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Jewish Philadelphia's Summer Camp Album

JESSE BERNSTEIN | JE STAFF

The first Jewish summer camp in the United States was opened in New York by the Jewish Working Girls Vacation Society in 1893.

The early camps grew out of a larger social reform movement, which held that children needed to be taken out of their newly industrialized, smoke-choked cities to enjoy the fresh air of the country.

Today, 128 years later, Jewish summer camp has become a central plank of institutional Jewish life in the United States. More than 80,000 Jewish children attended a camp in 2018 and, for many of them, the connections they have to their camps are multi-generational, deeply-held and central to the formation of their Jewish identity.

There are Jewish camps for every affinity, denomination and region. They model kibbutzim, educate on Zionism of this or that stripe and even take their campers to Israel. A 2013 survey found that one third of American Jews had attended Jewish overnight camp.

Last summer, the pandemic prevented many of these camps from functioning as they typically did; for some, the summer was canceled altogether. Now, as mass vaccinations continue and public safety measures are relaxed by the week, 2021 might look a lot closer to normal.

To celebrate the return to something-like-normalcy for a key portion of American-Jewish life, we asked Jewish Exponent readers to send us photos of their camp days. They responded with gusto. •

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Elliot Miller, top row, second camper from right, at Silver Arrow Day Camp in 1957. Miller is vice president of Beth Sholom Congregation.

Courtesy of Elliot Miller



Edward Levy, top row, far right, at Camp Arthur in 1931.

Courtesy of Suzanne Levy



Haim Klimoff at Camp Galil in 1947.

Courtesy of Dodi Klimoff



Rabbi Charles Sherman and Leah Hurowitz Sherman at Ramah in Glen Spey (now called Camp Ramah in New England) in 1970. They were engaged that summer at camp.

Courtesy of Leah Hurowitz Sherman

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**2020
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E. Matthew Steinberg
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Undated, unnamed photo from Camp Galil. Thought to be the late 1940s.
Courtesy of Molly Wernick



Camp Reeta in 1970. Back row, from left: Sheryl Neckritz, Paula Cohen, Marilyn Rosenberg, Ellen Zatz and Laura Cohen. Front row, from left: Barbara Cohen, Fern Stein, Elise Berger, Sherri Klazmer, Shara Debs, Randi Gottesman, Susan Green and Alison Miller.

Courtesy of Sheryl Neckritz



Jay Steinberg, seated, second from right, at the now-defunct Camp Sun Mountain, in 1964 or 1965. Steinberg, 69, is a longtime Philadelphia Jewish community professional who lives in Phoenixville.

Courtesy of Jay Steinberg



Camp Ramah in the Poconos, 1986. According to Melanie Kron, front row, yellow shirt, many of the girls in this photo became lifelong friends.

Courtesy of Melanie Kron



Sisters Molly Wernick, left, and Arielle Wernick during their first summer at Camp Galil in 1998. Molly Wernick is community director at Galil, and Arielle Wernick is business project manager at Vanguard, as well as the immediate past president of the Galil board of directors.

Courtesy of Molly Wernick

A Bethany Beach Summer

ELEANOR LINAFELT | JE STAFF

If you're looking for a quieter way to re-emerge into the world this summer, Bethany Beach, Delaware, is the place to go. The quaint beach town, which is an easy two-and-a-half hour drive from Philadelphia, is perfect for families, couples and friends alike.

Bethany Beach has its fair share of places to eat and things to do, but if you want even more to explore while you're there, it's conveniently located near multiple other busier beach towns and beautiful state parks.

From concerts all summer long to weekly youth nature programs to locally owned restaurants, we found all the things for you to check out on your vacation to Bethany Beach.

Photo by Wayne Lyons



WHAT TO DO

The Bethany Beach boardwalk, lined with shops and food (more on that shortly), is less than a half-mile long, which makes it perfect for a calm evening stroll or peaceful morning bike ride.

For interesting and fun educational experiences, bring the family to the Bethany Beach Nature Center, consistently ranked as one of the top 10 things to do in Bethany Beach. The Nature Center offers events to increase awareness of the area's inland bays and wetlands, and fun hands-on activities for kids of all ages. Throughout the summer, the Nature Center will hold youth programs every Saturday morning.

