



SPRING 2016

THE BUGLE

The Newsletter of the Camp Avoda Alumni Association

A TRIBUTE TO PGD

Temple Sinai, Sharon, Massachusetts May 9, 2015

On May 9, 2015, hundreds of Avodians, friends, and spouses of Avodians attended the 50th Anniversary Tribute Gala celebrating the 50 amazing Summers that Paul G. Davis served as head counselor and Director of Avoda. Part-reunion, part roast, and a full tribute, it truly was a magnificent once-in-a-lifetime event.



Emcee'd by Tom Leavitt, Avodians from near and far, from the 1960s to the 2010s, all shared their



great memories of PGD. Beginning in 1966, Mr. Davis oversaw the growth and change of Avoda, and left an indelible mark on the past, present and future of Camp Avoda. All of us are forever grateful that PGD was there to steadfastly steer Avoda into the 21st century, while never forgetting the traditions we all cherish. For his 50 years of faithful service to Camp Avoda, the Alumni Association tips

our beanies in salute! (Event Photos cont. on Page 4 and more available on campavoda.org/alumni)

Jeff Vetstein
President

Seth Jacobs
Secretary

Barry Morgan
Treasurer

Aaron Agulnek
Eddie Bernson
David Chella
Nate Cohen
Seth Fox
David Glattstein
Mark Goldberg
Sam Mirkin
Ben Rubin
Larry Rubin
Andy Stone

Helping Kids go to Avoda

*This Newsletter is
dedicated to Mary Ann*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



A TRIBUTE TO MARY ANN FRENCH

We remember the World's Greatest Nurse.



PHOTO GALLERY OF PGD TRIBUTE

Remembering the incredible evening.



ALUMNI WEEKEND RECAP

(It was fun)

President's Letter by Sam Mirkin

And so here we are. My last president's letter for The Bugle, having handed over the reins to the estimable Jeff Vetstein. It has been a long and most fulfilling journey for me on the Camp Avoda Alumni Association board starting with being asked to join the group in 1996. It could have been 1995, but STML prevents me from a more definitive answer. Much has changed in the intervening years; everyone who was on the board when I started has since moved on and many members have come and gone in that time. It has been a privilege to serve with each of them.

Our social calendar is as full as ever, and Avodians everywhere gather formally and informally throughout the year. Just a few weeks ago, several dozen of us were together to raise a glass in memory of Bubba Miller. It was a fine reason to see each other, as Bubba would have wanted.

We have also increased our scholarship gift to the camp exponentially over the years, and there is no accomplishment of which I am more proud. For much of the early part of my tenure on the board, I was on the editorial staff of the newsletter and this was always one my favorite roles. On many occasions, I would meet up with Kess, Bones and Shif and we would place the address labels and postage on each newsletter by hand before mailing out the world's best bathroom reading. It wasn't that fun a job, but it was always a fun time and, now, feels like an awfully long time ago.

It's hard to believe so much time has gone by. Twenty Alumni Weekends, innumerable DQ trips, PGD 50, a bunch of uber-successful Alumni scholarship phone-a-thons and umpteen Thanksgiving Football games. We have come a long way, but in all the important ways it is THE SAME AS IT EVER WAS..

So I leave the President's chair completely satisfied with what we have accomplished, where things stand now, and our outlook for the future. The current group of gentlemen on the board is strong and well-balanced, dedicated to our mission and has the zeal to carry things forward. I leave you with the closing stanza of my remarks from PGD 50; it sums up how I feel about, well, a lot of things. "The years will go passing by, and our memories will fade into the gloaming. The days of our youth will slip away into the deep recesses of our minds and we will forget more than we remember. But we'll always remember that for those summers we were at Avoda, there was no place in this world we'd rather have been. And we'll remember walking down PGD path and the feeling of peaceful joy when you step on the field and see the bunks standing their timeless watch over the best place on earth. And for as long as anyone could remember, Paul Davis also stood watch. For his is the spirit of Avoda brotherhood, the spirit of right hand over left, the thread that weaves together the blue and white tapestry of Avoda - carefully woven over five decades. And whatever else is lost to the years, we'll remember Avoda because home is indelible."

Until we meet again on the shores of Lake Tispaquin,
Sam "Mamu" Mirkin

Tispaquin is Looney- A Brief History

By Seth Jacobs

WE spent many Summers living on this Tispaquin, using it for swimming, smallcrafts, water polo, etc. with little knowledge of it's surprising history. Perhaps this is why the lore of the Lake- from Tispaquin Looney to Wheelchair Mary- can be so bone-chilling. This body of water was at the epicenter of the King Philip's War, has played a small part of our military history, and has been used for recreation for centuries. Tispaquin was named after a "fearless" Wampanoag Warrior during the King Philip's War, who is said to have been born near Middleboro in the mid-1600s.

