

THE MICAH UPDATE

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MESSAGE FROM MARK

Dear Micah Families, Staff, and Alumni,

Snow has finally fallen at camp as we move into the holidays and we are pleased to send you all the latest news in our annual Fall Micah Update. It really is incredible how many alumni engagements, marriages, and new babies there are to celebrate on the pages of this newsletter! Congratulations to all and please keep us up to date with things happening in your lives for our next update.

Hanukkah gifts were sent to our 2023 campers and staff members that have been hired so far for next summer. We model what we teach and what so many of our families do during the eight days of Hanukkah by including a donation announcement in this year's Hanukkah gift. A donation to the Level Ground initiative of Maine Summer Camps was made on behalf of the entire Camp Micah community. The Level Ground initiative provides summer youth camp opportunities, free of charge, to immigrant and refugee children for whom such experiences would otherwise be unavailable. We were pleased to make the donation in honor of our campers and staff as we know they would all support the important mission of Level Ground.

As the school year moves along, we are working hard to prepare for next summer. We're hiring staff for 2023 and already have so many counselors returning from last summer. In June 2023, we will be opening our new Micah Obstacle Course being built in the woods across from our Bridgton CIT bunk. It's been a year in the making and we are looking forward to it being a great new activity for all ages.

There are very few camper spaces remaining and wait lists are in place for many grades for summer 2023. At this time, there is room for a few Sebago side rising 4th graders and some Bridgton side rising 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. If you have any friends or family that are interested in camp, please have them call us soon as those spaces will not remain for long.

Enjoy the newsletter and have a wonderful holiday season. Summer 2023 will be here before you know it!

Mark



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MICAH NEWS

HEAD COUNSELOR TRANSITION



In case you missed the announcement earlier this fall, we have news to share about the Micah head counselor team. **Hannah Levinson**, our head counselor last summer, is in a graduate program in psychology and, unfortunately, will not be able to return to camp. We thank Hannah for her hard work and leadership last summer and for her 14 summers with us at Micah. We wish her the best in those pursuits and hope to see her back at camp someday!

Fortunately for Camp Micah, **Averi Kaplowitch** will be taking on the leadership of our Sebago side of camp. Averi was a camper and CIT for 9 summers and then became a counselor, unit leader, and assistant head counselor. Over the years, she has displayed the ability to make great connections with both campers and staff. She is well respected, caring, intelligent, and has a real passion for Camp Micah and all that our camping experience offers. Averi is committed to the social and emotional growth of everyone at Micah and will work hard to grow the culture of our Sebago area campers and staff.

Averi grew up in Marblehead, Massachusetts and graduated from Syracuse University with a Bachelor of Social Work and Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a minor in Human Development and Family Science. Averi will be graduating from New York University in May with her Masters in Social Work. She is currently working on a Children's Mobile Crisis Team as a social work intern in New York City as a part of her masters program and is eager to start preparing with us for this coming summer.

As we know, change is one of the few things we can always count on. We have been so fortunate over the years to have strong leadership from our head counselors and with Josh Seidman and Averi Kaplowitch leading our campers and staff this summer, we look forward to another magical Micah summer.

SUMMER SOCIAL ACTION UPDATE

Daniel Anderson, our Assistant Program Director - Head of Jewish Life, worked hard this summer to implement some new social action and social justice initiatives. One of our many social action focuses this summer began as a conversation about what it means to acknowledge that our camp is on the ancestral home of the Abenaki Tribe, the Tribe of the Morning. Our conversations led us to action and, with the help of the greater Camp Micah community, we raised more than two thousand dollars for [Wabanaki REACH](#), an organization that works for and with the indigenous people of Maine.

This past summer, campers continued to learn about and participate 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 that our partnership with JRV included the opportunity for our Micah in Israel trip participants to visit their site while exploring the country this past summer. Thank you to **Jolie Helmbrecht** for her help coordinating this summer's projects.

2023 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 social action focus by gathering change to bring to camp.

SOCIAL ACTION BEYOND OUR GATES

Micah families' commitment to social action doesn't end when campers leave our gates. We're so proud of and inspired by the passion our community has to make the world a better place. Check out what a few of our campers, staff, and alumni have been up to!



Trevor O. (Micah in Israel 2023) and his father spent spring break in Krakow, Warsaw, and Ukraine delivering thousands of pounds of needed supplies to those affected by the outbreak of war. You can read more about Trevor's experience with his synagogue's humanitarian mission [in his own words](#). Trevor's experience was also featured on an episode of [NBC Nightly News: Kids Edition](#) which you can watch online (the segment about Trevor can be found from minutes 2:00 - 6:00).



