

FALL 2005

RUSSELL SHERMAN PRESIDENT

JEFF KESELMAN
TREASURER

SAM MIRKIN SECRETARY

JEFFREY BLOCKER
LOUIS DENNIS
JERRY HILL
EJ KIMBALL
ED KLAYMAN
GREG LAZAROFF
MICHAEL ROTH
KEN SHIFMAN
ANDREW SPEAR

In This Issue Alumnus Gives 1 Avoda Nicknames Alumni Weekend 4 5 Forty Years Avoda Grapevine 6 8 Alumni Gatherings Visiting Alumni Day **Enduring Connection** 10 Sir Mix a Lot 11

Upcoming Events

12

AVODA ALUMNI BUGLE

THE BIANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CAMP AVODA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Alumnus Gives of Himself—Literally

By Jason Rubin

There are gifts, and then there are GIFTS. Some are of great value, some lesser. Some are cherished forever, some are soon re-gifted. It is often said that the best gifts cannot be bought – they are the gift of time, the gift of oneself. This makes Mark Goldberg (1988 Bunk 14) a heck of a gift-giver, for he gave someone the gift of life.

Specifically, Mark's gift was one of his own kidneys. And the recipient was his father.

Sam Goldberg, now 65, enabled his three sons – Adam, Mark, and Jeffrey (1994 Bunk 14) – to go to Avoda. Before they were even born, however, Sam developed health problems that led to a number of conditions and complications. About 10 years ago, his kidneys started to deteriorate. While his family knew about his high blood pressure and other issues, no one knew about the kidney problems until two years ago, when he told his family he needed a transplant.

Matchmaker, matchmaker

Adam, Mark, and Jeffrey were the logical choices as donors. All three went in for compatibility testing; and Adam and Mark were deemed to be the best matches. Adam's wife was pregnant at the time, so the decision was made in March, 2004 that Mark

would be the donor. The procedure would be done at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH).

Mark explains, "The goal is to extend the life of the existing kidney as long as possible, without having the patient need to undergo dialysis. It wasn't until March 2005 that I finally got the call that the kidney was needed. I had two weeks' notice."

Mark flew to Boston from his home in San Francisco, but there was a complication. Mark was getting over the flu, and you can't undergo surgery when you have a respiratory condition. The surgery was delayed a few days to give Mark time to recuperate – but for Sam, time was slipping away. Mark was eventually given the go-ahead, and would be prepped for surgery at 4:00 am.

"I'd never had surgery before," Mark says, "so I was nervous. I'd never even been in a hospital since I was born. But I felt that my father's life was in my hands." Lying on a gurney outside the operating room, alone in his thoughts, Mark was shocked when a resident came up to him and said, "So, I hear you know David Shaff." Amazingly, the mother of Avoda buddies Dave and Eric Shaff was to be the anesthesiologist!

Avoda Nicknames

By Russell Sherman

A good Avoda nickname is like a tattoo—it might only take an instant to get it, but you keep the thing forever. My wife frequently jokes with me about Avoda nicknames. As I depart for a camp event she often says, "Make sure you say hi to 'Sausage Nose', 'Stumpy' and 'Banana Head'." While those are made up names. it turns out they are not that far off. I always chuckle when I think of parents painstakingly debating over their son's name at the time of birth. "Should we call him Kenneth or Mathew?" Little do they know that once he goes to Avoda he'll forever be known as "Magilla" or "Spark Plug."

A perfect example occurred recently as I was searching Google to track down members of the 1975 Bunk 14. I entered the name Jeff Golumbuk, my Bunk 1 counselor in 1977. I narrowed my search by adding his Avoda

nickname, "Gumby." Sure enough, a hit popped right up. Jeff Golumbuk is the successful owner of a large promotional products company in San Diego called Custom Logos and even though he is the boss, everyone still knows him as Gumby. "The name was given to me, when I was in Bunk 4 by my senior counselor Gary Gilberg", said Gumby. "That was 37



years ago and it just stuck." Gumby, who now lives in San Diego, says the nickname keeps Avoda fresh in his mind. "I think about camp often. I send my kids to a camp here in California, but it just doesn't compare to Avoda."

