

Color War's Infinite Playlist

By Josh Coran, *Guest Contributor, Camp Avoda 1995-present*

My iPod has a set of songs for every occasion. I have a playlist for when I'm in the car. I have a playlist for when I'm at the gym. I have a playlist for when I'm walking to class. I have a playlist of songs I heard in a movie or on a TV show. No doubt my most beloved playlist, however, is the one entitled "Color War Songs."

An iPod playlist has to be special if it connects artists like The Beatles, Eric Clapton, Elton John, James Taylor, Journey, Billy Joel, Tom Petty, Lynyrd Skynyrd, The Rolling Stones, AC/DC, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Green Day, Oasis, Twisted Sister, Poison, Kansas, Johnny Cash, Bryan Adams, Steve Winwood, and Gary Glitter (best Fight Song ever).

I remember the first Color War song I learned. It was to the tune of Dan Fogelberg's *Leader of the Band*, a folk-rock song that, to this day, I've never heard on the radio. I was only 10 and the idea of singing songs in between hockey and Flag Rush seemed crazy to me. But by the end

of the week, when the Blue Grizzlies were standing and sitting in unison and belting out lyrics that I remember to this day ("The songs we sing are of hopes and dreams / They grow up but never old"), I had learned the importance of Song Fest and the impact it had on all Avodians.

Color War songs do more than express our feelings about camp. They transport us to a moment in time that we couldn't otherwise recreate. Whenever I hear the tune from one of Jeff "Goober" Goldberg's memorable songs, I think back to the first moment we got our song sheets or the first time we sang it all the way through. Those songs were life-altering. They changed my entire perspective about "The Avoda Experience." Goober was a real musician and you could tell that through his songs. He used bridges and musical interludes. His songs sounded like real songs. I know that because he spent half of our rehearsal time drilling us on how to E-NUN-CI-ATE.

(continued on page 8)



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Inside this issue:

President's Letter Three Who "Give Back"	2
Alumni Family Day "Sightings" and More	3
Transitions	4
Alumni Weekend	5
"Something to Feel Good About"	6
Scholarship Donors	7
"Avoda and Alumni at Gillette"	8

President's Letter

As President you observe and learn about what makes the Camp Avoda Alumni Association (CAAA) a great extension of Camp Avoda. I have always appreciated the work of our incredible professional Administrative Staff at Camp. They are dedicated and committed in every way. However, the past year has opened my eyes to a world of “volunteers” that I have grown to appreciate more and more. It is often said that it takes the help of multiple members of a community, to make a community. Well, the CAAA is a “community” driven by volunteers. Members of all ages volunteer their time and take on any one of an unlimited number of activities thereby making a significant difference for all of us. The positive impact of volunteers cannot be overstated. We are lucky to have talented, committed, and caring alumni who are there to volunteer—all with a common goal of doing what they personally can to make Camp Avoda everything it possibly can be. Nor can your support of providing scholarship funds for those in need go unmentioned and unheralded. This year you made a record impact on more than 30 campers who, without your financial help, would have been unable to attend Avoda. On their behalf, we are very grateful for your thoughtfulness and generosity. I hope you will support us again this year as we look to break the \$40,000 mark by providing kids “The Avoda Experience.”

As a volunteer and/or donor, you should feel a great sense of personal satisfaction and good feelings knowing you have made a difference. Volunteers sit on our board, plan our social events, work the phones for fundraising, and help prepare the camp during pre-camp. It's volunteers who manage our communications, finances, fundraising, and events. I would like to take a moment to recognize those of you for unselfishly volunteering your time and giving your financial support to our Avoda community. We are keeping the Avoda connection alive for our current and future alumni members. Simply put, when the call goes out you are always there and we could not succeed without your generous participation.

On behalf of the entire Avoda Alumni community, my sincere thanks to all of you who have given so much to Avoda through your volunteerism. To all those who volunteered in any way...stand up for a well deserved round of applause. To those of you who are interested in getting involved...feel free to give me call me at 978-821-3215 or email me at roth.michael@comcast.net.