For even more fun family activities, take a visit to Arnie's Playland, located along the boardwalk. The amusement center has Skee-Ball, arcade games and more. Another favorite spot is Captain Jack's Pirate Golf which is the only miniature golf in Bethany Beach, and, thankfully, open every day. Kids will love the 50-foot pirate ship and talking pirate along the course.

If you're looking for fresh, local food during your stay, make sure to fit in a trip to the Bethany Beach Farmers Market, which is open on Sunday mornings throughout the summer. Started with the goal of connecting the town's residents and visitors with the food they eat, the Farmers Market's growers are primarily from around the area.

And then, of course, there's always the beach. Bethany's is beautiful, clean and perfect for everyone's favorite beach activities, including sunbathing, swimming and more.

WHERE TO EAT

In terms of food, you'll definitely want to sample some of the many available boardwalk treats while you're at Bethany Beach. Boardwalk Fries offers chicken fingers, hot dogs, fried pickles and more, in addition to their fries served plain or with special flavoring. DB Fries is the spot for fried seafood options, and if you're



Jenn Carter

craving popcorn, you can get a big bucket from Fisher's Popcorn.

For dessert, Dickey's Frozen Custard is a much-loved Bethany Beach institution. The family-owned Maureen's Ice Cream and Desserts is right around the corner, offering not only ice cream, but also cupcakes, cakes, coffee and more.

Bethany Beach has plenty of sit-down, locally owned restaurants as well. There are multiple options for seafood, including Bluecoast Seafood Grill and Raw Bar, 99 Sea Level Restaurant & Raw Bar, Off the Hook and The Blue Crab. For something a little different, 14 Global is a popular restaurant with a variety of globally inspired dishes, cocktails and craft beers. For breakfast and coffee, check out Beach Break Bakrie and Café and Sunshine Crepes.

And of crucial note: Rosenfeld's Jewish Delicatessen, which has locations in Rehoboth, Ocean City, Maryland and Wilmington, just opened a new spot in South Bethany. The collaboration with Big Fish Restaurant Group includes a full market with meat, fish, Jewish delicacies and more, in addition to a sit-down restaurant with both Rosenfeld's and Big Fish specialties. You'll find a variety of Reuben sandwiches, blintzes, matzah ball soup and many more delicious favorites.



Pat Walsh

SPECIAL EVENTS

Bethany Beach is offering consistent and varied event programming all season. Musicians perform every Thursday evening through the summer at the boardwalk's bandstand. This year's scheduled lineup includes the official chorus of the U.S. Air Force, a modern country band, Nashville singer-songwriters, an Elvis tribute artist and more.

For a fun family evening activity, check out the Movies on the Beach offerings. Every Monday through the summer, Bethany Beach hosts outdoor movies at dusk. This year's include many


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family-friendly favorites, including “The Secret Life of Pets 2,” “Toy Story,” “Dolittle” and more.

If you're able to make it to Bethany Beach in time for Independence Day, the 287th Army Band will perform on the Fourth of July, and a local rock band will be playing the next day right before the fireworks display.

And just in case you decide to make a post-Labor Day trip to the beach, be sure to be there for the 43rd annual Bethany Beach Boardwalk Arts Festival on Sept. 11. The event will feature work from painters, woodworkers, sculptors, jewelers and more. There also will be a silent auction to raise money for the arts programs at five local schools.

WHAT'S NEARBY?

Bethany Beach is just one of many destinations along the Delaware and nearby Maryland coast, which means there are plenty of fun day trips you can take while you're there. If you're looking for a more bustling beach experience, Ocean City, Maryland, is only a 30-minute drive. Ocean City's three-mile boardwalk is often packed with visitors enjoying its vast array of food, shops and amusements.

Rehoboth Beach is another popular Delaware beach, which is about 20 minutes north of Bethany. If you make the drive to Rehoboth, check out Matt's Fish Camp on the way, a favorite seafood spot for locals and visitors. You'll also pass through the Delaware Seashore State Park, which has six miles of ocean coastline and nearly 3,000 acres of undeveloped park.