We were thrilled to receive this picture of **Abigail N.** (G14 2023) volunteering her time to prepare food for a soup kitchen...especially showing off her Micah pride.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

We couldn't be more proud to include the following alumni as part of our Micah community. While we certainly can't take credit for the young adults they are becoming, we're honored that their amazing families chose us to partner with them in the raising of their children. We know they are going to continue to do amazing things in the world and can't wait to see what they do next.

NOAH KLEINLEHRER



Last January, while a senior at MICDS in St. Louis, Noah (B15 2019) testified on Missouri HB2000, the Holocaust Education bill. Due, in part, to Noah's continued work on this important cause, Missouri will become the 20th state to require Holocaust education in curricula for secondary schools. Over the summer, the governor of Missouri signed Senate Bill 681, which establishes a permanent Holocaust Education and Awareness Commission and Holocaust Education Week. Noah has shown us all how knowledge and determination can be used to effect change. He now studies at George Washington University in our nation's capital and we're certain he'll continue doing amazing things (if anything could possibly top being Blue Team Coach 2022). We can't wait to follow all his accomplishments but, in the meantime, we're excited to have him back at Micah on our staff for another summer.

MALLORY HERRON

Last spring, Mallory (G14 2019) was featured in [Washington Jewish Week's "You Should Know..."](#) section. We wanted to share their words as they really capture Mallory's giant heart and how much passion she has for making the world a better place. We're certain she won't stop focusing on ways to help others as she continues her studies at University of Michigan this year.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MALLORY HERRON

By Isabella Lefkowitz-Rao
WJW Intern

Mallory Herron, 18, didn't expect a day's activity would turn into a greater passion. But after spending time with the kids of Save a Child's Heart on her summer trip to Israel, she decided to start a club at Maret School, where she's a senior. Herron, who plans on attending University of Michigan in the fall, is also a member and president emeritus of Washington Hebrew Congregation's youth group.

What is Save a Child's Heart?

Save a Child's Heart is an organization based in Israel that provides lifesaving pediatric care to children. On average, they save a child's life every 24 hours. The organization brings children to Israel for the care, they perform medical missions abroad and they also train medical personnel so the idea is that they're trying to make a difference with the medical staff in other countries. They help children regardless of race, religion, gender, nationality or financial status.

How did you get involved?

I go to a sleepaway camp that takes a summer trip to Israel and every year we get the opportunity to visit the Save a Child's Heart Children's Home located in Tel Aviv. In the past I've seen a lot of people posting pictures and their fundraising campaigns and I was always really excited for it when it was my turn. This summer I had the opportunity to visit the house and interact with the kids and spend time with them and see their positive attitudes even through everything they were dealing with.

What made you want to start a club?

I had reached out to the coordinator of Save a Child's Heart in the United States and she said one of the ways to make a larger difference is to start a club. So I decided to start one at my school because I knew I would be more successful fundraising in a group than I would as an individual and I knew starting the club would allow for different ideas and creativity to bring to the group, which would allow us to be more successful. Also, it brings more awareness to the community.

What actions has the club taken?

We hosted a bake sale for the middle school and upper school and we ended up raising over \$600 for the organization, which is incredible

and that was only our first event of the year. We also have an upcoming Chipotle fundraiser on April 5 where people can come to the Chipotle in Woodley Park and if they mention Save a Child's Heart or show the flier for it, 33 percent of the event sales will be donated for the cause.

Where did the inspiration to get involved come from?

Throughout the different Jewish communities I've been involved in there's always been a big idea of giving back and so I really wanted to help these kids have an opportunity of having a better and healthier life.

I think having a personal experience with the kids where I got to interact with them and get to know them and see how special all of them were really made an impact in my life and is why I decided to get involved. I want to continue to find spaces to advocate for Save a Child's Heart because I believe it's such a special organization. I think it's special that they'll really take care of anyone and it doesn't matter their background. It allows for so many more people to survive than would have been possible and it really changes lives and communities.

How do you plan on staying involved when you go to college?

I'm not entirely sure how I'll continue to stay involved. I will definitely look into the opportunities my college has because I know there are schools where they have clubs already. Also just continuing to talk to the leadership director in the United States and maybe I'll possibly intern there or get more volunteer experience there in the future. **WJW**

Know someone age 40 or younger who has something important to say? Nominate them for a You Should Know interview. Email WJW Editor David Holzel at dholzel@midatlanticmedia.com.

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!