Lastly, I hope you will join us for part or all of **Alumni Weekend** from June 24-26 and that you, your children, and/or significant other will join us for the afternoon of July 17 for our **Camp Avoda Alumni Family Day** during which time you and your family will be able to participate in all your favorite (and even some new) camp activities hosted by today's staff. The afternoon will be capped off by joining our campers and staff for dinner. To sign up and for more information, **please visit www.campavoda.org and go to “Alumni,” “Events Sign Ups.”**

Mike “Morty” Roth

Camp Avoda 1974-1985

Two Alumni and a Bar Mitzvah Boy “Give Back”

Recently, two Avoda alumni were planning to celebrate their birthdays with friends and family. While they wanted to throw a great party they soon decided to do something special, something more, and to ask their family and friends to join them. They knew that Avoda played a big role in their development, in the kind of men they became, in shaping the values they hold today, and in giving them life-long friendships. They chose *not* to accept traditional birthday gifts from their guests. They chose *not* to tell their guests “the only presence we want is yours.” Rather, they asked their guests to acknowledge their birthdays by honoring the institution they believe was so vital in their growth and development—Avoda. Any gift to Avoda would be welcome, but their goal was to provide a camper—who without their help would not be able to attend—a summer experience like theirs. Their family and friends heard them and honored them by providing enough scholarship funding to provide a boy in-need a full summer experience with practically no cost to the boy's family. *That's The Avoda Experience.*

Bar Mitzvah. The time a Jewish boy becomes a man. While this Avodian was enjoying all the celebrations and trappings which come with this life cycle event, he quietly asked his grandparents, aunts, uncles, and a few family friends to make gifts to Avoda to help a family in need be able to offer their son “The Avoda Experience” he currently enjoys. He'll never know the boy whom he helped to send to camp, but he knows he's there with him on the athletic field, waterfront, and in the mess hall. A boy becomes a man.

Having a special event? Consider using it to support a boy to have his own “Avoda Experience.”



Correction: The photo of alumni attending last summer's Senior Class Reunion appearing in the fall 2010 newsletter should have been captioned: Visiting alumni (L to R) Marv Peikin (1966 Bunk 14), Saul Lieberman (1966 Bunk 14), Phil Greenspan (1964 Bunk 14), Fred Landy (1966 Bunk 14), Marshal Lukoff (circa 1970s), and Phil Lukoff (1974 Bunk 14). *Our apologies.*



Alumni Assoc Gift to Camp

For several years, the Alumni Association has given the camp an annual gift. Past gifts have included the trophy case, a set of new flags, golf nets, flat screen TV and furniture for the staff lounge, and more. This year, we are please to support the introduction of a Mountain Biking elective with the purchase of new bikes and safety gear. *Ride Fun, Ride Safe!*

Pack up the blankets, beach chairs, softball gloves, fishing rod, towels, bug spray, and other equipment and take the minivan to head out for an afternoon of “free play” with all activities open at dear ol’ A-V-O-D-A. Here’s your chance to bring your significant other and/or kids to the place you grew up while enjoying a day of sun and fun too. Starting at 2:00 PM, join other Avoda alumni families enjoying all the old activities with some new ones thrown in as well. Visit your old bunks, the Lodge, arts and crafts, waterfront, and basketball, hockey, and tennis courts. And most of all, you and your family will get to participate in all the programs our kids do today. The campers will be out of camp for most of the afternoon while we take over the campus with today’s staff running the activities. And when the campers return, finish the afternoon with more than 150 current Avodians at an all-camp BBQ dinner. For more information and reservations, go to www.campavoda.org, “Alumni,” “Event Sign Ups” or email tom@campavoda.org.

Avoda Staff Intern Program

Another Way to Support the Camp Avoda Community

In order to retain our excellent staff members (many of whom are in college), Camp Avoda is trying to enhance its Internship Program. Lou Dennis, an alum and member of the camp Board of Directors, started the Camp Avoda Internship Program several years ago. The program helps staff by providing work opportunities and credible internship experiences. It helps camp by subsequently allowing staff to come back to camp after getting that “resume building” real life experience.

We seek to match our staff members with internship opportunities through our Alumni businesses and professional work places. We are looking to **expand** this program and the



opportunities available for staff by asking you to **provide any internship opportunities to our staff**. We are looking for jobs (paying or not) during winter break and/or for a week or two prior to the summer in May or June. If you can help in this capacity or have other ideas, please contact Camp Director Ken Shifman at ken@campavoda.org.

