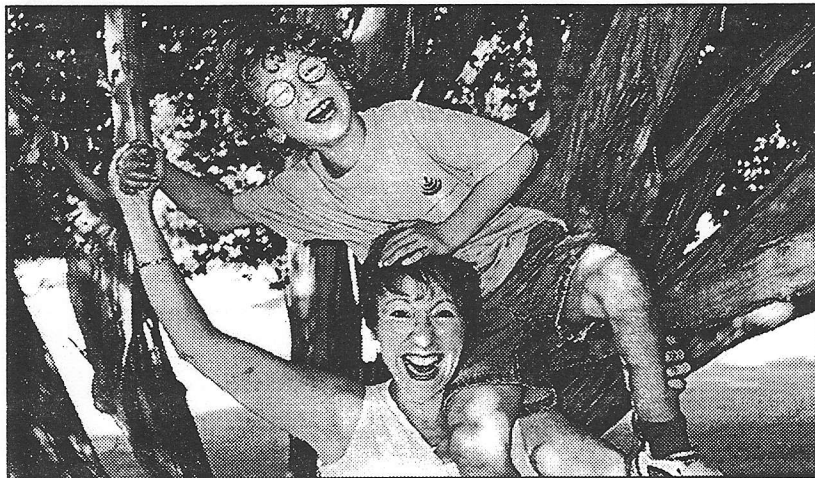


# Camp Gan Shalom

First Person: Linda Parker Horowitz



Linda Parker Horowitz and son, Mitchell.

"So how was your first day of school, Mitchell?" I asked. "It wasn't fun like Gan Shalom," he replied. "Bummer." Obviously, Mitchell loved his second summer at Camp Gan Shalom. But let's face it; school cannot complete with daily activities like crafts, gaga competitions, cooking, drama and swimming, not to mention weekly field trips to places like Scandia, the IMAX Theater and the Long Beach Aquarium.

According to the parent evaluations received by the Jewish Federation, Gan Shalom Summer 2000 was a smashing success. Across the board, the summer received universally high marks from parents. In fact, camp was so popular that Federation had to turn away prospective campers who signed up late, as Gan Shalom

adheres to a strict 8 to 1 camper/counselor ratio. It was just too late in the season to hire the requisite staff members to accommodate the latecomers.

"Mitchell, what was your favorite thing about camp?" I inquired. "The counselors! They were great!"

Nicole Billick, on staff for 4 years and Camp Director for the second consecutive year, hired a great group of experienced and enthusiastic counselors who conducted hourly chuggim ("periods of activities" for those uninitiated to camp-speak) and led the different age groups throughout their busy, fun-filled days. Some of the projects included stained glass pieces, a personal mezuzah, pottery and of course, lanyards, lanyards and more lanyards.

This past year camp was held exclusively at the Harvey Mudd College campus, which provided not only a highly functional and safe environment but an exquisite setting. Those campers on the western side of the San Gabriel Valley took a certified school bus to and from the campsite. The bus ride was a huge hit with the kids. While on the bus, they enjoyed the camaraderie of their peers along with songs and games led by the staff. Because of the single site, Mitchell made new friends that he hopes to see during the year as well as next summer. And I got connected with other Jewish families as well.

I am deeply involved with camp not only as a parent but as the Chairman of the Camp Gan Shalom Steering Committee and as a member of the Board of Jewish Federation. We are looking to create the consummate camping experience within a Jewish context. We are currently expanding the committee, and you are welcome to join if you are interested in helping to plan Summer 2001. Simply call the Federation and let a staff member know.

Though camp seems to have just ended and the High Holidays are upon us, it is not too early to think about camp. I want to encourage you to start thinking now about what kind of experience you want your child to have next summer. Information and registration materials will be available in the next few months. When you receive a packet in the mail, I urge you to sign up early. B'Shalom.

## A Meaningful Summer Adventure

This summer, many took advantage of travel to see Israel and experience country with their peers. Davidson, 16, of Altadena on a program with Habor North America known as Machaneh Bonim in Israel and 139 other teens from Jerusalem, went to a camp for a week and then sent to various kibbutzim in Israel.

"In one day we rode camels and slept in a Bedouin tent," said Davidson. "The next day we took a trip of the Burma Road. E

Erica Friedman, graduating class receiving her Education from UC... Erica has been at Roosevelt High School. She has also taught in Hollywood.

Celebrating her... Friedman of Newport Beach and Harry Friedman.

## BBYO NEWS

Having just completed one of the most successful programming and membership years in nearly 15 years, the Southwestern Region BBYO (B'Nai Brith Youth Organization) is gearing up for another successful year. Twenty-five of our teens went to the International Convention in Starlight Pennsylvania. Southwestern Region was honored for having the highest membership increase of all the regions in the order, with an increase of 19.5%.

The teens are continuing the momentum they created last year, as membership continues to grow and chapters flourish. The

The Jewish Federation wishes to congratulate these graduates for having been accepted to the Bureau of Jewish Education.

**DAYSCHOOL**

Atid Hebrew Academy