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We have just heard via e-mail that Edith Segal died. But of course that is not possible because she lives on in the hearts of so many whose lives she influenced. She was an incredibly talented artist who could have had a rich and successful career but chose instead to devote her life to the causes that were so important to her and to imbuing thousands of young people with the joy and fulfillment of participating in dance, in art, in Yiddish culture, and most important with the international, humanistic, radical values that she never reneged on.

I was sent to Camp Kinderland in 1939 as a third grouper, from New Britain, Conn. where I had had no experience with Yiddishkeit, the shules, and everyone I met was a stranger. But my parents were JPFO members, "Freiheit" readers, and wanted me to have the Kinderland orientation even though we lived outside New York. I didn't know anyone there, the situation was foreign to me, I ran away from camp every day and remember Davidovitch sitting me down, putting his arm around me, assuring me that everyone loved me and wanted me to be happy. My mother was not well and needed this time away from her children, so every one was apprised of the situation and determined to make me happy. By the second week of camp, miserable as I was, I had been to Edith's dance class and was chosen to be in two dances. I can still remember the dances, my partner, the costumes, and others in the group. My life changed. When my parents came to get me at the end of four weeks I begged to stay another two weeks so that I could be in the dance presentation, and they allowed it although it was a financial hardship for them at the time.

They came up for the program and to take me home and could not believe the change that had taken place. All the way home I sang the songs I had learned in camp, and from then on I led two lives, one in New Britain at school and with friends, but in reality just dreaming about going back to camp for the summer, and of course I kept in touch with camp friends and even visited back and forth to New York. In 1944 I became a junior counselor in the fourth group, and in 1946 I became a first group counselor and met my future husband, Gene Bluestein. We worked in camp together for three years, and on June 12, 1949, we had our wedding in Camp Kinderland with the Rae Dashingier band playing for dancing and good times on the Lakeland raft. We rented the camp for the weekend, and many of our Kinderland friends attended. We are still in touch with our wonderful Kinderland friends even though we have not lived in the East for almost 50 years. The values and philosophy of Edith Segal and camp Kinderland have guided our lives and those of our children. We have continued to sing the songs and dance the dances that we learned at camp. I don't know if Elvis lives, but I know Edith does!