Sightings



Jim Sklaver (1987 Bunk 14) was quoted on April 26, 2011 in *The Boston Globe*. Jim, bar manager of the recently opened restaurant and pub Meadhall in Cambridge, says of his 110 craft beers on tap, “We’re trying to stay away from big names. We want to take care of the little guy.” Jim, who spent the last five years as a chef in Brookline, said of the Kendall Square hotspot that he expects Meadhall to become as well known for their local food as they are quickly becoming known as the best place for beer. You can also catch Jimmy “The Butcher” Sklaver grilling up his wares at Alumni Weekend’s signature Friday night tailgate event on June 24th.

Jason Starr (1990 Bunk 14) was featured in *Ski Racing Magazine* in April 2011. Jason has engineered a special brand of Surf Ski’s that extreme skier Chuck Patterson demoed while skiing Maui’s epic surf spot “Jaws.” Jason has spent more than a decade designing these skis and is revolutionizing one of the most exciting extreme sports. All that waterskiing on Lake Tispaquin finally paid off! [Know any “Sightings” or “Transitions(pg 4)?” Email details to tom@campavoda.org]



Transitions

Arrivals

- *Jonah Nathan Cooper* to Emily and **Jon Cooper** (1996 Bunk 14), March 13, 2011
- *Samuel Tyler Peters* to Rebecca (Camp Pembroke) and **Steve Peters** (1989 Bunk 14), October 21, 2010
- *Henry Maxwell Grossman* to Mr. and Mrs. **Jake Grossman** (1997 Bunk 14), November 3, 2010
- *Eliana June Wollman* to Amanda and **Michael Wollman** (1987 Bunk 14), March 15, 2011
- *Molly Fay Kimball* to Allison and **EJ Kimball** (1994 Bunk 14), July 17, 2010
- *Aliyah Lilah Cohen* to Melanie Pogach and **Michael Cohen** (1986 Bunk 14), March 12, 2011

Engagements

- **Benny Cohen** (1998 Bunk 14) to Kari Hirsch
- **Greg Lazaroff** (1997 Bunk 14) to Jennifer Sosna
- **Michael Kreppel** (1995 Bunk 14) to Nia Lutch
- **Eric Steiman** (1996 Bunk 14) to Missy Jerome

Marriages

- **Aaron Agulnek** (1993 Bunk 14) to Peri Karger, October 10, 2010
- **Ed Heitin** (1985 Bunk 14) to Alison Wallack, July 26, 2010
- **Spencer Kimball** (1992 Bunk 14) to Cindy Roberts, October 24, 2010

Passages

Morris Satloff, *January 9, 2011, age 90*. Morris was at Avoda for many years starting in the early 1930's. He joined many other Senior Class Avodians for a reunion this past summer. He emigrated from the Ukraine to the US in 1923 with his parents settling in Providence, Rhode Island. He served in World War II as a clerk and rabbi's assistant in Italy and North Africa. After the War, he focused on his career as an accountant, father, and husband always involved in and supporting Providence area Jewish causes. His three sons, Robert, Lewis, and David, all spent multiple years at Avoda from 1965 to the late 1970s. Morris' grandsons carry on the Avoda tradition by attending camp today.

Irving Kessler, *October 2, 2010, age 88*. Irving was at Avoda from 1939 to 1942. Of his Avoda experience, Irving shared the following with us during a visit to camp last summer: "My last season at Camp Avoda was in 1942. During the summer I joined other Avodians whose age made us eligible for the draft. Those who hadn't already registered had to visit the Middleboro Town Hall and do so. A month later I decided to enlist and not wait for a call up. Almost a year later I was in England serving as an expert in radar. When I think of Avoda I remember the safety of Lake Tispaquin, the pranks we played like hoisting the nurse's underwear on the camp flag pole. No longer was it my source of pleasurable excitement, but Camp Avoda certainly prepared me for the 'group living' I was forced to experience until the surrender of the Nazi army and Imperial Japan. Avoda then became a pleasant memory with a colorful flag-pole." Irv spent his life devoted to the creation and founding of the State of Israel, rescuing Soviet and Ethiopian Jews from

persecution, and a host of local New England Jewish causes. "The summers at Avoda," he went on to tell us, "helped me to survive the years that followed World War II and prepared me to assist in the creation of the Jewish State – Israel."