There have been many classic nicknames over the years including David "Spanky" Selby, Rick "Bumble Bee"

Hyman and Adam "Bubba" Miller. Larry Kaiser was nicknamed "Old Man" because, well, he looked like an old man. Dan Reiser had a number of camp nicknames but clearly the best was "Grimace" based on his resemblance to the McDonald's character. At Avoda we have celebrated both ends of the nickname scale with skinny nicknames like Larry "Sticks" Crasnick and David

"Bones" Wertheim and hefty nicknames like Saul "Boom Boom" Mickelson and Sam "Mamu" Mirkin. Some nicknames get shared by more than one person over the years. There was a "Moose" in the 70's (Paul Hantman) and a "Moose" in the 90's (Josh Schneider). Norm Plotkin was "Squirmy", and his son, Brian, who went generations later, was also dubbed "Squirmy". (Brian is a Rabbi in Florida, but I doubt they call him "Rabbi Squirmy".)

Initials always worked as a quick and easy nickname; Danny Jacob was "DJ", Tim Cohen was "TC" and Adam Jacobs was "AJ". Sometimes we got more creative. To distinguish between the two Bunk 14 counselors



Alumnus Gives of Himself — Continued...

Success and support

Mark's procedure took 4.5 hours. Using an innovative laparoscopic-assisted procedure developed at MGH, doctors made three half-inch incisions in his abdomen and another incision at his waistline. With cameras and monitors guiding the surgeon's movements, Mark's kidney was taken out by hand and placed in his father's body.

Mark was released from MGH in four days; his father the day after. When Mark checked out, he and his father shared a moment that only two people who have gone through such an experience together could comprehend. "Like a lot of fathers, my Dad's not the most emotional man, not a great communicator," he says. "I went to give him a hug, and as he embraced me he really got choked up. It was very poignant, and I felt that after so many years of him taking care of me in my times of need, it was a bit of a role reversal. I had the opportunity to comfort him and show how much I appreciate all he has ever done for me."

It took six weeks, two at home, for Mark to recover fully from the surgery. Throughout, he was greatly comforted by his Avoda family. "Whether it was the old crew striking up a card game when I flew into town two days before the surgery, or visits from some of my former campers while I was all doped up in recovery, the Avoda Spirit really showed itself," he says. "Aaron Bornstein called me from New Zealand the night before the operation, and even one of the guys with a real fear of hospitals came to see me, which was probably a bit nerveracking for him. All these things helped so much, and I'm so grateful to everyone for their support."

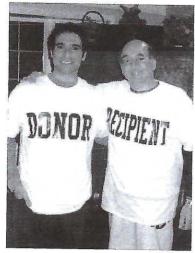
The gift of life

Since this experience, Mark has become an active, vocal advocate for organ donation. "Some people think that the Jewish tradition is against organ donation because of laws about violating the body," Mark says. "That's not true. I met with a rabbi before the

procedure who told me that saving a person's life trumps any other consideration. A Jewish person who has donated or received an organ can still be buried in a Jewish cemetery."

Mark requests that Avodians think about organ donation. Most states allow you to register as an organ donor when renewing your driver's license. You can also check out **www.shareyourlife.org**, which offers information on organ donation and how to register. Mark also notes that he now donates to the MGH Donor Fund, which pays all the costs for living donors. For Mark, that meant all travel costs, medical bills, and medications, which totaled upwards of \$200,000.

"I don't think of myself as a hero," Mark says. "I'd like to think that any son would do it for his father. My health is great, and I have no restrictions on diet or activity. I'm just glad that I was able to help my father, and I hope my story helps make people aware of the importance of organ and tissue donation."



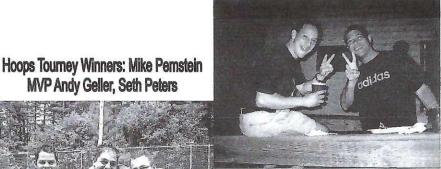
Epilogue

Four months after the transplant, Sam Goldberg is back swinging a golf club. Mark reports that he looks better and younger, and no longer has high blood pressure. "It cost me only a few weeks' time to add 20 years to my father's life," he says. "That's a pretty good deal, I'd say."

Alumni Weekend 2005—A Great Time Was Had By All



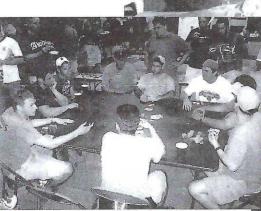
Ken Shifman & Lee Kaiser Reminisce about Priscilla



Eddie Klayman and Hondo Katz Rally for Peace and Pizza



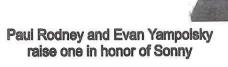




Final Table at Poker Tourney 2005



Winner Andy "Stacks" Spear with all the chips





Forty Years — But Who's Counting?

