

# THE MICAH UPDATE

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## MESSAGE FROM MARK

Dear Micah Families, Staff, and Alumni,

After a trying, yet wonderful, summer saved by our amazing staff and campers, we have begun the process of working towards Camp Micah's 22nd summer coming in June! The camp is full and will see a return of our CIT program. We hope the school year is going well for all, even with some Covid protocols still in place. While, at the time of this writing, there has been a recent surge in cases and the pandemic is still greatly affecting our daily lives, we are hopeful that much of those remaining restrictions will be gone by this summer and that we will welcome the 2022 Micah community back to a much more normal time in Bridgton and Sebago, Maine.

One of the things that will ensure that we have a safe, fun, and active time this summer is if all our campers and staff are vaccinated and boosted, if needed. With vaccination now available for children age 5 and up, it is our desire to have every camper and staff vaccinated. Out of camp trips, hiking, and intercamp competitions should be able to return this summer with a fully vaccinated community.

In technology news, Camp Micah has chosen to utilize the Companion app for our 2022 enrolled families and staff. Check out page 2 for more information about Companion and get excited for all of its features for this summer.

With the pandemic still an issue, we have, unfortunately, decided not to hold our summer of 2021 camp reunion (usually held in January). While we would love to get everyone together, we feel it is not prudent to do so at this time. We hope the Hanukkah hats that were sent to enrolled families in November will help bring a little Micah spirit to the off season and help us all get through the winter and back to Maine this summer!

While the past 21 months have been filled with challenges and difficult news, we hope the smiling faces of our Micah community and their joyous announcements on the following pages will remind us of all the good there is in the world.

Best wishes to all for relaxing and fun winter break and a wonderful, healthy, and happy New Year.

Mark



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617-244-6540

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156 Moose Cove Lodge Rd  
Bridgton, ME 04009  
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# MICAH NEWS

## CAMPANION APP

As mentioned in Mark's letter, we're excited to start using **Campanion** in 2022! This CampMinder app will allow families and staff to access their CamplnTouch account via smartphone to register for camp, complete/submit online forms, upload documents, get push notifications from camp, see all picture albums from the summer, send one-way emails to campers, and access summer blog posts. While using Campanion isn't required for camp families and staff, it should certainly streamline the process of preparing for camp and also be an great platform for viewing pictures from the summer. Campanion has facial recognition capabilities, but only if a parent decides to activate it. If not activated, facial recognition won't be used for an individual. We will be sending more information on how to access and utilize the Campanion app when we send the Family Handbook in January. Stay tuned.



## HEAD COUNSELOR TRANSITION



In case you missed the announcement earlier this fall, we have news to share about the Micah head counselor team. As with everything in life, change is inevitable and after seven years as Camp Micah's Girls' Head Counselor, **Shari Idelson** will be stepping down. Shari is a public school teacher in Sudbury, MA, where she grew up, and has been teaching in Italy since last fall. Ever since graduating college and becoming a teacher, it has been difficult for Shari to arrive at camp on time. She has gone straight from teaching to leading the Girls' Area without a break. For seven years, she handled this beautifully and with ease, but now is ready to do something else at camp which will give her a few moments to breathe. Shari has chosen to step down as Head Counselor but is committed and excited to remain at camp as part of the administration. This summer, she will be in charge of our CIT program and helping out around camp where needed. We are so pleased that as she enters her 20th summer at Micah, Shari will be training our next generation of staff. She brings an expertise and genuine love of working with campers and staff to Micah each summer. With her seven years of head counselor experience and her connections with campers and staff, we know she will continue to be one of our best assets. We can't thank her enough for all of her hard work and dedication to Camp Micah.

We are also very pleased to announce that **Kaylin Samia** will be taking on the role of Girls' Head Counselor. She will work closely with Jodi Sokoloff to lead the campers and staff and Shari will be there to help out when needed. Kaylin came to us six summers ago with a lot of camp experience. She started in 2016 as our Prowler Unit Leader and this past summer became our Assistant Girls' Head Counselor and Summit Unit Leader. Kaylin graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 2018 with a B.S. in Occupational Sciences, followed by an M.S. in Occupational Therapy in 2019. She is truly an expert with children and staff, makes strong connections, and is a consummate professional with over 16 years of experience in camping as a camper, counselor, and administrator. As Assistant Head Counselor last summer, Kaylin got to know many of the campers and staff and this will serve her well as she joins Josh Seidman (Assistant Director/Boys' Head Counselor) and Asa Routledge (Asst. Head Counselor) as part of our head counselor team for 2022.

