

# The Bugle

The Newsletter of the Avoda Alumni Association

May 2024



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Mark Goldberg

Ben Kassiff

Justin Lukoff

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In loving memory of Paul G. Davis,  
a special tribute magazine  
is included separately

# President's Letter

by Dan Gollinger, 2002 Bunk 14

Hello again Avoda Alumni,

I'm writing this year's letter with mixed emotions. A lot has happened since the 2023 Bugle. I'll start with the good news, as we've been breaking a few records:

- In August, we held our 3rd annual Avoda Golf Tournament, which saw a record 104 golfers
- In September, Avoda's 1st annual Rodman Ride raised over \$40,000 for the Adam "Bubba" Miller Scholarship Fund. A first-time event, but also now a record (which we should break this year!)
- In November, the 24th annual Thanksgiving Football Game took place with a record 40 players
- In November / December, the 15th annual Phone-a-Thon was reinvented and raised over \$15,000 in one night for the Avoda Fund, not a record but very impressive given it's scaled-back effort

The bad news: in January, we were hit with a loss that we're still recovering from. Our long time Director and keeper of all things Avoda, Paul G. Davis, passed away. PGD **was** Camp Avoda. Anyone who knows Avoda knows that. What struck me after his passing though, was learning how he was so much more than just the fearless leader of Avoda.

PGD, with a Master of Education from Boston University, was a music teacher in the Winchester Public Schools for 35 years and directed the music of many school plays. He was honored by the Mass. Music Educators Association for his contributions. He served as treasurer and negotiator for the Winchester Education Association and was honored with a Distinguished Service Award from the Mass. Teachers Association. He also served as the choir director and organist at Temple Shalom in Medford, MA where he was treasurer in the 1980s. Staying connected with camps, he volunteered for the American Camp Association, New England, for which he was honored with the Bette Bussel Distinguished Service Award.

One thing I loved about PGD is that he didn't rock the boat. Yes he got serious sometimes on the mic at the Mess Hall podium, and yes he kept things in order over the PA system, but his approach was more like a good GM making sound business decisions in the background of a winning team. When his silver minivan, with license plate "AVODA," was parked outside his cabin, we knew Camp was in good hands.

There are so many unforgettable PGD memories and stories, many of which are captured in this unique edition of The Bugle that includes a special PGD tribute as a keepsake.

On behalf of the Alumni Committee and all alumni, our thoughts are with the Davis family. Avoda will always welcome Bobbie, Jeff, and Debbie, and we are eternally grateful for PGD's dedication to making Camp our home for over half a century.

We're heading into summer with camper numbers high, camp looking great, and a can't-miss schedule of alumni events, starting with Alumni Weekend featuring a PGD Celebration on June 15th. It's all coming up fast, see you there!



*Thanks to Steven Peljovich of Michael's Deli for his continuous support of Avoda*

# Camp Avoda Legacy Society

by Lee Kaiser, 1984 Bunk 14

The Camp Avoda Legacy Society is about ensuring that future generations of Jewish boys have similar opportunities that you've had to experience Avoda, create meaningful memories and lifelong friendships. We're all fortunate to have had the chance to experience what Avoda has to offer, now it's time to pay it forward.

I personally feel a sense of responsibility to give back. I preached that to every Avodian as I threw my chip into the bonfire every Fourth of July and will stick to my word. I have included Avoda in my will and committed to a percentage of my estate.

My own family is well aware of the positive impact that Avoda has had on my life and they completely understand and applaud my decision to do my part. It will be a lasting legacy for my family's name at Camp Avoda, and I join the growing list of my alumni brothers and their families in ensuring that camp both survives and thrives far into the future.

The reality is, what I'm leaving will in no way negatively impact my children, eventual grandchildren and future generations of my family. While everyone's circumstances are unique, there's something that you can do. We all want to ensure our loved ones are taken care of but it doesn't take much to ensure that Avoda continues to exist and provide a second home for Jewish boys for the next century.