Chester "Chet" Simmons, *March 25, 2010, age 81*. Hailing from Ossining, New York and Pawtucket, Rhode Island, Chet spent his years at Avoda on the athletic field planning his future. Competing in Color War football games and working on Color War team drafts seemed to help as well. Chet is best known, outside of Avoda, for his work developing ABC's "Wide World of Sports," serving as President of NBC Sports, being the first commissioner of the United States Football League, and for being the driving force behind the founding and development of a then struggling channel in the new world of cable TV in the late 1970s-ESPN.

Bill Bamel, *April 25, 2011, age 72*. Bill, a Leadership winner, was at Avoda for many years during the 1950s. He was a Navy veteran and his family recently donated his Navy flag to the Thomas Leavitt Camp Archive in honor of all Avodians-past and present-who served in our armed forces. Bill's brother Herb, along with nephews Jon and David, all had long careers at Avoda. This summer, Bill's grandnephew Harrison continues to follow in the footsteps of his Grand Uncle Bill, Grandfather Herb, Uncle David, and Father Jon as he enters Bunk 14.

Jeff Silverman, *January 3, 2010, age 58*. Jeff was at Avoda from the early to late 1960s. He was part of the legendary 1966 Bunk 14 which included Saul Lieberman, Fred Landy, Marv Peikin, Rick Berry, Rick Black, Irv Canner, Peter Feinberg, Steve Gaswirth, Alex Rossner, and Dave Robbins. Even though he eventually settled in Kansas, his heart was always in Middleboro. Knowing his love for Avoda and for his best lifelong Avoda friends Fred and Saul, the wives of all three gave them a "reunion trip" to Avoda in the spring of 2008 while Jeff was battling cancer. In May they arrived at camp, hopped the fence to get in, and spent the day reminiscing. They then joined other alums at the Alumni Red Sox game and were warmly greeted and embraced by Avodians of all generations.

Adam Ross, *September 6, 2010, age 38*. A member of the 1987 Bunk 14, Adam is remembered by most as an athlete, terrific bunkmate, and an all around great camper. His closest friends remained those he made at Avoda. After his college and camp days, Adam moved to the west coast working in the entertainment and hospitality business. While readying to start his own business venture, he served as Vice President of Restaurant Operations for a holding company of restaurants, wineries, spas, resorts, wine stores, and boutiques founded by current San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom. Adam is remembered by close Avoda friends Greg, Russell, Mike, Mike, Ken, and others as being a great athlete, smart, loyal, fun to be around, funny, confident, positive, focused, and an all around wonderful and loving friend.

Donate "in honor of" or "in memory of" an alum's event. Honorees will be notified of your gift and/or for those in whose memory you give a gift, a scholarship fund will be established in their name. Use enclosed or go to www.campavoda.org.

Alumni Weekend

June 24-June 26, 2011

Brought to you by the Camp Avoda Alumni Association &
Co-Chairs Aaron Agulnek, Greg Lazaroff, and Barry Morgan

Weekend Highlights

Friday Morning: Golf Outing. Create your own foursome or we'll pair you up. A great start to the weekend at a nearby course. Email Jeff Vetstein at jvetter18@gmail.com for more information & to sign-up.

Friday Night: Late night tailgate and BBQ

Saturday: Pick-up games, waterfront activities, and/or "Free Play" plus a few surprises too!

Sunday Morning: Hoops Tourney

Auction to Benefit Alumni Scholarship Fund

The Live Samoo NYC Package (priceless!)

Red Sox Tickets

JD Drew Autographed Baseball

Gift Certificates

and more

Event Registration Opens Friday at 5:00 PM/Come for one day or all three!

Throughout the Weekend: Help us identify lots of old photos with the names of those in them and from what year that picture was likely taken-soon to appear on our web site.

