

For Alumni and
Friends of
Camp Ramah
in Wisconsin

Camp Ramah מחנה רמה

IN WISCONSIN
בוויסקונסין

...where fun and friendship build Jewish lives

מחננו רמה

Fall 2019
סתו תש"פ

From Jacob Cytryn, Executive Director

Earlier this fall I learned of an initiative now in its 6th year called "Homecoming Detroit." Its goal is to welcome back former residents of southeastern Michigan to hear about, see, and experience Detroit in 2019 – a qualitatively different city than the one these "expats" may remember from 2008 or 1998 or 1988.

Homecoming Detroit has given us an encompassing framework in which to develop a number of different projects we've been working on at Camp Ramah in Wisconsin. Our goals and message are simple: We want our alumni, families, and friends to learn about and re-engage with Ramah Wisconsin as it exists entering the 2020s. Ramah is and will always be your home and we want to welcome you back, either physically to our campuses in Conover or Wheeling, Illinois (Ramah Day Camp), or figuratively through a variety of different platforms. As we embark on our next strategic plan, to be completed in the next six months, we know that alumni engagement will be a pillar of our vision for the next five years and beyond.

This summer, for the first time, we welcomed four different alumni groups to spend Shabbat in Conover. In addition to a 25th Nivonim reunion (offered since 1995), and 13th (offered since 2008), we added a new leadership development weekend and 50th reunion. For 2020 we are opening up additional Family Camp slots to alumni and continue to work on maximizing opportunities to visit camp as we navigate certain limitations of our site. For *all* our alumni, your families, children, grandchildren, and friends who may want to learn more about Ramah, we want to see you! Please consider a visit to camp during the week or for a Shabbat as space allows, especially during Visitors Days 2020 (July 19-20). Whenever you can join us you will receive a tour of the campus, including beloved buildings from your time at camp and our newer additions and will learn all about the camper experience today.

Later this fall we'll be launching a groundbreaking new platform for Ramah Wisconsin alumni and camper parents. RamahConnect is an online portal for the Ramah family to network professionally, catch up on the announcements of births, marriages, career updates, and will house our alumni directory covering all 73 years of our existence. As we build out additional features of the site we anticipate online access to vintage camp photos and videos. We will also be launching a series of listening groups where I will field questions from alumni and provide updates on how camp has maintained our core values and experiences while adapting to remain a relevant educational institution for today's campers and staff. I look forward to hearing from you about what you care about and sharing the work we've done and continue to develop



Nivo 1997 and families, from left: Andy Abeles, Adam Zimbler, Jason Litwack, Jon Oberlander, Adam Rosenthal, David Elyashar (not pictured but part of the group: David Witten)

on gender, inclusion, ethnic diversity, Israel, LGBTQ, program offerings, *t'fillah* (prayer), Hebrew, *yahadut* (Jewish studies), and more. Additionally, we'll be launching Cohorts 2 (Chicago) and 3 (New York) of our Ramah Leadership Initiative (RLI), a program that brings young alumni together in their 20's and 30's to learn about the inner workings of camp and network with prominent alumni and each other. RLI Cohort 1 has already been highly instructive in shaping our alumni engagement efforts moving forward.

I love my ongoing and frequent interactions with alumni, reminiscences about Shoafim musicals and *linot lailah* (camping trips), longstanding friendships, and Ramah networking. From all those conversations, two themes keep reappearing over and over again: we need to do a better job of maintaining an active dialogue with our alumni throughout their lives and too many people have convinced themselves that, for whatever reason, their child or family doesn't belong at Ramah Wisconsin. As we work on tackling the first through the aforementioned initiatives and more soon to come, I ask for your help in partnering with me on the second. **All kids can be Ramah kids and all families can be Ramah families. If Ramah was your home it can continue to be the home for your family, including the next generation.** The friendships and transformative experience of summers at Ramah Wisconsin are as powerful today as they were when you and I were campers, if not even more so. And camp has changed enormously over the years alongside shifts in the demographics and realities of American Judaism and America itself.

Like any family, we likely won't agree on everything. But family is family and home is home. There is a place for you and your family at Ramah and we are eager to do everything we can to welcome even more alumni back home. Join with me for Homecoming Ramah 2020!

From David Kushnir, President

This past summer, I was cleaning out some old files and came across the speech I gave on the last Shabbat of my Nivonim summer in 1988. I immediately had a flashback to sitting in the Ohel Yitzchak with my sister, Diane, who was helping me translate my thoughts into Hebrew, as that was the only way Rabbi Soloff would agree to let me address the entire camp. I smiled at one of the lines that read:

עכשו אני גומר קיץ הנבונים. עכשו אני יכול להבין מה באמת היא החוויה שנקראת מחנה רמה.

“Now I am ending my Nivonim summer. Now I am able to really understand the experience that is called ‘Camp Ramah’.” Little did I know that 31 years later, I would become President of Camp Ramah in Wisconsin and have a much deeper appreciation for that “Ramah Experience.”