By Paul Davis—Excerpted from the 2005 Banquet Edition Avodian

This is my 40th year at Camp Avoda, and I like it very much! A lot has happened in the span of 40 years. I arrived on the scene as the new man on the block having never been a camper at Avoda. I spent 8 years as a camper and staff member at a YMCA resident camp in New Hampshire, and 6 years as a counselor and administrator at Camp Bauercrest before coming to Avoda in 1966. My interview was on a very cold and snowy day in November of 1965. Driving was treacherous and I was hoping that the interview would be cancelled because I did not want to travel the Mass. Pike in that kind of weather. But it wasn't; and here I am 40 years later.

I was a bachelor, living with my parents in Medford, Massachusetts, when I first started at Avoda. I was engaged by the end of my second summer, and married to my lovely wife Bobbie before the start of my third year. Soon our family expanded with the birth of my daughter Deborah during the summer of 1970. Three years later, along came Jeffrey, who spent many, many years at Avoda, first as a camper, and then as a counselor. Jeff has now been married for 5 years, lives with his wife Maggie in Brooklyn, NY, and has a 17 month old son, Tyler, who we hope will continue the Davis tradition here at Camp Deborah was recently Avoda. married and lives with her hus-band Larry in Chicago.

I have seen thousands of campers come through the open and inviting gates of Camp Avoda over these 40 years. Many have gone on to become counselors and even administrators here at camp. I have even seen second and third generation campers over these many years. Many of the current Board members were campers when I arrived on the scene. I have witnessed and experienced many exciting events during my 40 years here. I could fill a book with all of the interesting situations that I have observed, and maybe someday I will do just that.

This is my fortieth year at Avoda, and I like it very much!

The summer of 2005, my 40th, was an exciting and memorable one. We had very few accidents and a minimum of illnesses. The campers were extremely happy and we had a large increase in our camper population during the first session. Our 2-week session worked out very well. Many of the 2-weekers stayed on for the entire first session, and almost all of the 2-weekers who arrived at the start of the second session remained on, as well.

The addition of the 35-foot climbing wall, which was completed during the middle of the first session, has been a tremendous success. Almost every camper has been to the top where, I am told, the view is spectacular.

I would like to thank my wife, Bobbie, who tries to keep me organized, and provides sound advice when things don't go quite right.

There is one person who was not around this summer and that person was Tom Leavitt. Due to a relocation to Atlanta, Georgia, Tom resigned as President of the Board of Directors and from the Board itself in late April. Tom started at Avoda as a camper in the mid-60s; became a counselor, department head, CIT Director, Assistant Director, and finally a member and officer of the Board of Directors. He helped start the Avoda Alumni Association and made a significant contribution to the Avoda Archives Project. Tom is a close friend and I will truly miss his friendly advice and assistance.

I want to thank all of the campers who joined us this summer and hope they will all return for our 80th year here on the shores of Lake Tispaquin.

Until we meet again, I remain...

Paul g. Davis, Director

Heard it Through the Grapevine—Alumni Happenings

Birth Announcements

Adam Rothschild—1988 Bunk 14—Anna—October 27, /2004

Gary Block—1988 Bunk 14—Rachel—February 4, 2005

Andy Freedman—1986 Bunk 14—Olivia Jaye—February 23, 2005

Josh Ross—1989 Bunk 14—Noah—April 1, 2005

Jeremy Agulnek—1989 Bunk 14—Brooke—April 13, 2005

Robert Gould—1988 Bunk 14—Joseph—May 16, 2005

David Wertheim—1982 Bunk 14—Benjamin—June 17, 2005

Steve Harris—Samantha—June 19, 2005

Dan Reiser—1985 Bunk 14—Jacob—July 2, 2005

Bryan Malamut—1989 Bunk 14—Madison—July 21, 2005

Evan Yampolsky—1980 Bunk 14—Jessica Rae—August 18, 2005



Benjamin Wertheim - Born June 17, 2005



Wedding of Mark Sokoloff - Left to right The Groom, Seth Peters, Tim Cohen, Spencer Kimball and Elliot Fijman

