

1. Classification Accident		Nat Call 030		SHERIFF-CORONER SANTA BARBARA COUNTY CORONER'S REGISTER			2. Case Number 05-13744		Coroner's Number C-05-0793		
3. Date and Time Pronounced Dead 08/15/2005 @ 1545Hr.			4. Location Of Death Goleta Valley Cottage Hosp. 351 S. Patterson Rd.				5. Date And Time Reported, Day Of Week 08/15/2005 @ 1559Hr. Mon.				
6. Deceased: Last Name GOTTESMAN			First JONATHAN		Middle Name ZEEV ABRAHAM MEIR			7. AKA		8. Social Security Number	
9. Date of Birth 12-16-2000 /4		Age 14	10. Race W	Sex M	Height 3' 05"	Weight 40	Hair BRO	Eyes BRO	11. Citizenship USA		12. Place of Birth (State or Foreign Country) California
13. Last Usual Residence of Deceased: (Street Address - City - County - State) 7555 Seagull Dr. Goleta, Ca. 93117									14. Occupation (Last Known) Child		
15. Mortuary Making Removal of Remains from Scene: Removal by Coroner						Removal Type		16. Outside Agency Case #		17. Officer	
18. Person Reporting Death to Dispatch or Coroner: Name, Address, City, County, State, Zip Code Goleta Valley Cottage Hospital Staff							Phone - Residence		Business 805-967-3411		
19. Person Who Discovered Deceased or Pronounced Death: Name, Address, City, County, State, Zip Code Dr. Susan Zapalac, 351 S. Patterson Ave. Santa Barbara, Ca. 93111							Phone - Residence		Business 805-967-3411		

20. NEXT OF KIN (Specify Relationship), POLICE, INFORMANTS, WITNESSES, MEDICAL PERSONNEL				
RELATIONSHIP	NAME	ADDRESS: (City, State)	ZipCode	TELEPHONE
Mother	Anat Gottesman	7555 Seagull Dr. Goleta, Ca.	93117	805-685-5863
Father	Oded Gottesman	7555 Seagull Dr. Goleta, Ca.	93117	805-685-5853
Club Mgr.	Charlotte Valentine	5800 Cathedral Oaks Rd. Goleta, Ca.	93117	805-964-7762
Lifeguard	Michael Bowen	5800 Cathedral Oaks Rd. Goleta, Ca.	93117	805-964-7762
Lifeguard	David Merin	5800 Cathedral Oaks Rd. Goleta, Ca.	93117	805-964-7762
Paramedic	J. Nilsson	A.M.R. Buellton, Ca.		805-688-6550

21. MEDICAL INFORMATION			
Private Physician (Name) Dr. Saida Handani		Office Address: (City, State, Zip) Sansum S.B. Med. Clinic, 51 Hitchcock Way S.B.	Office Telephone 805-563-6190
Nature of Illness: (Include any Diagnosis) No current illness.			Date of Last Visit 7-12-2005
Treatment & Medications: (Include any Hospitalization) None			

22. INJURY INFORMATION (MANDATORY ON ALL ACCIDENTS, SUICIDES, HOMICIDES, TRAFFIC DEATHS)			
Place of Injury: (Address - Describe Location) 5800 Cathedral Oaks Rd. Goleta, Ca. 93117, 805-964-7762		Date & Time of Injury 8-15-2005, 1428 hrs.	Injury at Work No
Type of Premises: (Residence, Freeway, etc.) Athletic Club	How did injury occur: (Brief explanation) Vic. drowned in athletic club swimming pool.		

IF TRAFFIC, was the decedent : Driver ? Passenger ? Pedestrian ?

23. Notification of Death: (Name of person notified) Anat Gottesman		Relationship Mother	Date/ Time Of Notification 8-15-2005 @ 1545	By: Dr. S. Zapalac	VIA: In Person
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24. FINAL DEATH INFORMATION: <small>TO BE COMPLETED BY CORONER'S OFFICE ONLY</small>			
Classification: Accident	B/A 0%	Carbon Monoxide	Other See toxicology report
Cause(s): Immediate Cause (A) Drowning	Interval between onset & death: Minutes		<p style="text-align: center;">Courtesy Copy Only NOT FOR LEGAL PURPOSES NOT FOR DUPLICATION CORONER'S OFFICE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY</p>
Due To (B)			
Due To (C)			
Due To (D)			
Other Significant Conditions #112			
Determined by Autopsy			

SUMMARY: 4 year old Jonathan Gottesman was swimming in a pool at Cathedral Oaks Athletic Club while participating in a summer activities camp. He was found by camp counselors and life guards motionless and partially submerged under water in the shallow end of the pool. A life guard removed him from the water and initiated CPR. 911 was called and responding paramedics transported him to Goleta Valley Cottage Hospital where death was pronounced a short time after arrival. No trauma or criminal act is evident. This appears to be an accidental death due to drowning.