Don't Want to Sleep in the bunks...again? We have secured a block of rooms at Days Inn in Middleboro around the corner from Dairy Queen off 28 on 105. Call the Days Inn at 508-946-4400, ask for "reservations," and say you want to reserve a room under the "Avoda Alumni Block" for the \$80/night rate. A limited number of rooms are available so act fast! The hotel contact is Gisele Thomas. For additional information or assistance, call Alumni Weekend Co-Chair Aaron Agulnek at 781-504-6725 or email avodaalumni@gmail.com

Sign Up Now at www.campavoda.org and go to "Alumni" "Event Sign Ups"



Sixty-eight of the more than 100 alumni who attended 2010 Alumni Weekend events from Friday to Sunday afternoon

Something to Feel Good About

By Seth Fox, *Camp Avoda 1981-1995* and Eddie Klayman, *Camp Avoda 1975-1979*

Anyone that has participated in the revelry of a Camp Avoda Alumni Association (CAAA) event in the last 24 years knows that the CAAA has been successful at reconnecting alumni with old bunkmates and linking one's childhood memories to the present. But you may not know the impact that the CAAA is having on campers today. Aside from being a fraternal organization, the CAAA is charged with providing scholarship to Jewish families, which exhibit a financial need, to send their boys to Avoda.

Due to the gracious support of generous alumni like you, the CAAA donated \$31,005 in scholarship tuition in the 2010 calendar year ensuring that 30 deserving families will be able to defray the costs of sending their boys to Avoda. This represents a 36% increase in scholarship funds raised and donated compared to those in 2009. This is truly something to feel good about, especially since these boys are excelling at Camp. Prior scholarship recipients include All-Around Campers, activity trophy winners, and future Jewish leaders of our community.

Unfortunately, the need for tuition assistance is not abating. In fact, the need is getting bigger due to the stalled economy and the increases in the cost of camp operations. The CAAA has a goal of raising \$40,000 in scholarship aid during the 2011 calendar year. Therefore, we would like to explain how the fundraising calendar works. These funds will be raised through three annual fundraising activities:

Direct Mail Annual Appeal

The package this newsletter came in also contains the Direct Mail Annual Appeal letter. This appeal kicks-off the scholarship campaign for the new campaign calendar year.



Alumni Weekend Some alumni choose to give their donation in person while visiting Camp. Some of these gifts were donations that supplemented prior contributions, while others were made to “round-off” their Alumni Weekend event tuition (no portion of Alumni Weekend fees goes to the scholarship fund).

Alumni Phone-a-thon The Phone-a-thon takes place in the fall and closes out the campaign year with your last chance to give.

Tzedakah is a central tenet of Judaism and we are hopeful that you will consider the CAAA Camper Scholarship Fund when you choose to make your charitable contributions. As an organization, we look to only solicit one scholarship gift from you per year. If, for example, you give to the Direct Mail Appeal then you will not be asked for another gift at the Phone-a-thon. When you consider making a donation, you may be confident in knowing that 100% of your scholarship gift goes to camper tuition and that your donation is 100% tax deductible. None of the fees from any CAAA sponsored social event go to scholarship support. Those fees fund the cost of running the event and, if there is any surplus, to the cost of running the CAAA (covering expenses such as newsletters, mail appeals, web work, etc).

In conclusion, the CAAA and its members are doing a tremendous mitzvah with the scholarship fund. Young Jewish boys are having the chance to excel in sports and waterfront activities while building relationships and leadership skills to last a lifetime.

Thank you for your past support and the CAAA and our kids are counting on you for your continued support.



Special Recognition & Thanks

The Camp Avoda Alumni Association would like to recognize the contributions of Board Members **Ken “Bubble Head” Freeman** and **Jeff Blocker**—both of whom recently stepped off the CAAA Board. **Ken**, most known for his “spirited” manner and creative attention to detail, changed the way we all think about Alumni Weekend. He took the weekend to heights that its founders never thought possible. **Jeff** served 15 years on the CAAA board as a “Jack-of-All Trades.” He spearheaded many different events including one of our first scholarship fund raising Phone-a-thons. Jeff can be proud that during his time on the board he had a part in sending dozens of boys to Camp Avoda from families-in-need.

We honor the service, contributions, and leadership Ken and Jeff provided all Avodians. Though you will be missed, your marks remain everlasting. Thank you!

2010 Alumni Scholarship Fund Donors

Your support in 2010 raised more than \$31,000 from more than 200 alumni with 100% of your donation providing direct camper tuition support. *Thank you and thanks to our corporate matching partners as well.*

Your generosity provided 30 campers the opportunity to attend Avoda!