Weddings

Jason Kaplan—1990 Bunk 14—Married Elissa Ehrlich—May 29, 2005 Mark Sokoloff—1992 Bunk 14—Married Allison Micarelli—July 9, 2005 Rob Cohen—1988 Bunk 14—Married Melissa Paradis—July 29, 2005

Passings

Leonard Taft passed away April 13, 2005 Jonathan Kumin passed away August 5, 2005 Alan Lieberman passed away August 16, 2005



Wedding of Jason Kaplan
Bruce Silverlieb, The Groom, Andy Spear

Share your news with us: campavodaalumniassociation@hotmail.com



Avoda Nicknames...Continued

in 1982, Stephen Aronson and Steven Camiel, we highlighted the difference in the way they spelled their first name; they were dubbed "PH" and "V", respectively. Other nicknames came from shortening or mildly tweaking the person's last name: Ken Shifman was "Shif", Bruce Bender was "Benny" and David Bamel was "Mel". David Benjamin was "Benji" and later became "Benjga"! Of course, there were a host of brother combinations like "Goodie" (David and Eric Goodman), "Rosey" (David and Steven Rosenberg), "Frenchie" (Glenn and Bruce French) and "Sammy" (Barry and Jeff Samuels). Michael Schindler was known as "Shinny", his younger brother, David, was "Mini-Shinny". David Goldstein was "G-String", but his younger brother, Danny, was a little smaller so he was named "Thread". In 1980, Color War was not only a battle between the White Avodians and the Blue Aztecs but a battle between two Generals with really good nicknames, Paul "Barney" Kleinmann and Robert "Cupcake" Satloff.

While most nicknames were born at Avoda others were brought to camp, where they got a healthy second wind – just ask Russell "Hondo" Katz, Steven "Peasley" Poverman or Peter "Spider" Liebowitz. Some Avoda nicknames evolved over time. Gary Epstein, who was a little chubby, was named "Chubba" by Danny Bauman. It later evolved into many names including "Choobes", "Choobie" and "Chubaka".

Peter Glovin was one Avodian especially adept at giving out nicknames. When others were content to use someone's given name like Michael or Jeremy, "Glovo" was determined to do better. Some of the most impressive nicknames he tagged on others included Ken "Bubblehead" Freeman and Eric "Feesh" Kaplan. Glovo also gave my brother Alex his nickname. After kicking in a door that was mistakenly locked shut, he named him "Super Toe." When Alex hurt his knee, "Glovo" cleverly decided he should now be called "Toe-Knee".

As you can see, Avoda nicknames are not only creative and abundant but enduring. Many famous philosophers have wondered why nicknames are so prevalent at Avoda, but I would like to offer up my own theory. When you enter the world at birth your family selects a name for you. However, when you enter Avoda you are really entering a whole new world and gaining a second family. As such, it only makes sense that this new family would grant you a new name as well.

*This article is dedicated to Guffa, Boob, Schmed, Lefty, Pokey, Rollo, Tuna, Billy, Earl, Laz, Kaz, A-Brain, Duff, Bakes, Oobis, Mutta, Age, Phippsy, Mugsy, Pugsley, Sol, Huxy, Soko, Crow, Rib, Chucka, Bennidus, Mickey, Lepus, Sap, Shap, Quay, Stogey, Bundy, Rugger, Truck, Tiny, Duppa, The Professor, Curious George, Kippa, Schwarty, Smitty, Levy-Levi-Levo, Pee Wee, Dr. Wu, Jackpot, Zoop, Billy, Morty and Brimma. (How can you have an article about nicknames without mentioning them?)

Avoda Alumni Gatherings—Near & Far



B.B. King's in New York, Performance of John Valby
Dave Pratter, Adam Udell, Greg Lazaroff, Dave Kivowitz, Dave Charton
John Valby, Aaron Kaswell, Doug Charton, Alex Sherman, Russell Sherman
Kneeling: Scott Brockman, Dave Glattstein



Avoda Alumni Day at the Pawsox - August 7, 2005 Andy & Gabby Spear, Scott & Deb Steiner David Satloff and Family, Peasley & Jacob Poverman

Alumnus Grayson Kimball with Grateful Dead Bassist Phil Lesh



Editor's Note

Thanks to all the contributors to this, our biggest issue ever!! Special thanks to retired editor Jason Rubin for his stirring piece on Mark Goldberg and to Mark for his courageous act of generosity.