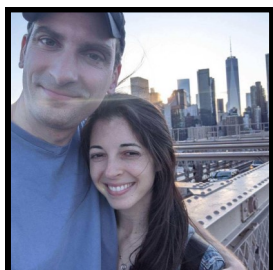
## SOCIAL ACTION UPDATE

This past summer, campers learned about and participated in hands-on projects to support [Jordan River Village](#) (an organization and year-round camp to support children living with life-limiting conditions in Israel). We love the new partnership we began last summer and look forward to watching the connection between our campers and Jordan River Village grow over the years (we're even hopeful our Micah in Israel trip participants will have the opportunity to visit their site in Israel!).

2022 families and staff should be sure to keep saving their loose change. This coming summer, Camp Micah will continue to focus on an organization called [World of Change](#) - a nonprofit with plans for harnessing the \$10 billion of loose change sitting idle in households across the US. As we do every year, we ask that our families help support this year's social action focus by gathering change to bring to camp.

# MAZEL TOV, MICAH!

We're excited to announce the engagements of the following former campers and staff. Stay tuned for their wedding pictures in the future!



**Jessie Diamond** (2011 - 2012 soccer staff) and Joey recently became engaged in October of 2021.



**Zach Eagle** (B15 2010, CIT 2012) proposed to Hannah Robins in June of 2021.



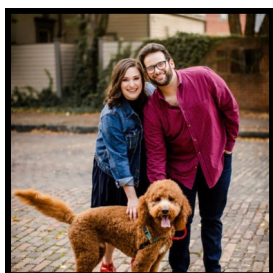
Just in time to make our newsletter, our former Boys' Head Counselor, **Sam Gragg** (B15 2007, CIT 2009, athletics staff 2010, Prowler Unit Leader 2011 & 2012, Boys' Head Counselor from 2013 to 2016), proposed to Rachel Brown last week.



**Phil Kaminnik** (B15 2010, CIT 2012, songleader, athletics staff, and guitar instructor from 2013 to 2015) also snuck in a proposal right before this newsletter was sent. His longtime girlfriend, Amanda, said yes!



Congratulations to **Allie Levy** (founding camper, G14 2002, tennis staff 2004 - 2006) and Simon on their engagement.



**Felicia Lilien** (Songleader 2010 & 2011) became engaged to Kenny Wagner in January of 2021.



**Maddy Olson** (2019 swim instructor) is engaged!



**Angelise Sleeman** (2019 metalsmithing/jewelry) let the world know that she and Jose are getting married. The happy couple became engaged in August 2021.



**Rob Watts** (swim instructor 2011, waterfront staff 2012 - 2013, Critter Unit Leader 2014) proposed to Rebecca Villers in December 2020.



Former campers and staff, if you're not yet a part of our "[Official Camp Micah Alumni Group](#)" on Facebook, take a moment to join.

Stay up to date on camp news and stay connected with your Micah family!



As you can see in this newsletter, there is so much happening in the Micah community. Please

remember to send us ([kate@campmicah.com](mailto:kate@campmicah.com)) info about your simchas, lifecycle events, social action projects, and other newsworthy things so we can include them in our next newsletter.

## 2022 ENROLLMENT

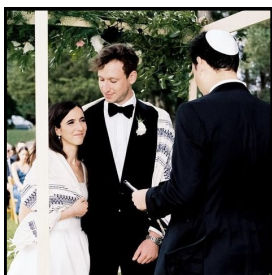
We have less than a handful of spaces still available for the coming summer (second session for current 2nd and 3rd graders). Enrollment changes happen regularly so if you have friends or relatives that are interested in attending Micah this summer, they should call the camp office (617-244-6540) to check on availability right away.

## 2022 STAFF

Staff hiring season is ramping up. If you know of a college-aged (or older) potential counselor that you think would be a great fit for the Micah community, please have them contact the camp office or complete an online [staff application](#) on our website.