Whether it's a pre-determined amount of \$1000 or \$100,000 or 1% or 5% or more of your residual estate, it will all have an immensely positive impact on so many lives. It's also an example to all that philanthropy matters and we should all do our part for the betterment of others.

It's very easy to become a part of the Camp Avoda Legacy Society. Please contact Lee Kaiser ('84 14 & Board of Directors) at [PositiveAttitude@cox.net](mailto:PositiveAttitude@cox.net) or 703.856.1360 or scan this QR code for more information.



Fellow Avodians who've already joined the Avoda Legacy Society:

Martin Agulnek  
Stephen Aronson  
David Bamel  
Jonathan Bamel  
Josh Chadajo  
Mitchell & Leslie Cohen  
Nate Cohen  
Robbie Coppel  
Louis Dennis  
Mark Goldberg  
Daniel Gollinger  
Phil & Miriam Greenspan  
Ronni Saltzman Guttin  
Seth Jacobs  
Lee R. Kaiser  
Jason Kaplan  
Adam Kaufman  
David R. King  
Edward & Rosalyn Klayman  
Scott & Elana MacGilpin  
Sam & Hope Mirkin  
Michael & Brenda Ross  
Mike Roth  
Laurence Rubin  
Ken & Jill Shifman  
Jim Singer  
The Spear Family  
Derek Wade  
Ariel Waldman  
Russell Sherman & Lisa Weitzman  
Willie and Andrea Wilkov  
Steven Woolf



# The Best Floor Crust

by Ken Shifman, 1984 Bunk 14

Camp Avoda is a place rich in history, experiences, growth, and summers of tales, adventures, and lots of stuff going on.

When I sit around the poker table with my camp friends, while we certainly talk about life, our kids, and each other, there is no shortage of camp talk and camp stories. This is one of the magical parts about camp now – this summer, and on into the indefinite future. A treasure chest of stories!

Growing up as campers, our age group was large, so we had three groups of bunks. We (Jeff Keselman, David Lepus Goldberg, David Schindler, Mark Pee Wee Glovin, Matt Wilkov – to name a few) would always share a cabin with the “NY Guys,” Lee Kaiser, Russell Hondo Katz, Jeremy Gordon, Jim Feldman to name a few. In a different building were the “A Team” of Jay Yampolsky, Russell Sherman, Greg Smith, and Howie Finer again, just to name a few.

I sometimes think of the bunk-talks we would have within our bunk. It was restorative justice before such a thing existed. We would sit around after taps and explain to each other what we liked and didn't like about the vibe in the bunk. It was an opportunity to communicate, open up and grow. Of course, there were also regrettable things said and done, as we were kids, that I wish I could go back in time and repair. As I tell our staff, life is about making decisions.

Of course, there are chapters and volumes of sports ups, downs and controversies. Highlights like Russell Sherman stopping a forceful Greg Smith during a critical Color War moment. I also fondly remember the fun and ridiculous times when the other side of the cabin would get late night pizza (and we didn't). We would do anything for pizza – it smelled so good! Just a slice!? No? OK we will take anything. True story: the other side would throw their crust to the middle section of the cabin – on the floor, not far from the trash barrel. We would happily run over, pick up the crust and eat it. While this sounds gross and not happily spirited, it was fun then and it's fun to look back on such times as simpler, and spirit and character building.

At camp these days there are other chapters and volumes still be written. There is more staff oversight and an emphasis on positive values, accountability and upright citizenship. But there is still a lot of independence and kids and staff creating experiences and finding their way.

When you come to camp to visit this summer, ask the Staff, CIT's and campers what happened in Color War last summer. Ask them about League. Ask them about what happens at night in the bunks – a lot! Dance parties for younger campers, older campers playing cards, and mock drafts for DW and CW where kids create fantasy teams for our marquee events. Ask them about last summer's “Boy Oy Oy” chants in the Mess Hall – hilarious. Ask them about Sung Beats. Ask camper Danny Karas about our searching for his retainer in the trash in the Grove after an all-camp cookout and finding it!