We are always looking for good articles about Avoda—whether they're about something that happened to you at camp, or since.

We would also love your digital photos of Avoda gatherings, however big or small.

If you have a story to tell or a photo to share, please email me at sammirk1@comcast.net.

Sam Mirkin, Fditor



First Ever Visiting Alumni Day a Big Success

By Sam Mirkin

They say you can never really go home again, but we at the Avoda Alumni Board are aiming to prove them wrong. On Sunday, July 10, 2005 alumni returned to Avoda for the inaugural visiting alumni day to the raves of campers and staff alike.

The idea behind visiting alumni day is to share the vast experience (camp and otherwise) of our alumni group with the current campers and staff. We arrived in time for lunch, and were delighted to find that they now serve ice cream after lunch.

After a well-earned rest hour, the alumni took to the fields and the lake to be a part of the "regular day" activities. Andrew Bramson and Sam Mirkin headed for their old haunts on the shores of Lake Tispaquin. Brimma is pleased to report that, yes, they still cheer for the "invigorating" water and the waterfront staff. And yes, teaching nine year-olds the breast-stroke kick is still nearly impossible. Mark Solomon also found his way to the waterfront, where his legendary small-crafts skills were put to good use teaching canoeing and kayaking to the knowledge-hungry campers.



Did Mark Solomon ever leave camp?



Andrew Bramson discourses on the finer points of umping softball with counselor John Wilcon

Displaying his multi-talented skills, Brimma moved from the lake to the field to umpire a hotly contested league softball game. The umpiring proved vital to the outcome of the game, and many staff members were overhead saying how glad they were that an alumnus had missed, I mean made the big call.

Russell Sherman showed some creativity on the athletic field by piling up some old mattresses for a football fumble drill. He moved to the softball diamond to run the famous third base sliding drill. Sadly, due to time constraints Russell did not get to display his talents in the Indian Relay.

Everyone had a great time reliving the thrilling days of yesteryear. Perhaps next year you will lend your considerable talents to the campers of Avoda.



The Enduring Connection To Camp

Courtesy of Rabbi Steven Rubenstein, Congregation B'Nai Abraham, Beverly, MA

The Jewish Advocate of Boston recently published an article about a summer camp I attended as a youngster. The headline read, "Avoda Campers Climb New Heights." Apparently, the latest addition to Camp Avoda is a 35-foot climbing tower to complement its ropes course. In the article, Camp Director Paul Davis explains that the tower and course, in addition to being fun to climb, "have an educational value, and provide challenging experiences for boys of all ages."

Naturally, articles such as this one, and visits to my daughters' camps this summer, have had me thinking about my own camping experiences and how they have influenced me.

There were many lessons learned during those summers—at Camp Avoda during the formative years before Bar Mitzvah and other camps later on. What I do recall with great fondness is the spiritual component to being at camp.

More than anything else what I remember from my camp days is the refreshing smell in the air following a storm. The pine trees give off a characteristic odor that evokes a sense of spirituality that cannot be recreated in any other way.

At services as a camper, rather than pay attention to what was happening down front, I would love to play with the pine needles beneath my feet. Being connected to the earth and exposed to elements of the outdoors had an invigorating effect upon the body and the soul. Perhaps this is why I enjoy my "aleph moments" so much with my friend George while out on the open ocean in his boat, gliding along, being carried by the wind in our sails. It truly is not the same feeling when traveling in a speedboat.

When asked by people where my spirituality comes from, my immediate response is "the ocean." Nothing gives me a greater connectedness to G-d's creation than watching the tide interact with the shore, and following the water as far as the naked eye can see to the point where it meets the sky. It appears as though there is a thin slice that divides the heavens above from the earth below—and I can sail to that point without ever reaching it. I have davened on the bow of a cruise ship bound for Bermuda, and I have trailed my tallit in the warm waters of the Pacific on the shores of San Diego by the Del Coronado.

I have gathered a *minyan* to welcome Shabbat by the sea at Lynch

Park and Dane Street Beach this past summer. This love for nature was nurtured by my summers at camp, with its services in the grove overlooking a pristine lake, and it has been rewarded with the sight of sunset on the Atlantic and the sound of a pounding surf to keep the rhythm of the Shabbat entering the soul.