Shae Aiguier (2014 - 2023 lifeguard, swim instructor, Head of Pool, and Assistant Program Director) and **Steve "Smurph" Murphy** (2022 - 2023 Co-Athletics Team Leader) are planning their wedding for this spring. We're excited to welcome the Aiguier-Murphy family, including their dog Remy, back for next summer.

Corey Glassman (B15 2011, 2014 - 2015 Ropes Course), who now lives in the DC area, proposed to Greer Richey while vacationing in Montana.



Brandon Bevacqua (2018 - 2019 baseball and fitness staff) proposed to Melanie.

Danielle Grosswald (G14 2011, 2014 waterfront, 2015 - 2016 Timber Unit Leader, 2017 - 2019 Assistant Program Director) and **Max Lappin** (B15 2008, 2011 - 2013 athletics staff, 2014 - 2015 Summit Unit Leader) are getting married... It's another Micah Match!



After years of adventuring together, **Mark Borghesani** (B15 2013, 2016 - 2019 waterfront staff, 2021 MII staff) and **Courtney Robb** (2018 fitness and Gold Team Coach, 2019 Timber Unit Leader, 2021 MII staff) are engaged!

Josh Grove (B15 2009) is planning his wedding with Emily Seitz for January 2024.



Hayley Cooper (G14 2013) is engaged to Spencer King.

Denica Hill (2014 - 2016 art and photo staff, 2017 Multimedia Team Leader, 2018 Timber Unit Leader) took a memorable trip to Iceland that included a proposal. Congrats Denica and Evan!



Eric Slosky proposed to **Lily Feinberg** (G14 2012) while they were at an escape room!

Alex Hull (2015 - 2016 Head of Tennis) is engaged! We wonder if her future husband, Toby, knows that she's camp-famous for being the answer to 2016's final Clue Hunt clue.



Michelle Freeman (former camper 2005 - 2007) is engaged to Ben.

MORE MICAH ENGAGEMENTS



This may feel like old news by now, since the proposal took place just one day after last fall's newsletter was shared with the Micah community. It's not official until it's been given it's Micah Mazel though! We're thrilled to welcome **Shari Idelson** (G14 2008, 2011 - 2012 softball, 2013 - 2014 Timber Unit Leader, 2015 - 2021 Head

Counselor, 2022 CIT Coordinator, 2023 Staff Development Coordinator) and **Josh Seidman** (B15 2008, 2011 - 2012 swim instructor/Head of Pool, 2013 Timber Unit Leader, 2014 MII staff, 2015 CIT Coordinator, 2016 Athletics Team Leader, 2017 - 2023 Head Counselor/Assistant Director) to the Micah Match club. From co-Color War Committee members, to co-unit leaders, to co-head counselors, these two will now be joined for life. After returning from two years living in Italy and traveling around Europe, they are heading back to Rome for their wedding this spring. The Boston Micah office will close for a bit in April so we can all go celebrate together before welcoming both Shari and Josh back for another summer at Micah - this time, as husband and wife.



Jacob Kolb (2014 - 2015 soccer staff) was an original Micah Mini starting in 2001 when his parents worked as founders of camp. He's all grown up now and engaged!



Netanya Lebach (G14 2011, 2014 - 2015 Critter Coordinator) has been busy! She earned her MSW in May, bought a house outside of Boston, got engaged to Scott Curry, and is planning their wedding for this spring.



Bobby Martin (2016 boating) is engaged to Kimberley Clifton.

Mitch Preffer (B15 2004, 2007 - 2008 athletics staff, 2009 photo staff, 2010 Summit Unit Leader, 2011 Multimedia Team Leader) is engaged to Emma.



Nate Roos (2006 Micah Mini childcare, 2007 - 2010 athletics staff, 2011 Summit Unit Leader, 2012 & 2015 MII staff) proposed to Brooke "BJ" Shafer. They are planning their wedding for May.



Alexa Rotert (2017 swim instructor) and her fiancé, Hunter Instine, are planning their wedding for next fall.



Right under the wire for this newsletter, **Basia Schwartz** (G14 2010) became engaged in Vermont in December 2022.



Heather Temple (2009 - 2011 Head of Studio Art, 2011 Gold Team Coach, 2012 - 2014 photo staff and uploader, 2015 & 2018 MII staff, 2016 - 2017 CIT Coordinator, 2019 & 2021 Multimedia Team Leader) is engaged to Marc! May they live happily ever after.



MAZEL TOV, MICAH MARRIAGES!



Dr. Allison Agulnick (G14 2009) wed Richard this fall.



Noah Berman (2007 - 2009 athletics staff, 2010 MII staff) had a beautiful outdoor wedding this summer with his bride, Emma.