28. Reporting Deputy / ID Number J. Kolbert #375		29. Date / Time Report Written 8-15-2005, 1700 hrs.		30. Assisting Deputy / ID Number	
31. Supervisor Reviewing / ID Number		32. Coroner Approval / ID Number/ Date Sgt. Court Williams #2334 <i>9-20-05</i>		33. Case closed by: (Investigator Name, ID#, and Initials) Det. J. A. Kolbert #375	

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SBCSD00028

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Type of Premises: (Residence, Freeway, etc.) Athletic Club			How did injury occur: (Brief explanation) Vic. drowned in athletic club swimming pool.								
IF TRAFFIC, was the decedent : Driver ? <input type="checkbox"/> Passenger ? <input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian ? <input type="checkbox"/>											
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24. FINAL DEATH INFORMATION: TO BE COMPLETED BY CORONER'S OFFICE ONLY											
Classification Accident			B/A 0%	Carbon Monoxide		Other See toxicology report					
Cause(s) Immediate Cause: (A) Drowning									Interval between onset & death Minutes		
Due To: (B)											
Due To: (C)											
Due To: (D)											
Other Significant Conditions: #112											
Determined by Autopsy											
28. Reporting Deputy / ID Number J. Kolbert #375				29. Date / Time Report Written 8-15-2005, 1700 hrs.				30. Assisting Deputy / ID Number			
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**CORONER REPORT
CONTINUATION and NARRATIVE**

C-05-0793

List Continuations / Evidence / Summary / Narrative Text / Special Instructions.

LIST CONTINUATIONS

#20 Continued:

Camp Counselor, Jennie Darling, 5800 Cathedral Oaks Rd. Goleta, CA. 805-964-7762
Camp Counselor, Maryam Sofinya, 5800 Cathedral Oaks Rd. Goleta, CA. 805-964-7762
Camp Counselor, Sam Shipley, 5800 Cathedral Oaks Rd. Goleta, CA. 805-964-7762
Swim Instructor, Gabi Kasimatis, 5800 Cathedral Oaks Rd. Goleta, CA. 805-964-7762
Swim Instructor, Ellen Bowles, 5800 Cathedral Oaks Rd. Goleta, Ca. 805-964-7762
Camp Activity Director, Elizabeth Heller, 5800 Cathedral Oaks Rd. CA. 805-964-7762
Aquatics Director, Esther Clark, 5800 Cathedral Oaks Rd. CA. 805-964-7762

EVIDENCE

SUMMARY

4 year old Jonathan Gottesman was swimming in a pool at Cathedral Oaks Athletic Club while participating in a summer activities camp. He was found by camp counselors and life guards motionless and partially submerged under water in the shallow end of the pool. A life guard removed him from the water and initiated CPR. 911 was called and responding paramedics transported him to Goleta Valley Cottage Hospital where death was pronounced a short time after arrival. No trauma or criminal act is evident. This appears to be an accidental death due to drowning.

NARRATIVE TEXT

On 8-15-2005 at 1600 hours, I was called to respond to Goleta Valley Cottage Hospital Emergency Department to investigate a reported death. I arrived at 1610 hours and contacted the emergency department staff. I was told that the decedent, identified as Jonathan Gottesman (age 4 years), was brought to the hospital by American Response Ambulance from the Cathedral Oaks Athletic Department. He arrived at 1455 hours in a "Code Blue" condition with CPR in progress. Continued medical efforts to revive Jonathan were unsuccessful and death was pronounced by the attending physician at 1545 hours. I was told that Jonathan was found unresponsive in a swimming pool prior to being brought to the hospital.

I was directed to one of the E/R trauma rooms where Jonathan had been treated. He was in the company of his parents, Anat and Oded Gottesman. I explained to the parents the Coroner investigation function and discussed the circumstances of this case with them. They told me that they had just enrolled Jonathan into the Cathedral Oaks Athletic Club "Summer Activity Camp". Today was the first day in the camp for Jonathan. In regards to the swimming activity; he has been taught some swimming techniques. He was proficient to the degree that he could swim approximately 30 feet before encountering any difficulty. He did not appear to be afraid of the water.

Jonathan's medical health was good and there were no current diagnosed medical problems. He was taking no medications. He has no known disability.

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NARRATIVE TEXT

I then transported the decedent to the Santa Barbara Coroner Morgue pending further investigation. I examined the body and found no evident trauma or criminal act.

