

## 40 years of Beaver Lake Estates through the Eyes of a Son in Law

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A number of years ago I wrote a jovial, colorful, and candid article for our weekly Newsletter about Beaver Lake Estates through the eyes and experience of a Son in Law. It was in response to an article penned by my friend and mentor Saul Feder whereby he spoke of Beaver Lake in a magnificent light along with other flowery rhetoric. With the permission of our Editorial Board, Elected Board, and other Sub Rosa officials, I would like to present my latest thoughts of yes, you guessed right, 40 years of Beaver Lake Estates through the Eyes of a Son in Law.

The first question you may ask yourself is quite simple. You don't have 40 years of experience in Beaver Lake! You have been here since you've been married to your rational, mature, quiet, and better half Mimi for 20 years. Even the famous scheming accountant Max Bialystock would have difficulty identifying an additional twenty years for you. The simple answer is that if you read of my exploits and experiences in my previous article, you would agree that I can reference Rabbi Elazar Ben Azaryah's famous quote "I am like 70 years old". (Ah the benefits of Pesach in Beaver Lake!)

A few weeks ago, I had the privilege of speaking to our camping staff on a few safety and first aid matters as I had previously done in my capacity of Camp Medical director many years ago. As I was preparing to speak, a number of observations struck me concurrently. I saw my daughter Tzipora on stage in her capacity as Assistant to the Camp Director (as well as other titles that emerge weekly) and concurrently a wall full of names that were toddlers many years and are now obviously older and in some cases nearing Bar and Bat Mitzvah. I subsequently recalled many of the families I have gotten to know these past twenty years, including the exclusive back table of the 9:00 AM Shabbos Minyan who have acknowledged and accepted my 25% Hungarian ancestry, and the front table which include such luminaries, mentors, and good friends Dr. Tomi Karfunkel, Saul Feder Esq, Dr. Larry Feder, Larry Weiss, and Harry Bram nearby who gladly accepted my 75% non-Hungarian ancestry. I guess diversity is a good thing.

As the weeks went by, our family hosted a number of invited camp / logistics staff as well as a greater number of uninvited camp / logistics staff to use our home as a sort of Sloatsburg Rest Stop sans Minyan, but with a laundry facility and petting zoo (3D printed pets). It did not bother our family in the least as we enjoyed it. Above all else, I saw how Tzipora drew many people into her orbit and how her staff and friends trust her, and how hospitable she is. As a side note, I obviously employed tact, probity, and judicious thinking and did not complain of this intrusion as it would have been counterproductive and I would face withering criticism for being an uninvited guest for twenty years too. I lastly recalled the need to be appreciative of all those Beaver Lake members who are no longer with us. Many of them served the Beaver Lake community in various capacities and it was much appreciated. I fondly remembered many of the laughs and jokes I shared with Stanley Berger, the friendliness and pleasant conversations with Nandor "Andy" Mandel, Joe and Toby Feder, Mr. and Mrs. Meir Gottlieb, Mrs. Goldie Schwartz, and Harvey Pearlman. We also keep in mind those that are unable to come up again this summer due to illness, and that they should have a Refuah Shleimah. The totality of the situation made me realize what an enterprise this institution is! How fortunate we are individually and collectively to have something like a Beaverlake Estates in our experience. These grounds have provided an oasis whereby children come of age through a variety of experiences, gain lifetime friends, yearn for choice seating at the yearly Shareholders meeting as they get older, and ultimately graduate to bigger and

better positions in Beaver Lake and beyond. It is in this incubator that relationships and friendships are formed and tested, first jobs and new responsibilities, development of an independent spirit tethered to values instilled by a strong and diverse community, and perhaps realization that there are moments to decompress in bucolic surroundings. Only more so has this been realized in the past few years by our intrepid and pioneering President, for advocating and advertising the utilization of the Beaverlake Campus during the Chagim by shareholders and / or their proxy holding son in laws so that we can reconnect earlier in the season with friends in a pleasant and relaxed environment. (Great Job Harry et al!)

It is interesting to note that in the past few weeks, we have Parshas about a land reconnaissance party sent to Eretz Yisroel to scout and reconnoiter the land, a subversive Korach attempting to become the new leader, and the smooth transfer of leadership from Aaron to Pinchas. Interestingly enough, all these years later, we in Beaverlake have mirrored the positive and appropriate behaviors noted in the aforementioned Parshas albeit on a smaller scale. Emunah, Intrepid and pioneering spirits looking to build a summer community that is aligned with Modern Orthodox values, and to ensure continuity for future generations. I urge all to take a look at the construction pictures that are on the monitor by the shul. It's very inspiring. (PSA: Look at the construction and do not comment or stare at the awkward fashion choices you or your parents or grandparents made. It was the 1980s.

In sum, I learned after twenty years of being the uninvited guest in my in-laws home, you get used to being asked to open and close the house, clean up the house, hunt down WASPs and other stinging insects, run to the grocery stores four times a day on Sunday, unclog shower drains, and my favorite responsibility is attending the General Membership meeting with numerous Proxies. In sum, thanks to all that have made this all possible and special thank you to my in-laws for allowing me to be their permanently uninvited guest.

May we all be Zocheh to enjoy our time in Health, Happiness, Prosperity, and with a good sense of humor.