For another peaceful nature experience, Fenwick Island State Park is a tranquil barrier island a mere 10 minutes south from Bethany Beach. The island has a historical lighthouse, a shipwreck museum and a small boardwalk of its own. ●



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Summer Books Preview

JESSE BERNSTEIN | JE STAFF

If you look around right now, you might be thinking, “Wow. The weather is amazing, the streets are alive and it’s time for me to get outside again. The worst of the pandemic has passed, the summer is here and it’s finally time for me to safely, responsibly engage with the people I love. Heck, even the people I’m not so crazy about!”

A classic mistake. Now, more than ever, it is time to stay inside with the best new books that our sprawling multinational publishing conglomerates have to offer. You owe it to yourself, this paper and, most of all, to me.

Below, we’ve separated the wheat from the literary chaff.

“DOUBLE BLIND”

Edward St. Aubyn (June 1)

St. Aubyn is known for his Patrick Melrose series, five short novels about British people who are rich, sad, angry and on drugs. They’re mostly excellent and make you feel like you’re reading the world’s best-written gossip column, with no blind items. St. Aubyn’s newest, about three close friends bound together by love, the pursuit of knowledge and ecology, doesn’t sound quite so dishy or salacious, but the strength of his past work should be enough to sell you on this one. Beautiful cover, too.

“EVERYONE KNOWS YOUR MOTHER IS A WITCH”

Rivka Galchen (June 8)

When it comes to a sense of the weird, Galchen stands alone among the big name, young-ish American Jewish novelists — Englander, Krauss, Safran Foer, Cohen, etc. Her first novel, “Atmospheric Disturbances,” is a favorite of mine, the story of a one Dr. Leo Liebenstein and his “missing” wife. “Everyone Knows Your Mother Is a Witch” tells the story of Katharina Kepler, a 17th-century German illiterate widow accused of practicing witchcraft. Widowed and persecuted, Katharina has to rely on her son, her few friends and her wits to survive.

“DISTANT FATHERS”

Marina Jarre, translated by Ann Goldstein (June 22)

The rare case where the work of the translator is what got me interested. Ann Goldstein, a longtime editor at The New Yorker, is best known for her translations of Elena Ferrante’s Neapolitan Quartet, which, if you’re pressed for time, you should read instead of this article. But if you have the wherewithal to soldier on, check out Goldstein’s translation of Jarre’s memoir. Jarre, who died in 2016, barely escaped the Latvian iteration of the Holocaust to become a novelist of the new, forged-in-fire Europe, and Goldstein does her work justice in this translation.

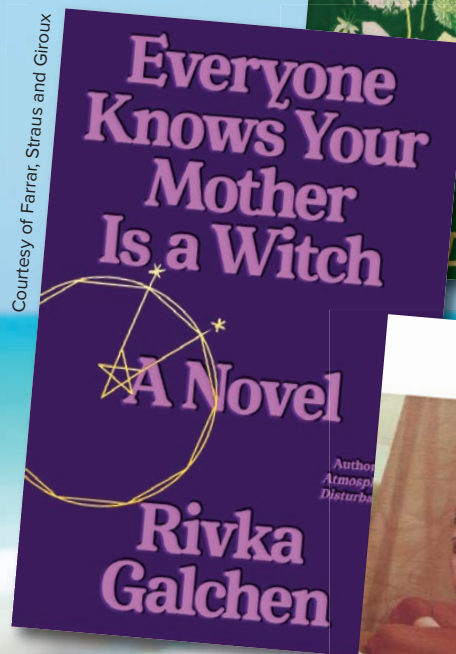
“FILTHY ANIMALS”

Brandon Taylor (June 22)

Taylor is both a wonderful novelist and a great Twitter follow, which is rare, because usually it’s one or the other. His 2020 novel, “Real Life,” was shortlisted for the Booker Prize, and if a Bernstein Prize existed, it would have made my 2020 shortlist as well. I’m not yet big-time enough to have received a galley of his newest, a collection of linked short stories about sexy artists called “Filthy Animals,” but I’m looking forward to checking it out.