Camp Avoda is still a magical and special place where we create space for boys, teens and college-aged staff to spread their wings, try new things, fail, succeed, learn, build relationships, and grow as people. They fill their toolboxes of lessons, garnered from experiences over the years. I can't think of anything more fun, worthwhile, and amazing.





## Upcoming Events

### Alumni Weekend + PGD Celebration

June 14-16



The best weekend of the year is finally here again!

Plus: Don't miss a special PGD celebration at 1:45pm Saturday at the chapel site (free for all to attend)

Registration link:



### Avoda Golf Tournament

August 26

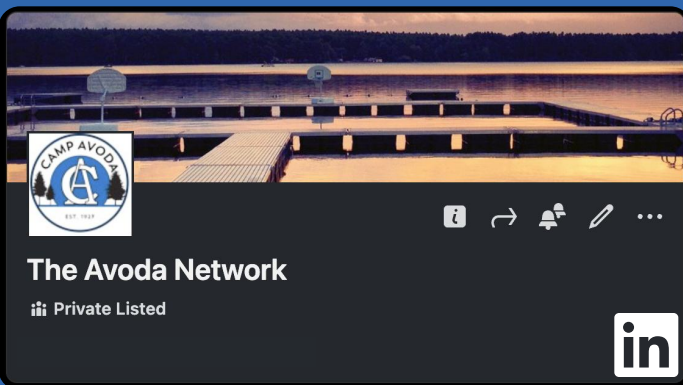


Sign up for the 4th annual Camp Avoda Golf Tournament, at Wedgewood Pines Country Club in Stow, MA.

Registration link:



### The Avoda Network



Join the Avoda Network on LinkedIn and stay connected to over 250 Avodian professionals.

Link to join:



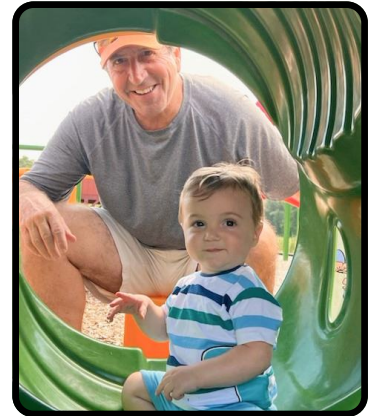
## Alumni Happenings



Danny Bauman, wife Hillery, son Adam, and new addition to the Avoda family, granddaughter Tobi Shira Bauman



Jerry Hill (1968 Bunk 14) with grandson Harris, future 2039 bunk 14er



Grandpa David Bamel (1975 Bunk 14) with grandson and future 2037 Bunk 14er Mason



Richard (2005 Bunk 14) and Kathy Katz welcome Ethan Katz to the world!



Grandpa Danny Bauman (1975 Bunk 14 counselor) with the grandkids



Justin (2005 Bunk 14), Kelly, and Nathan Lukoff



Brendan Hefter (2008 Bunk 14) welcomes his son Ryan, 2040 Bunk 14!



Proud uncles Harrison (2002 Bunk 14), and Braden Lukoff (2009 Bunk 14) with baby Vivianna and her mother Genevieve Lukoff. (Congrats to Marshall Lukoff!)



## Alumni Happenings



Eric Edelman (2006 Bunk 14) with his fellow bunkmates during his wedding!



Cory Brine (2002 Bunk 14) with his wife Joanna, first son Max, and new baby Noah



A smiley Noah Rosenfield, son of Garry Rosenfield (2003 Bunk 14)



Sam Brenner (2006 Bunk 14) and his son Emmett Brenner



Joshua Reed-Diawuoh (2006 Bunk 14) started his own direct-to-consumer snack brand, GRIA



David Fine (2002 Bunk 14) and his wife Kristina, welcome their new daughter Sofia





*We send our love and support to Israel. While this has been a difficult time, Camp Avoda reminds us who we are as Jewish people in today's world and we keep all of the Israeli women, children, and men in our thoughts. We will forever stand together as one.*