

CAMP AIRY *Since 1924* | ORDER OF THE LEAF *Since 1934*



45TH
ANNUAL CAMP AIRY
ORDER OF THE LEAF
ALUMNI REUNION



Art Drager (3rd row, left) with Counselors and Staff, 1969.

FRIENDSHIP · LOYALTY · SERVICE
ORDER OF THE LEAF
LIFETIME “PASSION”
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

SEPTEMBER 19, 2015

CAMP AIRY - THURMONT, MARYLAND

CAMP AIRY ORDER OF THE LEAF
“CELEBRATION OF PASSION”
45TH ANNUAL ALUMNI REUNION

Evening Program

Master of Ceremonies: Dr. Steve Thompson

Greetings	Art Drager President, Order of the Leaf Alumni, Inc.
Review of the Summer of 2015	Marty Rochlin , Director, Camp Airy
Hamotzi	Larry Cantor
Dinner	
Campus Chapter - News	Brian Kaufman President, Order of the Leaf Campus Chapter
Reading of the <i>Leaf</i> Charter	Artie Besner
Special <i>Leaf</i> Induction of Stanley Mazer	Dennis Shusman, Larry Block
1995 CIT 20th Anniversary Presentation	Jason Smulson
Presentation: “ <i>Order of the Leaf Lifetime Passion Achievement Award</i> ”	Introduction By: Mike Schneider
Acceptance Speech	Art Drager

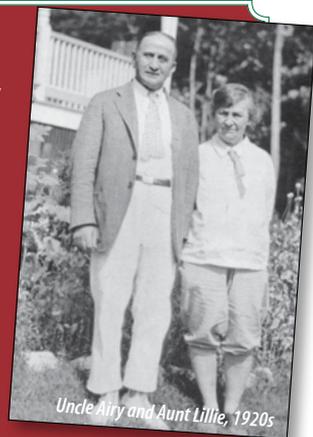
After the program please join us to “Make Your Own Sundae”.

OUR HISTORY..

The Order of the Leaf was founded in 1934 by the counselors of Camp Airy for the purpose of promoting the spirit of friendship among each other and of loyalty to the institution of which they are a part.

Order of the Leaf is the Camp Airy organization that all staff members are welcomed into after three years of service. The activities of this non-profit organization include providing Campership assistance to children, who because of economic need, cannot pay all or part of camp fees. Additionally, Order of the Leaf contributes toward the enhancement of camp facilities for the benefit of campers and counselors.

**Learn the history of Camp Airy by visiting
www.orderoftheleaf.org/history.html**



LIFETIME “PASSION” ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Order of the Leaf Lifetime “Passion” Achievement Award was established in 2004 as we celebrated Camp Airy’s 80th birthday. This award honors individuals who demonstrate their Airy passion by embracing the guiding principles of the Order of the Leaf – friendship, loyalty and service – during and following their active participation on the Camp Airy staff.

Tonight, on the 45th Alumni Reunion Weekend, we honor Art Drager as the 2015 recipient of the “Passion” Achievement Award.

“At Home at Camp Airy”

CAMP AIRY - ORDER OF THE LEAF LIFETIME “PASSION”
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT FOR 2015:

ART DRAGER

ART DRAGER FONDLY REMEMBERS Camp Airy in the 1960s as a “second home.” “Everybody knew everybody and everybody had a good time together,” he recalls with a smile, seated on his screened in porch, just a long stone’s throw from the camp entrance on Old Camp Airy Road.

Art loved swimming and worked his way up to the swim staff. He also loved photography, and upon arrival for his CIT summer, was hired as a photography counselor.

“They needed a photography counselor, and my salary was the same as Sid’s (Chernak, former executive director) first summer, \$75,” he says. His parents were refunded the \$240 they paid for the 9-week CIT summer program as well.

When asked about his fondest camp memories, he immediately reveals “the people.”

“Not only the guys I went to camp with, but the people who were there for years,” he recalls. “They knew how to relate to us and mentored us.”

Among his noted mentors were William “Doc” Pargman, Airy’s first director, Sid, Lena Cohen, who first worked at Camp Louise and later became the assistant to the director; Miss Ida, the first executive for Airy and Louise; and Jacob Lee, the long time Camp Airy chief cook.