# MAZEL TOV, MICAH MARRIAGES!



Former campers **Emily Berger** (founding camper, G14 2005, 2009 theater staff) and **Max Gredinger** (B15 2006, CIT 2008), who joined the ever-growing list of couples who met at Micah, made it official when they wed in June 2021.



**Mike Berger** (founding camper, B15 2005, assistant tech director and tech director from 2008 - 2010, Multimedia Team Leader 2013) and Candice Muller got married in May 2021. This

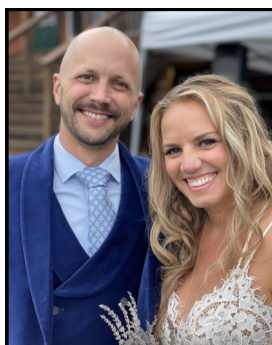
California couple came back to the East Coast for a ceremony officiated by younger brother, **Sam Berger** (B15 2009).



**Ze'evi (Berman) Tovlev** (2012 - 2013 songleader) and Ariel wed in July 2021. Ze'evi is currently studying to be a cantor and Ariel is studying to be a rabbi.



**Riley "Chick" Chickering** (Head of Baseball 2016 & 2017, Athletic Director 2018) married Elizabeth on August 7, 2021.



After the pandemic postponed their original plans, **Will Roper** (who has been at camp nearly every summer since 2009 in many roles including hiking, fitness, Micah in Israel staff, CIT Coordinator, Food Service Manager, and Dining Hall poet) and **Jemma de Blanche** (hiking staff 2015, 2018 - 2021) gathered a small

group of family and friends from across the world to celebrate their marriage. With a ceremony performed by our beloved Daniel Anderson in the chapel, cocktail hour on the front lawn, and a reception in the Micah dining hall, it felt like the fanciest song session we've had in a long time! Mazel tov to this Micah Match!



**Michelle Edelman** (founding camper, G14 2006) married Jeremy Markel on September 5, 2021 in Boston. Her twin, **Debra**, says she was her

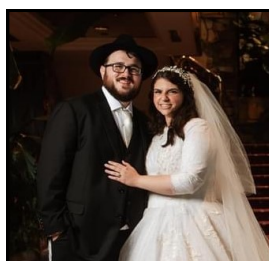
sister's "something blue" for the occasion. If you missed their interview in last summer's "[Moose Covid Lodge Show, Episode 3](#)," Michelle and Debra are camp-famous for writing the current Blue Team Alma Mater in 2006.



**Melody Gammon** (2021 office staff) and **Josh Rackliffe** (2021 maintenance staff) came to work at camp this summer as an engaged couple. Now they're officially married!



After the pandemic kept **Megan Gleason** (Micah Mini Babysitter 2006 - 2009, Nurse 2015 & 2016) and Nassir Kashmiri apart on different continents for 9 months, they were finally reunited and married in January 2021. Why have one wedding when you can have 2? The happy couple had a second wedding in the fall - this time, with actual guests. In between their weddings, they were on a seemingly endless honeymoon, traveling around the country and "working from home," wherever "home" was for the time being.



**Eddie Gould** (founding camper, B15 2006, CIT 2008, archery staff 2010 & 2011) married Rachel Lelonek on July 25, 2021.



Former camper **Hillary Haspel** (G14 2008) married Ryan Hustana on October 3, 2021 in New Orleans.

# MAZEL TOV, MICAH!

## MORE MICAH MARRIAGES...



**Laura Jacobs** (G14 2009) married Zach Albert AGAIN! Her small outdoor ceremony in June 2020 wasn't quite enough for this happy couple to share their love with family and friends. When it was safer to gather in a larger group this summer, they had another ceremony and a party to celebrate.



**Alex Linsky** (founding camper, B15 2002, athletics staff 2004 - 2007) proclaimed it was well worth the 790 day wait when he married his bride, Lana Koretsky, on August 29, 2021.



**Andrew Lipof** (B15 2006, CIT 2008, athletics staff 2010 - 2013) married Jamie Lewis in April 2021.



**Amanda Singer** (Timber Unit Leader 2008, Programming Team 2009, Micah in Israel Staff 2010) married Mike Farrow in Big Sur, California on October 21, 2020.



**Nick Cooper** (2012 waterski staff) and his wife, Michelle, welcomed their fourth child to the family. Baby Lucia joined older siblings Joshua, Bethany, and Charlotte in spring 2021.