He rose to be Sachem (Chief) of the Wampanoag's, but was executed by English Settlers in Plymouth. With the "Indian threat" reduced, European settlers deeded the area around Tispaquin soon afterwards. Henry David Thoreau, famous for his writings of another New England pond, Walden, makes note in his journal of October 5, 1855 that he stopped by the East Shore of Lake Tispaquin on his way to Plymouth. Tispaquin became a training ground for militia during the summer of 1913, when 3,000 National Guardsmen conducted drills in and around Tispaquin, camping near the Pond and conducting "mimic battles.". In the winters, through the 1920s, the lake was used for providing ice throughout the Middleboro area. Today, Tispaquin serves the recreation needs of Avoda's boys, and townies.



National Guardsmen, 1913



Tispaquin Ice Truck, 1920s

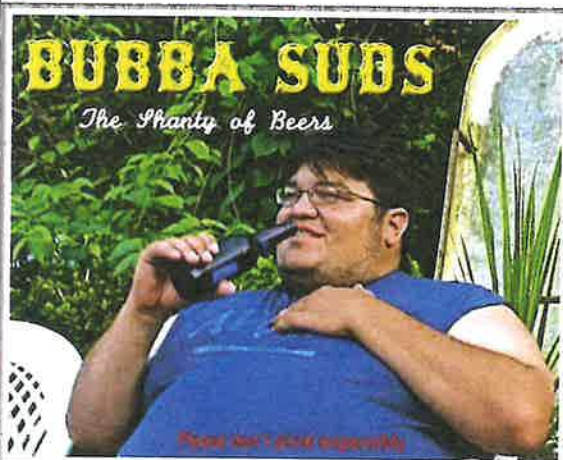
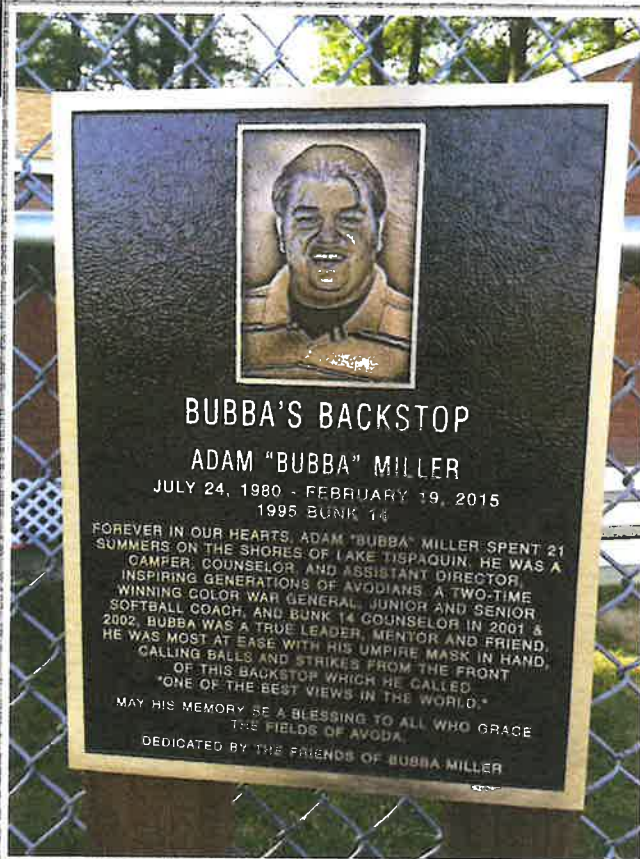
DEDICATION OF BUBBA'S BACKSTOP

PAGE 3

At Alumni Weekend 2015 it was announced that on July 25, 2015, the backstop at Camp Avoda would be formally dedicated to the late great Adam "Bubba" Miller. Thanks to the great generosity of the Friends of Bubba Miller, and in particular, the efforts of Aaron Agulnek & Spencer Kimball, this ceremony was a roaring tribute to our dear friend.

The entire Camp partook in the unveiling of a world-class Cooperstown style plaque, which will stand as a testament to Bubba's unwavering devotion to Avoda and, in particular, umpiring of softball games. There were numerous remembrances of Bubba's time at camp. Family & friends spent the day at Avoda, on the weekend of what would have been Bubba's 35th birthday.

Afterwards, the campers, friends, and family, were treated to a host of games and inflatables, just as Bubbs would want!