Courtesy of Farrar, Straus and Giroux



Courtesy of Farrar, Straus and Giroux



Courtesy of New Vessel Press

"WAYWARD"

Dana Spiotta (July 6)

Spiotta's "Eat the Document" is a genuine classic among contemporary novels, and I'm not certain why she's not much more well-known. Her forthcoming novel, "about aging, about the female body and about female difficulty—female complexity—in the age of Trump," and also about a woman who flees her family, sounds like the sort of thing Spiotta will do well.

"NEW TEETH"

Simon Rich (July 27)

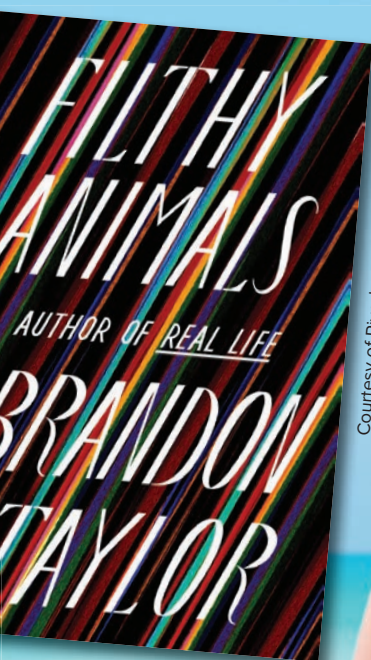
It's actually amazing how many different funny things Simon Rich has had a hand in over a short period of time. The once-upon-a-time "Saturday Night Live" writer has many funny collections of stories to his name, and his four-part series for The New Yorker served as the source material for "An American Pickle." Check out this new one for a good introduction to Rich.



Courtesy of Knopf



Courtesy of Little, Brown and Company



Courtesy of Riverhead Books



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"AFTERPARTIES"

Anthony Veasna So (August 3)

I didn't know much about Anthony Veasna So before he died in December. I knew his work for the magazine *n+1*, but in the months since he passed there's been an incredible outpouring of love and grief from the writers and editors that knew him, and I was inspired to look back into what I'd already read. There was only one conclusion: I want to read "Afterparties," So's first and only short story collection, and I look forward to spending time with the type of writer that is in short supply.

"MORE THAN I LOVE MY LIFE"

David Grossman, translated by Jessica Cohen (August 24)

David Grossman is one of Israel's worthiest exports. His novels and essays are consistently thoughtful, generous and worth reading for the language, even when translated. For that, thank Cohen, who has translated many of Grossman's works into English, alongside books from other big-name Israeli writers. If you don't believe me, check out this newest novel of his. •

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On the Road Again

ELEANOR LINAFFELT | JE STAFF

Living in the Philadelphia area, we're lucky to have other big cities, like New York and Washington, D.C., an easy car, bus or train ride away when we want even more history and culture than what our own has.

But several medium-sized cities that are all within a day's drive from Philly have plenty to offer as well, including outdoor activities, unique museums and summer festivals. After we've been stuck around home for so long, it's worth exploring some new places this summer.

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BALTIMORE

Just under a two-hour drive down Interstate 95, you could make it to Baltimore and back in a day, but you'll want to schedule more time than that for all the city has to offer.

The Inner Harbor, with the National Aquarium, Maryland Science Center and Port Discovery Children's Museum, is a popular tourist destination, and rightfully so, but the city has other great areas and attractions to explore.

Neighborhoods like Canton, Hampden and Fell's Point are packed with quaint shops and independent eateries.

Baltimore also has plenty to offer in the area of quirk: The American Visionary Art Museum features imaginative and unique work by self-taught artists outside the art world; the Papermoon Diner in Remington is packed with mannequins, a giant Pez collection and carousel horses; and Graffiti Alley is a hidden spot covered in constantly changing colorful street art.



▲ Hampden

Ken Stanek Photography



▲ Baltimore skyline

Ken Stanek Photography



▲ Graffiti Alley

Ken Stanek Photography

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

Like Philadelphia, Rochester is steeped in interesting American history. For one, Susan B. Anthony, a pivotal member of the women's suffrage movement, was born in the city. You can learn more about her life and work at the National Susan B. Anthony Museum & House. Then pay a visit to her grave at Mt. Hope Cemetery, where the abolitionist Frederick Douglass, who lived in the city for 25 years, is also buried.