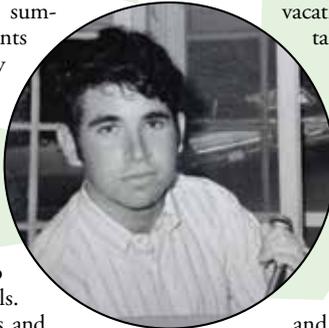
Art credits Sid’s influence for developing his legal and administrative skills. Art says Sid thought like a lawyer and his administration skills were excellent having been an assistant superintendent of Baltimore City Public Schools.

Long after his camper, counselor and unit leader days ended, Art remained involved in Camp Airy and Camp Louise. His summer vacations were spent on the mountain, and in the winter, he would

meet Sid at the camp office at 7:30 or 8:00 am before work.

He worked closely with Sid and others to administer the J. Jacob and Daisy Lee Memorial Fund, established to provide scholarship assistance for needy African American students, for over 20 years.

Art had a cabin at camp and spent weekends there, often schlepping supplies, sporting goods



Art Drager, 1969.

LIFETIME “PASSION”



Bunk 19 at Camp Airy in 1970.

or equipment needed at camp. He remembers giving Ruthie Cohen a ride to camp, but with a packed car she had to hold a box of arrows.

After opening his law practice in 1977, Art became involved in the legal side of camp. He helped orchestrate an agreement between Camp Airy and the town of Thurmont regarding sewage after working for years with the Maryland State Department of the Environment. He worked on zoning and site planning for the Jungle Cock building. He reviewed compliance with American Camping Association standards as well as hiring, labor and employment practices on an annual basis. He also worked with Sheldon Cohen to set up the Camp Airy Order of the Leaf Alumni Inc.'s 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service.

All the years he has provided consulting services for camp, he has never collected any fees.

“You do good causes and things and it comes back,” Art says.

“Over time, Art knew everything there was to know about camp. If a question needed to be answered, Art would know or would find out,” says Ed Stolar, whose father Mike was a counselor and ultimately medical director for many years. “As legal counselor, Art was an invaluable

resource. He was the behind-the-scenes guy who trouble-shot more problems than people realize. He was the glue that kept things from falling apart and still works hard for camp.”

From its creation, camp was designed as a respite from the cities for those in need, kids from divorced homes, staff members with financial problems, those dealing with custody issues, and those needing summer jobs. In addition, outside organizations like the Boy Scouts and the Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock have benefited from the wonderful place known as Camp Airy. Art has helped over the years with the weekend groups, and still plays a part in the Jungle Cock weekends.

“He’s very much involved in forming and shaping what Airy is today,” says Jonathan Gerstl, executive director of Camps Airy & Louise. “With his time and his energy, his historical point of view and knowledge, he’s a valuable asset to camp. We will continue to count on Art’s commitment, support and advice to camp.”

A big part of camp is the relationships that develop. Business associations transcend from connections made at camp, and friendships grow and endure into deep, lifelong connections.

“You’re part of a family, it’s an extension of home,” Art says. “I’ve spent a lot of good times socializing with people who became my friends at camp.”

One of those friends is Mike Schneider, who knew Art was important to camp his first summer working on the mountain.

“My first summer as a counselor I got to know him,” says Schneider, who ultimately served as executive director from 1998-2008. “He was a college student and he had the ear of Sid Chernak and Doc Pargman. I knew he was an important part of camp.

“The bottom line is he is so dedicated to camp and what it stands for and stood for and the history of camp. The only things he loves more than camp are his mother and daughter.



Having fun with daughter Dani at a Camp Airy event.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Three Stooges are a distant second.”

Art was on a first name basis with Sid, which Mike noticed.

“His work with Mr. Chernak was one of his proudest accomplishments. He was one of the few to call him Sid. Everyone else called him Mr. Chernak or Mr. C. Art was very comfortable with him,” says Mike, who was in constant contact with Art during his tenure with camp and remains a good friend today. “Mr. Chernak was a strong, caring, gentleman, but a powerful person. When he spoke, people listened. He listened to Art.”

Art’s generosity has not been lost on camp leaders over the years.

“He enjoys doing what he’s doing and he doesn’t need to get money for it,” Mike notes. “It’s just that he’s helping camp.

Being an important part of camp, I think, was more important than money. It still is now.”

Art serves as a trustee for the Pargman Fund, set up on the occasion of Camp Airy’s 25th anniversary. For the 50th, Lena Cohen’s name was added, and for the 75th, Sid and Helen Chernak were also honored as part of the official fund.