Kitty Baker (2014 - 2016 Head of Ceramics) and her husband, Doug, eloped in July. These days, Kitty is an art teacher in Alaska.



Marsie-Rose Cohen (2015 Ropes Course) married Jim Beach in Georgia this November. Her Brother, **Avi Cohen**, and sister-in-law, **Sarah (Simmerer) Cohen**, both former Micah staff, joined for the festive family event.



Julia Fallman (G14 2008) married Aubrey Mable this September in Telluride, CO. They began their life together with a new last name to share. Introducing...The Lanes!

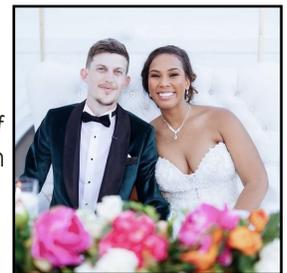


Sam Gragg (B15 2007, 2010 athletics staff, 2011 - 2012 Prowler Unit Leader, 2013 - 2016 Head Counselor), married Rachel in San Diego this November. It was a Micah Head Counselor event as Josh Seidman and Shari Idelson made the trip for the wedding.

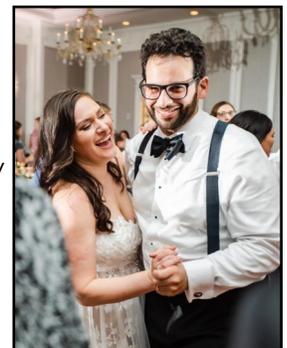
Weddings are great, so you might as well have two of them! **Liz Harris** (2012 Head of Ceramics) married Dan Henderson at Town Hall in September 2021 and then had an outdoor Jewish wedding ceremony this summer.



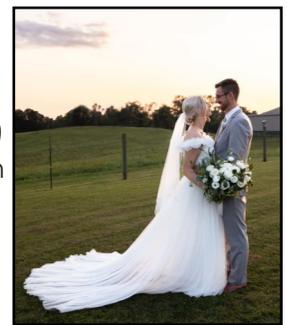
Dan King (2017 - 2021 Head of Tennis) married Dr. JJ Diah in February 2022 in Jamaica.



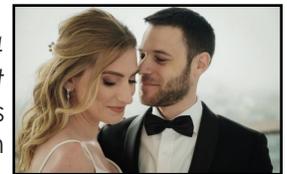
Felicia Lilien (2010 - 2011 songwriter) married Kenny Wagner in May 2022.



Megan Maddox (2017 nurse) married Jordan Swavel in September 2022.



Cody Miller (B15 2008, 2014 Ropes Course, 2015 Timber Unit Leader) celebrated his marriage to Alexa Keegan in October.



Madison Olson (2019 swim instructor) married Aidan Cain in July and then headed off for their honeymoon in Alaska.



MAZEL TOV, MICAH!

MORE WEDDINGS



Natania Perlman (2011 dance staff) and Michael Ferron wed in Rhode Island last April.



Emily Riley (2013 swim instructor) celebrated her marriage to Marc Humphreys in April 2022.



Austin Satinsky (2015 - 2017 drama staff) and Lauren Fazenbaker walked down the aisle in November 2022.



Erin Siegel (former camper 2006 - 2009) married Pavel Faynleyb in May 2022.



Nicole Strauss (G14 2008, 2011 - 2012 Ropes Course) and Lenny Aronson were married this October in Massachusetts.



Luke Terhaar (2014 Head of Baseball and Blue Team Coach) married Ally Siegler in St. Louis this October.



Amy Tonks (2013 swim instructor) married Louisa Kain. Congrats to the new Kain-Tonks family!

BABIES

We are so excited to introduce you all to the newest members of the Micah family. Here's an odd observation - of the new babies on the following pages, four of them were born to former Blue Team coaches! It looks like the Blue Team may be trying to ensure a robust population of future camp leaders.

Sarah Jill "SJ" Bashein (G14 2004, 2013 Ceramics/Jewelry Staff) and her husband, Alec, are loving being parents to Golda, who will be celebrating her first birthday in January.



Mike Berger (founding camper, B15 2005, 2008 - 2010 assistant tech director and tech director, 2013 Multimedia Team Leader) and his wife, Candice, became first-time parents to Zachary Joel in May 2022. We're sure Zach's entire childhood will be well lit.



Dan Burbela (2002 - 2006 athletics staff, 2007 programming scheduler) and his wife, Laura, are having so much fun with baby Jacob, who is turning one in January.