On the morning of 8-16-2005 I went to the Cathedral Oaks Athletic Club and talked with Charlotte Valentine who is the General Manager of the facility. She provided the following information regarding this incident. Jonathan Gottesman was enrolled in the "Summer Activity Camp" and yesterday was his first day of attendance. The camp is scheduled to run from June 20 to August 19, 2005 between 0900 and 1500 hours. It is open to children between the ages of 4 years to 10 years old. Camp activities include various arts, sports, tennis and swimming. Currently there were 13 children enrolled in the camp. At the time of this incident the children were participating in a recreational swim time. Swim tests are required for all children prior to participating in the swim session.

There are two pools at the athletic club. One is a large swim lap pool and the other a smaller children's pool. This incident occurred in the smaller children's pool. During this swim activity session; the pool may also be occupied by other club members. At the time of this incident there were two lifeguards stationed at the pool. Other personnel present were 2 camp counselors on the pool deck and 2 swim instructors in the pool teaching swimming to children. Other club member parents, with children not associated with the activities camp, were also in and around the pool.

Charlotte Valentine did not witness the incident, however she provided 8 written statements provided by employees that witnessed the event or assisted after the rescue of Jonathan from the pool. A review of these statements provided the following information. Lifeguard Michael Bowen wrote that the victim had been swimming near the lane line in the shallow end of the pool with friends. Bowen was approached by camp counselor Jennie, who pointed out a kid in the water. Bowen jumped in and picked the kid up and placed him on the pool deck. The kid was foaming from the mouth. Bowen initiated CPR with the assistance of Gabi (camp counselor/swim instructor) until paramedics arrived. Bowen wrote the time of this incident as 2:28 PM.

Jennie Darling wrote that Yoni (Jonathan) took his swim test and was told to stay in the shallow end. Jennie was watching the pool activity and saw a child under water to the left of the lifeguard chair. Initially she thought the child was playing but then saw no bubbles and then asked the lifeguard to get him. He jumped in and began emergency procedures.

Camp counselor Maryam Sofinya wrote that she was watching a few children yelling and playing on the pool stairs. She heard someone talking about a child under the water and saw the lifeguard jump in.

Lifeguard David Merin wrote that he left the pool deck to get a soda after notifying Michael of this intent. Upon his return he found Yoni being attended to by Michael and Gabi. He cleared the bystanders while CPR was being performed.

Camp counselor Gabi Kasimatis wrote that she saw Michael pulling the child out of the water. She was doing a swim lesson on the side of the pool at the time. She swam over and assisted Mike. She checked the child and found no breathing or pulse. She gave CPR with Michael.

Swim instructor Ellen Bowles wrote that at about 2:27 PM she was teaching a swimming lesson and saw Michael pulling a child out of the water. She cleared the pool of all occupants and went to get the oxygen tank, spinal board and AED machine. 911 was called by one of the camp counselors as soon as Michael had taken the child out of the water. She directed someone to guide EMS personnel to the pool area when they arrived.

SBCSD00031

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NARRATIVE TEXT

Activity camp director Elizabeth Heller wrote that at the time of the incident she was in the café area. She got a radio call regarding the incident and immediately got the emergency contact information for Yoni's parents and called them to come to the club. When emergency crew left for the hospital, she again called the parents and advised them. They went straight to the E/R.

Aquatics director Esther Clark wrote the time of the incident as 2:28 PM. She was in her office when one of the counselors came in and asked for the back board and said that something happened to a boy. She arrived at the pool as Bowen and Gabi were giving CPR to Yoni. She relieved Gabi with the breaths until the paramedics arrived.

The medical office of the decedent's physician, Dr. Saida Handani, was contacted and medical history was obtained. Jonathan had been diagnosed with a ventricular septal defect after birth. This was medically cleared in 2001. Other medical diagnosis included ear infections with subsequent placement of ear tubes. These have since been removed. There is also a diagnosis of enlarged adenoids and tonsils that are being monitored. The last doctors' visit was on 7-12-2005. The medical diagnosis was given as "well child".

Upon review of circumstances of this case, it was decided that an autopsy would be done to determine a cause of death. I transported the decedent to the Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital Morgue on 8-16-2005. Dr. Robert Anthony performed an autopsy beginning at 1000 hours. I obtained standard body fluids from the decedent. These items were submitted to the National Medical Services Laboratory for analysis. I also took digital photographs of the decedent. These photos will be stored in the Sheriff's Forensics Bureau. No trauma or disease was found during the autopsy that would contribute to a cause of death. It was determined by autopsy that the cause of death is "Drowning". Refer to the autopsy report for complete details.

Following the autopsy, the decedent's remains were released to representatives of the Chevra Kadisha Mortuary per directions of next of kin.