If you want to learn even more about women's suffrage, Seneca Falls, New York, the location of the first Women's Rights Convention in 1848, is on the way from Philadelphia.

Another famous historical house in the city is the George Eastman Museum, which is the former home of the founder of the Eastman Kodak Company and pioneer of photography and motion picture film. The museum holds one of the biggest collections of photography equipment in the world and hosts a variety of rotating photography exhibits. It has a large film archive that houses the private collections of filmmaker greats, including Ken Burns, Spike Lee and Martin Scorsese.

Later in the summer, Rochester will host a variety of festivals, including the Little Italy Festival, Carifest, Flour City Brewers Fest and Puerto Rican Festival.



▲ Rochester skyline

rolikett / Getty ImagesiStockPhoto



▲ George Eastman House

JKucko2016



▲ Susan B. Anthony Museum & House

National Susan B. Anthony Museum and House

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

For active nature-lovers, Richmond is the place to go, with plenty of kayaking, hiking, white water rafting and biking spots easily accessible from downtown. The James River flows through the middle of the city and offers many options for outdoor adventure. Belle Isle is a popular island destination with wooded trails, a fishing pond, a climbing wall and flat rocks perfect for picnicking.

For those more inclined toward urban activities, Richmond boasts cool neighborhoods with independent shops and restaurants. Carytown, Church Hill and the Fan District are charming areas to walk around with quirky small businesses and eateries.

Richmond also has its fair share of museums, including the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia and the Edgar Allan Poe Museum, to name only a few. If you're missing Philly's street murals while you're there, don't worry — Richmond has more than 100 of its own throughout the city painted by local and international artists.



▲ James River

Richmond Region Tourism and Chris Johnson



▲ Fan Street

Richmond Region Tourism



▲ Street mural

Richmond Region Tourism and Virginia Tourism Corp.

PITTSBURGH

While it's the other big city of Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh is plenty different than Philadelphia, which makes it worth the drive. No visit to the Steel City is complete without a ride on its iconic inclines. It boasts two — the Duquesne and Monongahela — that run up the side of Mount Washington and offer brilliant views of the city's rivers, bridges and skyline.

The Andy Warhol Museum is a must-see, dedicated entirely to the famous Pittsburgh-born pop artist. An even more unusual museum in the city is Bicycle Heaven, the world's largest bicycle museum and shop, which holds more than 3,000 bikes from around history. For a unique experience you can't find just anywhere, check out the National Aviary, America's only independent indoor nonprofit zoo, which holds more than 500 birds representing more than 150 different species, many of which are rarely found in other zoos.

If you're looking for food, it's hard to go wrong with Primanti Brothers, a local staple where they put fries and coleslaw inside your sandwich. There are multiple locations throughout the city to satisfy your hunger anytime.



◀ The Andy Warhol Museum

Jin Wu



▲ The Duquesne Incline

Dave DiCello



▲ North Shore - Warhol Bridge

Dustin McGrew

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

Wilmington, with its unique historical destinations and family-friendly activities, is only a short 45-minute drive away.

The Nemours Estate is a Wilmington must-visit. Constructed by Alfred I. du Pont, the 300-acre estate has the largest French formal gardens in North America, inspired by the grounds of Versailles, and a 77-room mansion filled with paintings, antique furniture and tapestries. Another fascinating house from the du Pont family is the Hagley Museum and Library, which was the former industrial site of the black powder works of the DuPont Co. You'll be able to see restored buildings, the first du Pont family home built in America and stone ruins of the black powder industry among its 235 acres of rolling hills.

If you have kids along, they'll love the Brandywine Zoo, which is open daily and holds a wide range of special events. The city is home to the Delaware Children's Museum, which has a variety of interactive exhibits that teach kids about science, technology, engineering and math through fun and engaging activities.

Some special Wilmington events to check out this summer are the Delaware Shakespeare Festival, which runs for three weeks in July, and the 27th annual People's Street Festival Tribute to Bob Marley at the end of August. ●



▲ Wilmington skyline

Moonloop Photography LLC



▲ Delaware Children's Museum Moonloop Photography LLC

◀ Nemours Estate

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