Leadership Donors

\$5,000 or more

Ed Klayman

All Around Camper

Donors

\$1,000-\$2,999

David Bamel
Greg Lazaroff
David Yarkin

Kosher Kabin Donors

\$500-\$999

Ken Freeman
Steve "Izzy" Israel
David Jaye
James Levine
Dan Saval
Andy Spear
Eric Yaffe

Rec-O Donors \$250-\$499

Anonymous
Andrew Aronson
Jeff Blocker
Scott Brockman
Rob Cohen
Gary Epstein
Steven Finn
Seth Fox
David Glattstein
David Goldberg
Rich Lefkowitz
Michael Roth
Barry Samuels
Lewis Satloff
Brett Smith
Robert Sokolowsky
David Wertheim

Bunk-O Donors

\$100-\$249

1995 Bunk 14
Anonymous(3)
Jeremy Agulnek
Stephen Aronson
Jon Bamel
Dan Bauman
Brimma
Aaron Bornstein
Matt Bridges
George Brockman
Irv Canner
Doug Charton
David Chella
Robert Coffman
Ben Cohen
Nate Cohen

Robbie Coppel
Josh Coran
Jeff Davis
Raph Davis
Louis Dennis
Jesse Faneuil
Steven Ferris
Micah Fleisig
Herb Fogel
Steve Goldsmith
Adam Goldstein
Stu Glass
Jeff Golumbuk
Eric Goodman
Phil Greenspan
Jake Grossman
Irv Horowitz
Arthur Huberman
Peter Hurvitz
Russell Kane
Jason Kaplan
Michael Kaplan
Aaron Kaswell
Michael R. Katz
Mike Kreppel
Jeff Keselman
Irving Kessler*
David R. King
Bill Kleinmann
Jim Kleinman
Thomas Leavitt
Saul N. Lieberman
Marshall Lukoff
Eric Marenburg
Sam Mirkin
Barry Morgan
Eli Nefussy
Wycoff Nissenbaum
Seth Peters
James Roffman
Scott Rosen
Adam Ross*
Michael Ross
Andrew Rubin
Mitch Rubin
Mike Rutstein
Bill Samuels
Ken Sandberg
Robert Satloff
David Shaff
Russell Sherman
Ken Shifman
Paul Simon
Jim Singer
Michael Singer
Andy Stone
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Matt and Evan Traiger
Adam Udell
Jeff Vetstein
Rich Vetstein
Derek Weener
Ken Wilensky
David Wilkov
Michael Wollman
Steve Zaidman

Donors \$50-\$99

Anonymous(2)
Daniel Aballi
Matt Abrams
Ed Adler
Aaron Agulnek
Steve Black
Michael Cohen
David Fine
Andrew Freedman
Gary Gilberg
Mark Ginsberg
Stephen Gladstone
Barney Horowitz
Robert Jaye
Todd Katz
Gary Kushner
Ian Levine
Bryan Malamut
Todd Miller
William Mintzer
Jeff Nathanson
Brian Norcross
Stephen Peters
David Pratter
Glenn Rodney
David Rubin
Andrew Rubinger
Jamie Sasson
Michael Schindler
Michael Snyder
Jason Starr
Andy Steiner
Adam Van Dam
Peter Varga
Ariel Waldman
Michael Weinstein
Steve Woolf

Donors \$49 or less

Joe Avoda
Adam Becker
Myles Block
Victor Blumenthal
Cory Brine
Jake Cohen
Steve Englander
Josh Fox

Frank Glaser
Russell Katz
Zoe, Carson, & Lindsey
Kaiser
Grayson Kimball
Scott Levenson
Phil Lukoff
Andrew Mason
Jeff Mason
Marc Miles
Joshua Muncey
Mark Needel
Steve Needel
Jonah Nissenbaum
David Nitckin
Matt Norcross
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Rob Pemstein
Norm Plotkin
Harold Poverman
David Satloff
Adam Silevitch
Mitch Simon
Josh "Moose"
Schneider
Eric Shaff
Bob Sokolsky
Mark Solomon
Michael Wasserman
Jon Wilcon
Michael Yanow