Special Edition Brew



Dave Charton, a fellow '9514er



Todd Miller honors his brother



Bubba's Many CW and Team Shirts



Spencer Kimball pays tribute to a great friend



50 YEARS OF PAUL G. DAVIS

TRIBUTE DINNER AND REUNION MAY 9 2015



Russell Sherman & PGD



The "key game"



Avoda Leadership: PGD & Ken Shifman



A call to arms: Taps!



Mary Ann French



That 70s Show



Havdalah: Shabbat Shalom!

Make Yourself Beautiful
Just Like Mr. Davis



Mention Mr. Davis and receive
25% OFF*

Hair • Skincare • Manicures & Pedicures • Massage & Relax
Stylish Tricore Studio • Cosmetics • Medical Aesthetics

154 East Central Street | Natick MA 01760
508.907.7171 | www.jesamondo.com

jesamondo
Salon • Spa • Daycare

The Best Ad-
Jesamondo!



"The Big Guy"



Tom Leavitt, PGD & Bruce Silverlieb



The Members Only Crew



Kool (Benjga) & the Gang

A Nurse for the Ages: Mary Ann French

1940-2015

By Bugle Staff

Mary Ann French was hired as the Camp Avoda nurse in 1993. For the next twenty-three summers (eighteen of those years as the head full-time nurse) she treated Avoda's boys and young men, from minor bruises to major fractures, and everything (staph infections) in between. But Mary Ann was much more than a camp nurse; she was also the warm-hearted and caring woman who did so much more than dispensing medicine. Young boys who were homesick found a motherly and grandmotherly figure in Mary Ann. Avoda's parents were relieved that this truly devoted and kind woman was there to oversee the health and well-being of their boys. They knew they could depend on Mary Ann, and would get timely updates on their son's health.

Mary Ann's infirmary was a respite from the day-to-day run of camp. She had a television (though you couldn't stay too long), fla-vor-ice, phone calls, and air-conditioning. She was devoted and dedicated to the care and well-being of every single camper and counselor. As a nurse, she was second to none in delivering quality care. And she did so with an infectious smile and tremendous sense-of-humor.

Mary Ann meant so much to so many people, and Avoda was just one small part of her incredible life. She was the wife of Dana and mother of Luke and Maggie (who was also beloved by many at Avoda). Mary Ann loved basketball, especially the NCAA. She was the head nurse at St. Anselm's College for many years. There, she was cherished by her coworkers and the students, many of whom worked with her at Avoda during the summer.



Two legends of Avoda

For twenty-six years before Avoda, she served at the head nurse at Camp Fatima. Everyone knew that Mary Ann departed a week or two early every summer, as she volunteered at the "Exceptional Citizens Week," at Camp Fatima, an overnight camp for adults

with disabilities. She gave herself for such a worthy endeavor, for more than fifty years.

Mary Ann disliked saying "goodbye" at the end of every



summer. Often she would just leave, sparing herself the emotions of departing from individuals whom she loved so dearly. And so, as she would have wanted, we simply say to Mary Ann French, "'til we meet again."



Alumni Happenings

Marriages:

Dave Chella to Kailyn Mulcahy, 9/6/2015

Adam Greenstein to Jenny Schlossman, 9/25/2015

Matt Traiger to Jordana Morel, 10/24/2015

Aaron Kaswell to Katie Sobel 11/7/2015

Births:

Benny Cohen, baby boy, Russell Oliver, 8/7/2015

Ben Pemstein, baby boy, Louis Ryder, 9/19/2015

Mike Pemstein, baby boy, Theodore Remy, 10/12/2015

David "Jackpot" Glattstein, baby boy, Charlie Norman, 8/25/2015

Doug Charton, baby girl, Josephine May, 7/19/2015

Dave Charton, baby boy, Jack Columbus, 1/7/2016

Derek Weener, baby boy, Jacob Samuel, 3/4/2016

Wyckoff Nissenbaum, baby boy, Kenneth Ross, 3/12/2016



Kaz & Katie



Sawyer, MD



Dave & Matt Chella at Dave's nuptials



Bunk 14 2030 (LtoR): Teddy Pemstein, Louie Pemstein, Charlie Glattstein, Russell Cohen



Traiger & his beautiful bride, do you believe in miracles? Yes!