**Stevie Dennison** (2019 camp driver) and her husband, Bryan, gave their one-year-old daughter, Riley, a new friend to play with. Little brother Mason arrived in August 2021.



Our former neighbor, **Sophie (Handrahan) Erickson** (office staff 2015 - 2017), and her husband, Luke, welcomed Leighton in March of 2021. Here she is with big sister Charlotte.



While we missed seeing **Will Huntress** (a.k.a. Chef Will, who has been in the Micah kitchen nearly every summer since 2004) at camp this past summer, he was certainly super busy as he started his new role as dad to Emeline "Emie" Faye Huntress who was born on June 11, 2021. He certainly cooked up a cutie!

## BABIES

We are so excited to introduce you all to the newest members of the Micah family.



**Olga (Elkin) Beran** (Head of Tennis 2011 - 2014) and her husband, Robert, welcomed baby Brooks on October 1, 2021.



**Michelle (Elkin) Daniels** (Tennis Staff 2011 - 2013, Micah in Israel Staff 2014) and her husband, Jake, welcomed their son Jameson to the family on October 27, 2021. It won't be long before these two cousins are big enough to pair up as an unbeatable doubles team!



**Josh Kay** (founding camper, B15 2003) welcomed baby Jonah to his family.



**Doug "Moose" Murphy** (founding camper, B15 2004, 2007 - 2010, 2012 football and waterski staff, 2014 Micah in Israel staff) and his wife, Steph, are having a ball with Travis, born September 2020.



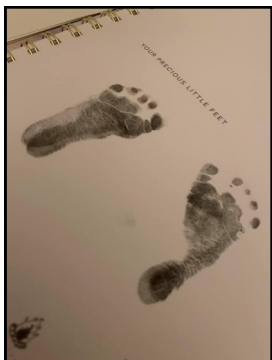
## MORE MICAH BABIES!



**Kimmie Pledger** (2016 metalsmithing/jewelry) and her husband, Charles, welcomed baby Anika to the family. Big sister, Tuva, is in love.



**Jill (Marcus) Smith** (2006 Micah in Israel Staff), her husband, Reed, and their son, Grayson (nearly 4), recently celebrated Lincoln's first birthday.



Micah Match **Dan Prager** (founding camper, B15 2004, and staff member - working four summers between 2008 - 2013 in woodworking, scheduling, and special events) and **Leah (Kosow) Prager** (Micah babysitter for 4 summers between 2007 - 2013) welcomed their baby boy in January 2021.



Founder **Robyn (Ilisen) Stafford**, former camper (G14, 2002) and counselor (Special Events and Judaic Coordinator) and her husband John welcomed their daughter, Melissa Ariel, in May 2020.



**Jason Pressberg** (2010 Boys' Head Counselor) and his wife, Casey Topol Pressberg, were over the moon when Noa joined her older siblings Ethan and Logan in March 2020.



**Dani (Murmres) Stamford** (Former Camper, G14 2004; Hockey and Waterfront Staff 2007 - 2010) and **Ross Stamford** (2010 soccer staff) are a Micah Match that are multiplying! Dani, Ross, and big brother Lucas (age 2)

welcomed Isla Ro in May 2021. We look forward to this growing family visiting us for a ride around Peabody Pond soon.



Introducing...Lola Rosen! **Zac Rosen** (2013 Prowler Unit Leader) and **Brittany (Yost) Rosen** (2013 Micah Mini Babysitter) added a second daughter to the family in November. Big sister Josi is excited to show Lola the ropes.



**Sarah (Ferraro) Stanton** (founding camper, G14 2003, CIT 2004, 2005 - 2007 waterfront staff) and her husband, Nick, welcomed their son, Brian, in August 2021.



**Zach Shulkin** (founding staff member, sticking around the waterfront and then finishing up his career as Timber Unit Leader in 2007) and his wife, Jen, became first time parents to Samantha "Sami" Bryn Shulkin on December 23, 2020.



**Kendall Wallace** (Ropes Staff/Head of Ropes 2010 - 2011) and his wife, Kaitlyn, welcomed their son, Samson, in October.



**Guy Yom Tov** (B15 2006, CIT 2008, Ropes Staff 2014), his wife, Hilla, and their dog, welcomed their first child to the family last year.