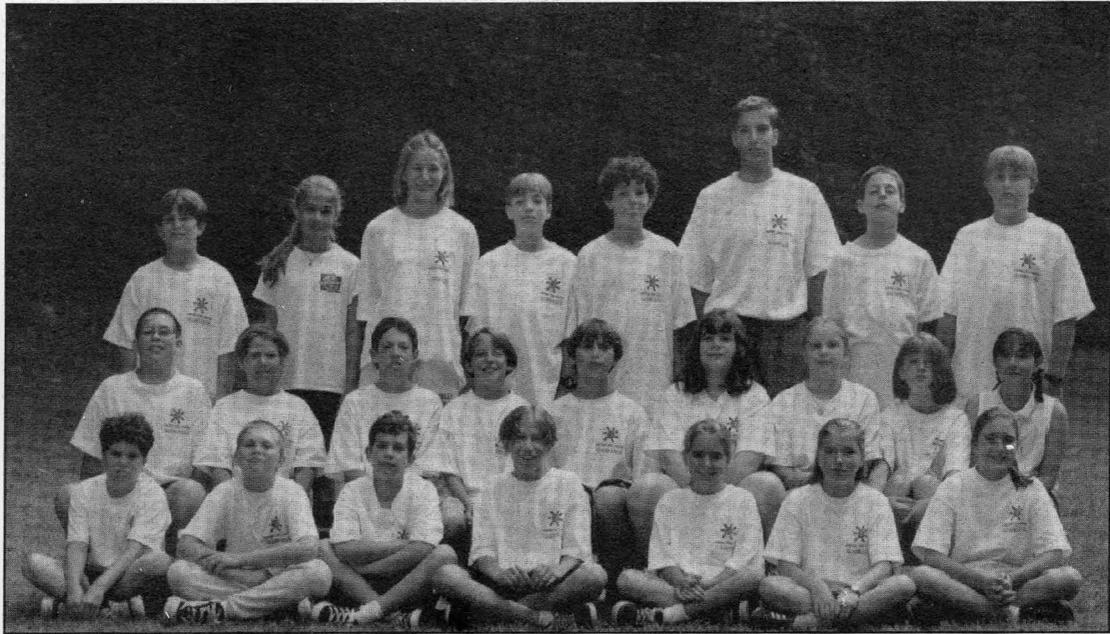


Scouts



Guides

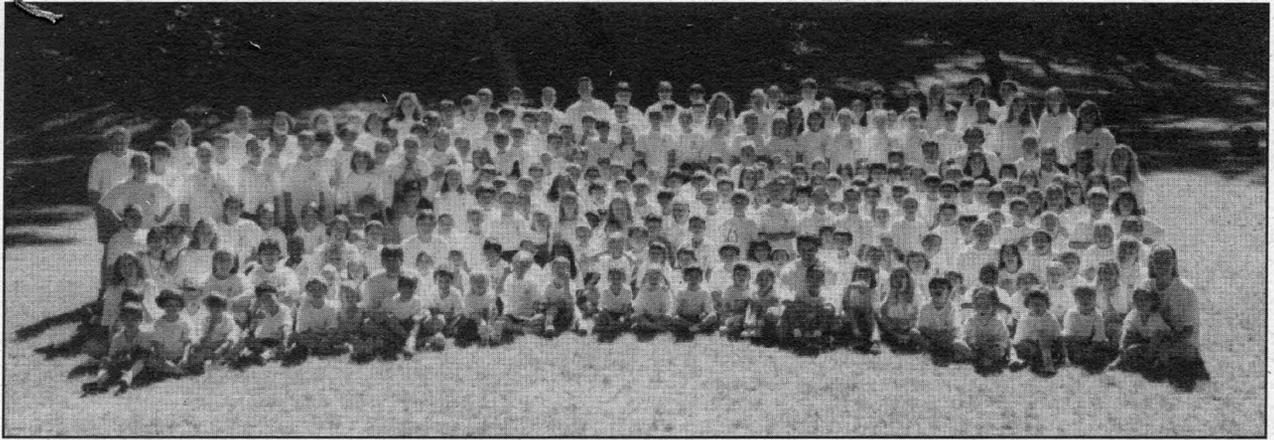




Explorers



Teens



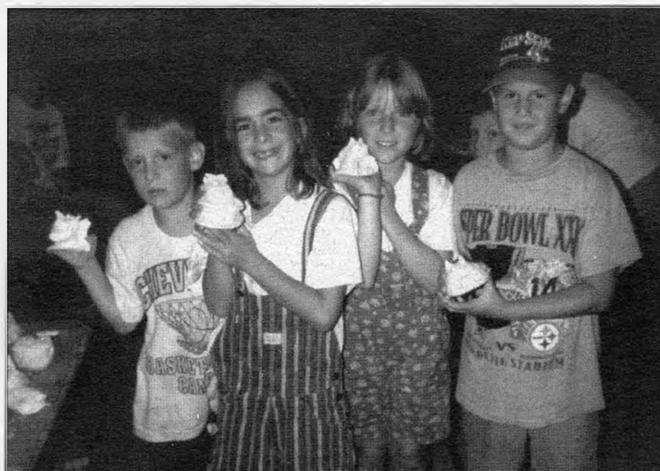
All Camp

15



Specialists

LOOKING BACK ON SUMMER 1996



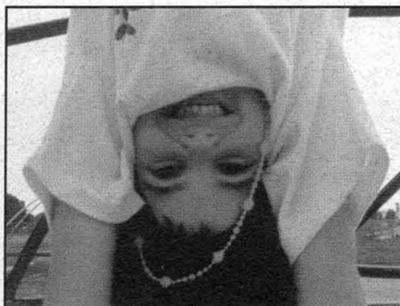
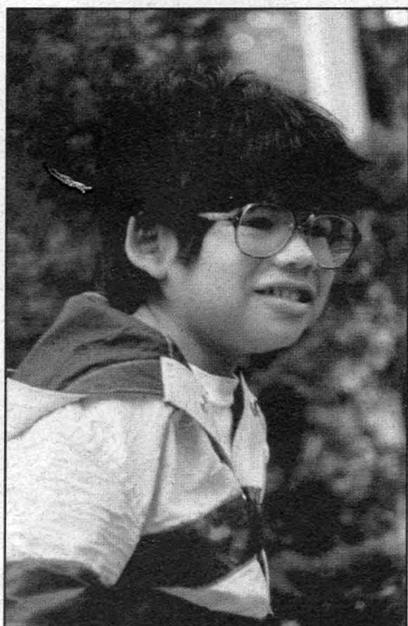
Camp is fun because I can go boating.

Camp is exciting because you're always doing new things.

Camp is cool because we get to swim twice a day.

Camp is the best I've ever been at.

Camp is cool.
It just is.



CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE CDC FRIENDS?

Do you know these people? Call, write, or fax the JCC and let us know.

Thanks to last year's readers who called or wrote in, the identities of the mystery campers in last year's alumni feature have been revealed! In the formal photograph they were: front row, left to right, Leah Beth Diamon, Cindy Rubinoff, and Lesley Chase. Back row, Estelle Punsley, Tama Jacobson (counselor), Felicia Lerman, and Susan Isenman.

In the larger casual photo, they were left to right, Lesley Chase, Joan Kyros, Susan Isenman, Leah Beth Diamon, and Cindy Rubinoff.





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*Candy Anderson
Center Day Camp Director*



Center Day Camp **1996 Yearbook**



This photo, taken in the early years of the Center Day Camp, reflects the same joy the children experience today as they take that first plunge into the waters of the Sebago Lake basin.