In the article about Camp Avoda, one of the major features of the climbing tower is that it includes a platform on top for a rest and a view over Lake Tispaquin. All week long we labor at our jobs to reach a certain point where we, too, can revel in our success and be able to enjoy the view of the vistas that surround us. Perhaps this is the educational value Paul Davis speaks about!

What better way is there to educate ourselves in the meaning of Shabbat in the presence of our community, bringing Shabbat into our hearts, into our minds, into our souls, in the presence of community and in the presence of nature, G-d's gift to humankind.

(Ed. Note—this article was excerpted from the newsletter of Congregation B'Nai Abraham of Beverly, MA.)



Sir Mix a Lot

By Ken Shifman

"Quiet Please!"

"Out of Bunk 14 - playing right field..."

"You ain't got no place on your left!"

These were just a few ways tables introduced themselves for the lunch time mixer at Alumni Weekend 2005.

Most of us come to Alumni Weekend to see our friends and the camp, and be part of the familiar. The Alumni Association decided to help people focus on getting to know new people and new faces. The rationale was simple: a) we are all likeminded men of character honed by similar experiences, and b) whoever we meet, we typically like and get along with. We created a mixer to facilitate this effort and decide which table really was, "True Avoda". Think of it as part beauty pageant and part fantasy baseball.

As alumni gathered in the Mess Hall for lunch on Saturday, they were randomly assigned to tables. Each table was assigned a table captain who was responsible for organizing the team and filling out a questionnaire. The questionnaire had such pertinent and weighty questions as "How many people at the table *should* have won leadership" and "Of all the members of your table who was the most successful at a Pembroke Social?" We also probed each table for statistical information like, "Add up the total number of years at the table" and "What is your table's cumulative Color War record?"

The table captains were also responsible for presenting their table's answers to the masses, with scoring based on three categories: quality of subjective answers, comparison of statistical answers and creativity of table presentation. Which table was True Avoda?

Barry Morgan offered a great stand-up delivery talking about his team's 145 total years at Avoda. His team had Marty Wolfe who donated the Leadership trophy to camp—major bonus points!! The funniest

moment of the day came when this group answered the question about who had done best at a Pembroke social. Barry Morgan deadpanned, "Marty Wolfe did the best at a Pembroke Social – and that was last week!!"

Sam Mirkin also presented his team's answers in spirited and entertaining fashion. Their team had Herbie Bamel and again, an advantage: this time reporting 275 years total at Camp Avoda. ("Truth or fiction - You make the call.") In what was surely the biggest physical change at camp since he started, Herbie informed us that the Mess Hall used to be in the Lodge and the mess hall building didn't exist. Greatest raid? Swimming a counselor out to the raft while sleeping.

"Marty Wolfe did the best at a Pembroke Social—and that was last week!!!"

Other tables' answers to greatest raid? Putting the flag pole in the third area. Moving the ENTIRE Mess Hall to the field. How about bringing dead fish (Not Dead/Phish) to Camp Yomechas? Biggest physical change at camp? Mark Rossen losing weight. Answers to the "Funny Trophies" question? The Services Trophy to Aaron Kaswell for telling dirty jokes. Bowling got a few votes. The Frisbee Trophy? Come on Kess.

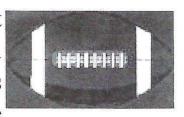
The True Avoda Team, however, was led by Kenny Bubblehead Freeman. The team got mini footballs inscribed with the Avoda logo for winning. Kenny's fun and funny presentation coupled with the team's quality answers separated them from the pack in this mostly futile but refreshing event to bring us all a little closer.

What we found out is, "We're good enough. We're smart enough. And dog-gone-it, people like us!"

Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, Oct. 16, 2005—4:00 P.M.

Alumni Day at Gillette Stadium for the Patriots Away Game



against Denver. 4:00 pm at Gillette Stadium—sign up to attend this fun family event on the alumni section of the Camp Avoda web site: www.campavoda.org.

Friday, Nov. 25, 2005—8:00 P.M.

Had enough Turkey? Finish Thanksgiving in style at Alumni Billiards Night at Boston Billiards. Make sure you RSVP to Lou Dennis at loudennis@comcast.net for this great event.

Kenneth Shifman 43 Standish Road Needham, MA 02492





Camp Avoda Alumni Association P.O. Box 465 Needham Heights, MA 02494 http://www.campavoda.org