Riley "Chick" Chickering (2016 - 2017 Head of Baseball, 2018 Athletics Team Leader) and his wife, Liz, welcomed their daughter Kinsley Grace in May 2022. We're keeping a close eye on her hair to see if we can count her as a member of a certain *secret* club at Camp Micah.



MORE MICAH BABIES!



We were able to squeeze in a last minute addition to the newsletter! **Jennine (Shulkin) Clark** (2005 boat driver/waterski staff, 2006 Timber Unit Leader, 2007 Assistant Head Counselor) and her husband, Phil, became a party of 5 when their third son, Ryan, was born in December.



Nick Cooper (2012 waterski staff) and his wife, Michelle, will have a full house this holiday season. Joseph Patrick joined older siblings Lucia, Charlotte, Bethany, and Joshua this October.



McKenna (Corlis) Cosoffile (2011 office staff) and her husband, David, are proud parents to Desmond "Desi" Kian. Desi will turn one on Valentine's Day.



Seth Gutkin (2005 - 2008 Head of Boating, 2009 - 2010 Critter Unit Leader) and his wife, Eve, welcomed baby Matthew in January 2022. Big brother Jesse is excited to have another kid to run around their summer home - an overnight camp in New York.



Naomi Kaye Honova (2007 - 2008 drama staff) and her husband, Jan, added a third son to their family. Noam joined his big brothers Ezra and Abram at home in Munich.



Sydney (Anderson) Krispin (2008 head of gymnastics) and husband, Matan, welcomed Maila Ryleigh last January. Maila joins siblings Sean (age 3) and Ella (age 6).



Alex Linsky (founding camper, B15 2002, 2004 - 2007 athletics staff) and wife, Lana, are new parents to Lilia (Lily) Koretsky-Linsky who joined the family in October 2022.

Reilly Lynch (our first ever Head of Ninja Warrior in 2016) and **Marysa Walsh** (2016 tennis staff) were college sweethearts who spent their summer at Micah together many years ago. They got engaged in August 2020, married in September 2021, and welcomed daughter Delaney in September 2022. These two are on a roll!



Jake Meyers (2016 Head of Fitness) and his fiancée, Sabrina, welcomed their son, Tate, born in November 2022.



Jeremy Moskowitz (founding camper, B15 2005, 2008 - 2009 Ropes Course, 2010 Prowler Unit Leader) his wife, Jane, and son, Jack, are so in love with Gracie Hallie, born in September.



Introducing Rory Dawn...the latest baby to be born to parents who met at Micah! **Evan** (multi-year head of baseball through 2006) and **Ali (Hirsch) Most** (2006 drama staff) welcomed a new member to the family in November (as if they didn't have enough birthdays to celebrate in their household over the past few weeks). Siblings Charlie and Zoe are smitten and Evan and Ali are likely exhausted. We're sure the Gold Team pride will continue to be passed down through this camp family.



EVEN MORE BABIES!



Doug “Moose” Murphy (founding camper, B15 2004, 2007 - 2010, 2012 football and waterski staff, 2014 MII staff) and his wife, Steph, now have two boys to chase around. Colby Richard joined big brother, Travis (age 2), in August 2022.



Sarah (Slotnick) Rubin (G14 2006, 2009 - 2011 dance staff) and her husband, Matt, are new parents to Davis Finn who was born in October 2022.



Sarah “Sheppy” Shepro (founding camper, G14 2005, 2008 - 2011 swim instructor, 2013 Head of Pool, 2014 programming scheduler) is new mom to Archie Michael Mielniczuk, born in August.



Zach Shulkin (founding staff member, sticking around the waterfront and then finishing up his career as Timber Unit Leader in 2007) and his fiancée, Jen, are now a family of 4! Molly Jay “MJ” Shulkin joined her big sister, Sami (nearly age 2), in September.



Laura Smith (2015 - 2016 Head of Photo) is mom to baby Ava, born February 2022. What a lucky child to have such a talented photographer in the family to capture all the precious moments to come.



Nick Starfield (2006 tennis staff), the inspiration for the well-known Micah phrase, “see ya lata, Nick,” and his wife, Dana, grew their family by welcoming Calvin Liev in November.

It's been a busy year for **Rob Watts** (2011 swim instructor, 2012 - 2013 waterfront staff, 2014 Critter Unit Leader). He and Rebecca welcomed their daughter Arabelle in May and walked down the aisle in July. We can't wait to see what comes next for this beautiful family.



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) info about your simchas, lifecycle events, social action projects, and other newsworthy things so we can include them in our next newsletter.

2023 ENROLLMENT

We have less than a handful of spaces still available for the coming summer. 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.

2023 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.