Not only has Art not received any monetary compensation from Camp Airy or Camp Louise, he also has contributed financially to improvements over the years. Some include a water heater for the photo shop, black top for Bunk Row, tennis court lights, a sound system and electronic scoreboard for the gymnasiums at both Airy and Louise, most nautical equipment at Camp Louise. Most recently, along with Richard Biller and others, Art funded the playground at Airy, at the urging of his daughter, Dani Drager, a Louise camper, who donated \$6,400 of her bat mitzvah gift money for camperships.

“It’s not only a question of one person doing for camp,” Art explains. “It’s about teaching your kids and others to do so as well to help it perpetuate.”

Today, Art has no idea how much in total he has donated to camp, nor can he calculate the worth of his legal consultation services. For a time, he received calls from the Foundation for guidance “almost daily.”

His other camp accomplishments include starting the alumni association, serving as president of the Order of the Leaf for two years and starting the annual reunion gatherings in 1971. Art has served as President of the Order

of the Leaf Alumni Chapter for its entire 45 years.

“It’s one weekend a year designated to allow counselors to come back and see camp and each other, without taking away from the current campers’ experience,” he says. “The whole idea from the beginning is camp was supposed to benefit everyone.”

“Frankly, we wouldn’t be coming up here year after year celebrating our years at camp if it weren’t for Art,” says Ed, a former camper who like his father served as a camp physician. “Art has a wonderful sense of humor, (he’s) fun to be with, and I’m proud to count him as one of my closest friends.”

Jonathan says Art is deserving of recognition for all he has done for camp.

“Camp is because of the countless volunteer hours Art has spent for camp,” he says. “It is special that we can acknowledge Art for his dedication and commitment above and beyond what others do. Airy and Louise are part of his fabric, part of his family.”

Twenty-five years ago, Art decided to a home near Airy for year around use. He has developed friendships with people in Thurmont, provided legal counsel to some in the community and he helps to keep the town’s ties strong with camp.

“It’s part of his makeup,” Mike says. “His makeup is camp.”

— Written by Linda L. Esterson



*Art with Dr. Ed Stolar,
Dr. Frank Blatt and Bruce Salzman.*

ORDER OF THE LEAF CHARTER - 1934

Be it known to all on this 29th day of August in the year 1934, the Brotherhood of the Order of the Leaf has been duly organized by the senior members of the counselor staff of Camp Airy for the purpose of promoting the spirit of friendship among each other and of loyalty to the institution of which they are a part.

Grand Patron: Aaron Straus

Grand Councilor: William Pargman

High Councilor: David Lovett

High Council:

Jerome Cohen, Jerome Feldman, Donald Frankel, Julius Halpern, Morton Kramer, Hy Lichtenstein, Leo Platt, Ben B. Rosenberg

CHARTER MEMBERS:

Morris Bohrer
Joseph Cahn
Jerome Cohen
Jerome Feldman
Donald Frankel
Herbert Friedberg
Charles Friedman
Nathan Goldman
Richard Hahn

Julius Halpern
Morton Kramer
Hy Lichtenstein
Aaron Levin
David Lovett
William Pargman
Leo Platt
Ben B. Rosenberg
Leonard Sackerman

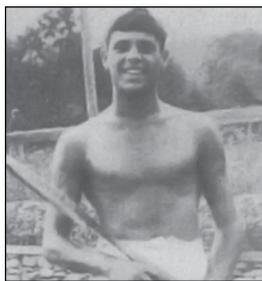
Herb Schmidt
Milton Seidman
Jack Shapiro
Aaron Straus
George Weinstein
Hugo Weisgal
Samuel Woal

Our heritage will never be forgotten through all who have passed before us; their spirit remains with us at Camp Airy, Forever.

2004-2014 PASSION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS



2004 "First Camper, 1924"
JERRY COHEN*



2004 "The Airy Spirit"
LEO PLATT*



2005 "Dr. Who Gave Back"
DR. PHIL BAND*

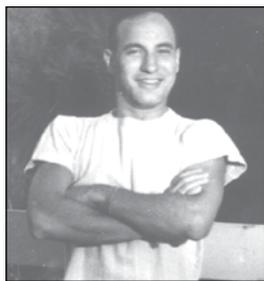
2004-2014 PASSION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS



2005 "Swim Staff"
NORMAN LAND*



2006 "LeChiam"
DR. DANNY FRAMM



2007 "Dr. Who Gave Back"
DR. ARNOLD MICHAEL*



2007 "Airy, My Family"
SHELDON S. COHEN



2008 "My Cherished Roots"
HAROLD J. FALCHICK



2009 "Airy Was In Our Blood"
MOLLIE*, BEN* & JERRY GORAN



2010 "Friendships Grow Here"
MARV AND SANDEE
ROSENSTEIN



2011 "Helping Kids Grow"
LARRY "COACH" CANTOR



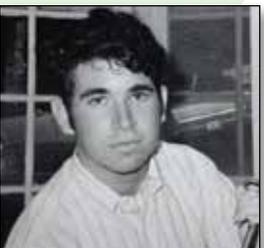
2012 "You Haven't Lived Until
You've Gone to Camp Airy"
DR. IRA TUBLIN



2013 "Building Better Campers"
RICK AND PAM FRANKLE



2014 "A Life Altering Experience"
IRV B. DENT



2015 "At Home at Camp Airy"
ART DRAGER

* Deceased

IN MEMORIAM *written by Artie Besner*

STANLEY MAZER

Stan Mazer dedicated the last 15 years of his life expressing his passion for Airy. He wanted to give back to the place that brought what he called “lifelong friends.” This led him to join the Alumni Reunion Committee where his contagious enthusiasm inspired us. Stan soon took a lead role in planning and serving as master of ceremonies at the reunions. His engaging personality allowed Stan to connect with persons across all age groups, including a special bond with the earliest Airy staff. The experiences culminated in Stan proposing the Order of the Leaf Lifetime “Passion” Achievement Award, established in 2004. The award honors those who show their passion to camp through the Leaf’s guiding principles – friendship, loyalty and service -- during and following their tenure at Airy.

Stan brought creativity and an innovative spirit in writing and producing the reunion program bulletin. He also designed an award that captured each recipient’s accomplishments listed on an enlarged Leaf logo mounted on a log that Stan would locate on one of the trails surrounding camp.

Stan recognized that annual reunions are hard to keep members coming back regularly. Over the years he introduced new entertainment, contests and gifts for those who attended. His efforts succeeded in elevating the reunions to a higher level. Last year’s reunion attracted one of the largest attendance.

Stan Mazer’s deep passion for cherishing our Airy roots is a wonderful legacy and blessing for all of us. 🍂

STEPHEN HERSH

We will miss **Steve Hersh**, who was a model counselor and caring person. While Steve developed wide interests over the years, he continued to maintain a special love for Camp Airy.

Those who overlapped with Steve’s tenure at Airy in the 1960s remember him as the sculpted bodybuilder and enthusiastic member of the swim staff. His fun loving spirit and encouraging personality with the campers led many to think of him as a “gentle giant.”

Steve spent most of his career supervising groups of adults with disabilities in factories and sheltered work places in Chambersburg, Pa. He experienced joy taking these challenged persons on extended field trips so they, too, could participate fully and share in life’s many blessings.

Much of Steve’s free time was devoted to helping others. His passion was combating discrimination and hate crimes and organizing rallies for equal rights at the local, state and national level. He felt all persons must be respected and valued and wrote columns and letters to newspapers on how we can appreciate America’s growing diversity.

In negotiating equal treatment and compliance with civil rights laws, Steve was known not to back down, even if it meant enduring criticisms for challenging policies and practices long held by leading officials. His tireless efforts gave him recognition as a “champion of justice and a warrior against hatred and bigotry.”

As a Red Cross volunteer, Steve assisted communities following major fires, floods and other disasters. After one national weather disaster, Steve manned the telephone lines at the Red Cross national headquarters, counseling victims 1,000 miles away on how to remain safe and secure.

Steve enjoyed exploring and sharing new adventures, building on his experiences at Airy. He especially enjoyed travel, sightseeing, hiking, photography and, of course, vigorous exercise.

We will remember Steve as a “mensch” – a decent, compassionate human being.

We extend our condolences to Steve’s beloved wife, Iris, their children, Adam, Andrew and Steven, and six grandchildren. 🍂

ORDER OF THE LEAF

2015 ORDER OF THE LEAF ALUMNI OFFICERS:

President: Arthur L. Drager

Vice President: Harold Falchick • *Secretary-Treasurer:* Sheldon S. Cohen

ORDER OF THE LEAF CAMPUS CHAPTER OFFICERS:

President: Brian Kaufman • *Vice President:* Phil Lasser

Secretary: Ira Thompson • *Treasurer:* Marilyn Riffkin

Executive Secretary: Eric Bloom

Alumni Liaisons: Sybil Kessinger, Caryn Lasser