Program Support

Anonymous
Jon Bamel
Josh Chadajo

In-Kind Support

Anonymous
Dan Bauman
BlueHillPress.com
Bruce Silverlieb
ThePartySpecialist.com
Bret Smith
LifeSupportSystems.com
Mark & Gary Solomon



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Should there be an error or omission,
please accept our apologies & email
tom@campavoda.org

*Deceased

Great Color War songs accomplish what most of us cannot. They define The Avoda experience in a way most Avodians never could. They take our deepest emotions—the unexplainable ones we can never quite articulate—and put them in a context that speaks to everyone listening. Much that I've learned about camp, I learned through the lyrics of a Color War song. The Blue Justice Alma Mater (*Leningrad*) taught me that “What sets this place above the rest / is our sense of togetherness.” The White Vipers Free Choice (*Closer to Fine*) taught me to “Absorb the time that passes by your face / You never know how long you'll have this place.”



The song, to the tune of *Against All Odds* by Phil Collins, asked the question every counselor asks as his Avoda career comes to an end: “Will they remember me then / When I'm just a name on the wall / Will they remember me as a hero / Or will my legend slowly fall?” Avoda is rich with history and every counselor wonders if they'll be remembered after they're gone. That song plays in my head every time I give a Chip Ceremony

Bonfire speech or stare at a Camp Honor Roll. We all want to leave a lasting legacy at camp and for Buddha it was that song.

A truly great song can also immortalize a team that didn't get to dance in Lake Tispaquin at week's end. The Blue Terror comes to mind. That team will always be defined by their unforgettable Alma Mater (*Can You Feel the Love Tonight*), a song—penned by my Bunk 14 counselor Aaron Kaswell—that I had to hear from the other side of the Lodge (aka Library/Old Mess Hall). It's a song that had my friends crying before Song Fest's end, a song that defined my Bunk 14 summer, and a song that spoke to me in a way no other song had done before: “How can I go home without / All the friends I've made / It won't be long until I'm free again / To be with my best friends.” When they sang it a few nights later at the Banquet, I had my beanie off in salute to a song that I will never forget.

Avoda is pretty overblown with adrenaline and machismo. Many of our activities are about competition and rivalries among friends. But Song Fest is the exception; one night that's not about beating the other guys' brains in. Much like the Chip Ceremony Bonfire it's a night when it's okay to open up, to share our feelings, and yes, to even cry a little. But the night would mean nothing without the songs—the most enduring and most remembered by all being the Camp Avoda Alma Mater.

No song has meant more to me than the Blue Justice Free Choice, which first time lieutenant Dan “Buddha” Saval wrote as an ode to his final summer.

Over the years, I've sung some great ones (*White Force—Wonderful Tonight*) and some not-so-great ones. I was even lucky enough to write one (*Blue Army—Hurt*) that spoke to kids in the same way that Jeff Goldberg's songs spoke to me. As I wrote that song, I thought of him every step of the way. With every line I thought, “Would Goober have liked this?” His influence—and the influence of all the great songs I've heard—helped me as I put that song together. And believe me, those kids knew how to E-NUN-CI-ATE.

Avoda & Alumni at Gillette

By Ken Shifman, *Camp Director, Camp Avoda 1980-1990*

On this given Sunday, October 24, 2010, more than 100 Avodians gathered at Gillette Stadium to watch the New England Patriots play some ball against the San Diego Chargers. Of course the real motivation was to see fellow Avodians: campers, parents, alumni and their children, staff members and CIT's, administration, and prospective families.

Because the Patriots were on the road, we had access to the Club Section and to the stadium for outside seating to watch the game on the JumboTron—all thanks to Alumni Board member Ed Klayman who chairs the event and whose generosity secured the location. It has become a great Camp Avoda event and fosters so much of what makes Avoda special: friends, social connections, different generations, sports, team-work, and fun.

Like any good football event, we had “Super Bowl Squares” with prizes for the winners—Patriots' footballs.



Michael Roth, Ken Shifman, Paul Simon

The Alumni Association also combined this event with its annual Toy Drive to support Jewish Big Brother Big Sister Association to kick off the holiday season a little early. And from alumni and current Avoda families, more than \$1,000 was raised for Avoda Scholarship.

We are confident we are making a difference in children's lives – another common and familiar theme with Camp Avoda!