On 8-17-2005 I reviewed a copy of paramedic report. The report indicated that the ambulance was dispatched to 5800 Cathedral Oaks Rd. at 1430 hours 8-15-2005. They arrived at 1433 hours and found lifeguards performing CPR on the victim. The paramedics left the scene with the victim at 1448 hours.

Also on this date I returned to the Cathedral Oaks Athletic Club and reviewed a digital security video which is stored on a computer hard drive at the club. The video is captured from a distance from the pool with the camera pointing from the shallow end towards the deep end of the pool. The characters in the pool are small and cannot be recognized. The time clock on the video is 20 minutes fast from the real time that day and the day that I viewed the video. The computer time on the video as I was watching was given as 1104 hours. The real time on my watch was 1046 hours. Upon review of the video, the time indicator on the computer clock was 1448 hours at the time the victim was taken out of the pool. The real time of the incident provided by the lifeguards and camp counselors was 1428 hours. This is consistent with the 1430 hours dispatch time of the paramedics.

The digital video shows a group of approximately 16 persons swimming in the pool; predominately at the shallow end. The figures in the pool appear to be mostly children with the exception of 3 to 4 adults. Several adults are also seen standing, sitting and walking around the pool deck area. There is constant motion fluctuation of all occupants in the pool until 1443 hours (computer time clock) when a small figure appears mostly motionless in the center of the shallow end of the pool. The figure appears to be bobbing under the water surface with the flow of the pool water; which appears in constant flux due to the activity of other swimmers in the pool. During this time, several small groups of children (ranging from 2 to 4 persons) are seen swimming and playing by the motionless figure. Between

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NARRATIVE TEXT

the 1447 and 1448 hour time frame, a figure of an adult approaches the life guard at the shallow end of the pool and appears to be talking to him. At the 1448 hour time frame, the lifeguard is seen jumping into the pool and pick up the motionless figure and bring it to the pool deck. During my review of this video, I saw nothing to indicate that Jonathan was either accidentally or intentionally struck or handled in a manner that would cause him to drown.

Following my review of this digital video, I talked with camp counselor Jennie Darling, Maryam Sofinya and lifeguard Michael Bowen. Jennie Darling said that she gave a swim test to Jonathan (AKA Yoni) prior to him entering the pool that afternoon. The swim test consists of the children swimming from the pool edge to the swim line near the middle of the pool and then back to the pool edge. She estimates this distance of about 20 feet total. Yoni passed the test and was instructed to stay in the shallow end of the pool. Later, she was sitting on the pool deck near the lifeguard and was watching the pool area. At some point she noticed a figure motionless under the water in the pool. She watched carefully for a moment because when the children play in the pool they frequently go under the water and pretend to be lifeless. She sensed something was not right and went to tell the lifeguard.

Maryam Sofinya said that she was positioned at the steps located at the right side of the pool (when standing at the shallow end). She was also watching the children in the pool. However, at the time that this incident was reported, she was temporally distracted by the group of children at the stairs that were loud and acting up.

Michael Bowen said that his attention was also distracted momentarily to the children at the right side pool steps at the time Jennie came to him and pointed out the motionless figure in the water.

Jennie and Maryam said that another camp counselor named Sam Shipley was also in the shallow end of the pool and was playing with and watching the children. In addition, there were parents and children not associated with the camp in and around the pool.

The swimming pool dimensions, as provided by the club maintenance staff, are 45 ft. long by 30 ft. wide. The shallow end depth is 3 ½ ft. This depth is also labeled on the pool tiles at the shallow end. The pool water is kept at a temperature of 86 degrees Fahrenheit.

Upon review of the circumstances of this case the following is apparent. There was a group of children, most of them associated with a summer activities camp, playing and swimming in the shallow end of the club pool. These children were supervised by camp counselors and lifeguards. Two swimming instructors and one camp counselor were reported to be in the pool with the children. There were 2 camp counselors and at least one lifeguard present on the pool deck. All of these persons were either interacting with or watching the children. A child was seen to be lifeless under the water by one of the camp counselors who immediately notified the lifeguard. The lifeguard removed the child from the water and initiated CPR. 911 was called and responding paramedics transported the child (Jonathan Gottesman) to the hospital where death was pronounced.

The surveillance video along with the statements of the club employees indicates that there were at a minimum of at least 6 employees present and watching the children when this incident occurred. There is nothing to indicate that these employees were not performing their duties at this time. This case will be classified as an accidental death based on the information provided earlier in this report.

SBCSD00033

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**CORONER REPORT
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NARRATIVE TEXT

Addendum by John Kolbert, 9-20-2005.

The results of the toxicology analysis have been received. The analysis was negative for the presence of alcohol and common illicit and prescribed drugs. Refer to the toxicology report for complete details.

Note: there is no property in this case.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

Case closed.

SBCSD00034