Josie & Jack Charton

SAVE THE DATE!!! Alumni Weekend June 24-26, 2016

ALUMNI WEEKEND 2015

By Dan Gollinger

ON Friday, June 19, 2015, 23 Gibbs Road was open for business, but not typical business. The fields, courts, and lake, meant for young athletes, were overrun by flabby and out-of-shape old guys. Over 100 former Bunk Counselors, AD's, Color War Generals, Desert War Captains, and Camp Rabbi's returned to Camp Avoda for the 29th annual Alumni Weekend, to relive the glory days of summer and catch up with old friends.

As soon as people start arriving the first night, you could feel the buzz and energy in the air. We all picked up where we left off. Such was the case Friday night when everyone gathered for the Rec Hall tournament and later at the beach for the staple late night BBQ led by grilled chicken connoisseurs, Sam Mirkin and James Sklaver.

Friday night had no surprises but Saturday was a different story; we had a lot planned. After the usual morning pick-up games and casual/not casual field volleyball tournament, the newly popular Asian style lunch was served. Following the customary parade of announcements in the mess hall, everyone put on their new Avoda softball shirt and gathered at the diamond for a special tribute to Adam "Bubba" Miller. Aaron Agulnek gave a moving speech and announced the backstop would be dedicated to Bubba and renamed "Bubba's Backstop."

Shortly after, the fire alarm rang out and Mr. Davis directed all alumni to the front of his cabin! To everyone's shock and relief, there was no fire at all (wha what?), but instead, a path walk was about to begin. Chella was getting the activity announcement ready while I was stalling on the megaphone. "Can I have two MORE 1st lieutenants please?" The Franks walked down, and each side went crazy, not even knowing which Frank they got. Finally, a few "staff" walks later, Miklos comes barreling down inside an inflatable ball. Bubbleball!

It's an activity never before seen at Avoda. Two teams essentially play a game of soccer but each player wears an inflatable bubble from the waist up. Of course, in true Avoda fashion, the actual rules didn't last long and eventually devolved to guys running into each other at full speed, first with one on one matchups, and then with 4 people launching into each other. Are you not entertained? The peanut gallery on the field was. Free play continued for a while and the only thing better than a few cold ones on the field with sunny skies and music in the background is all that plus an ice cream truck!



Ice cream led to the Sat night BBQ which led to Sat night games in the Mess Hall. Games and schmoozing went on late into the night.

Sunday morning, the rain couldn't hold off any longer and it washed away our outdoor 3v3 basketball tournament. We improvised and moved the tournament to the rec hall where I finally won a 3v3 title (albeit with an asterisk). Thanks to all those who helped organize the event, including Dave Chella, Eddie Bernson, Seth Fox, Tom Leavitt, Ken Shifman, and the CAAA Board. Thanks to the Camp Avoda Board for letting us use the camp. Don't miss it in **2016 (June 24th-26th)**, see you there!





Since 1927

Brotherhood • Leadership • Spirit • Tradition

35 Waterfall Drive, Suite J
Canton, MA 02021

Presorted
First-Class Mail
U.S. Postage
PAID
Brockton, MA
Permit No. 301

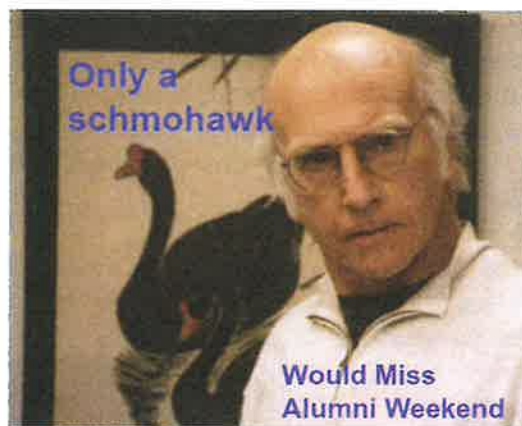
SAVE THE DATE FOR AN EPIC ALUMNI WEEKEND

June 24-26, 2016

Returning Saturday Night, for the
first time in 7 Years!



John "Dr. Dirty" Valby



Did you know?:

- *All of next year's JC's and some of the 1st year SC's were born after the Seinfeld Finale.
- *The '16 Bunk 14ers have seen more Red Sox Titles than Yankees titles, 3 to 1.
- *When Color War 1974 began, Richard Nixon was President of the United States. When it ended, Gerard R. Ford was President.
- *The Color War team headquartered in the Rec Hall won eight consecutive times (1997-2004).
- *In 1997, the Blue Justice beat the White Bulldogs by 18.5 points.
- *In Avoda's first summer, if campers were to see a movie on a rainy day, the movie was silent. The first "talkie," the Jazz Singer, was not released until October.
- *In 1942 the cost of a Summer at Avoda was \$135, today that buys a beanie.