David Kushnir (on left) and Jacob Cytryn thank outgoing president Jon Sherman

I am extremely excited to take on this new role. For many years, I have been an observer and student of our past Presidents to better understand our long and successful history. I extend my sincere appreciation to the presidents that I have known: Alan Silberman, Mort Steinberg, Jeff Kopin, Arnie Harris and Jon Sherman, for their leadership and example.

Our entire community is grateful for their dedication and commitment to our beloved Camp Ramah. I have learned so much from their wisdom and guidance and will do my best to build on their legacies.

My involvement as a camp volunteer is primarily due to Rabbi Soloff. After I graduated college, Rabbi Soloff was considering me for a Rosh Aidah position. I told him that I was not interested. I had already been a counselor for three summers and while I loved camp, I felt the need to move on. A few years later, Rabbi Soloff approached me to get involved on the lay side of camp. It was hard enough to say no to Rabbi Soloff one time – I couldn't possibly say no a second time! I have stayed connected with Ramah ever since.

With Rabbi Soloff now as Director Emeritus, I look forward to partnering with our Executive Director, Jacob Cytryn. Jacob is a fantastic educator and visionary. He has developed into an extraordinary leader and shows a deep commitment to the mission of both of our camps. The team of senior staff surrounding Jacob, including Adina Allen, Scott Topal, Linda Hoffenberg and Sam Caplan, is an impressive and hard working group and the success of camp is a result of their incredible collaboration.

For a number of years, I had the privilege to work with Lori Stark, our long time director of Ramah Day Camp, as chair of the advisory committee. I witnessed her passion and creativity and the nurturing way in which she cared for each and every camper. We are thankful for Lori's 19 years of devoted service. Talia Derman will be the new director and we are fortunate to have her join our professional staff. We know that she will bring energy and her own personal touch to the exemplary Ramah Day Camp experience.

Over the last decade, we have updated our campus and we are now in the midst of our latest major construction project, the new Arts and Outdoor Performance Center. This will become a centerpiece of camp, used by every single camper in a variety of ways. We can all look forward to the dedication of the building during the 2020 season. I want to thank the lead donors for their support of this new construction project, together with all of you who have made a contribution to Ramah this year. Without your incredible generosity, the magic of Ramah would not happen.

I concluded that speech from years ago addressing my fellow Nivonimers as follows:

אני מקווה שנשתמש בכל מה שלמדנו מכל הקציים שהיו לנו כדי לשפר את החיים שלנו במשך השנה הבאה, בקיץ הבא בישראל, וכל יתר חיינו.

“I hope that we will use everything we learned from all the summers together to better ourselves this coming year, next summer in Israel and for the rest of our lives.”

It is my hope as President to help the next generation benefit from the Ramah experience and use the lessons of camp to better themselves, their communities and the rest of the world.

Five Fun Facts about David Kushnir

1. He swam from camp to Bauer's.
2. He was a Counselor-in-Training for a camper who would eventually become his brother-in-law (Eytan Anisfeld).
3. He was Hugo in the Machon 1987 production of Bye Bye Birdie (no singing lines).
4. He still remembers many of the scores from the inter-aidah softball games and the ligot basketball games.
5. He still has the menorah he made in Nagarut in Solelim.

David and Lena (Adler) Kushnir on the Kikar in 1988



Reduced Tuition thanks to the Warner Incentive Grants!



We are excited to announce that Rebecca and Richard Warner, major Ramah supporters, have made an initial three-year commitment to Ramah Wisconsin families to reduce tuition for campers rising 7th, 8th and 9th grades in the form of the Warner Incentive Grants. Camp Ramah in Wisconsin hopes to maintain these grants beyond the 2020, 2021, and 2022 seasons.

These reduced tuition rates apply to all campers and do not disqualify campers from other incentives or applying for additional financial aid from Camp Ramah in Wisconsin or other partners.

Rebecca and Richard Warner, parents of staff member Veronica Warner (Nivo 1017), are pleased to help campers return to Ramah during their middle school years. According to Richard, “our daughter began attending Camp Ramah in 2013 and served as a junior counselor in Machon this past summer. Even though Veronica moved from Wilmette to San Diego to Taipei and now will attend Chapman University in southern California as a provost scholar, Ramah Wisconsin will always be a big part of her life. Because I am so moved by what Ramah brings to our collective Jewish community, and because I would like all children to have the opportunity for this meaningful experience, I would like to partner with parents of middle school campers and underwrite a portion of the camp fee. If a family doesn’t want or require this type of incentive we encourage them to simply make a donation to camp’s scholarship fund.”

For more info and to register go to ramahwisconsin.com/dates-and-rates

We are committed to making sure that each family that wants to have a Ramah experience is able to do so. Details are at ramahwisconsin.com/scholarships



**Live Outside
the Midwest?
Camp Ramah in Wisconsin
programs are available
to children of alumni
regardless of current
residence**

2020 Camp Ramah in Wisconsin Sessions

For rising 3rd graders: Ruach Ramah
(June 21-25 or July 9-13)

For rising 4th graders: Kochavim
(July 15-27 and/or July 28-August 10)

For rising 5th graders: Garinim
(June 16 – July 13)*

For rising 6th graders: Halutzim
(July 15 – August 10)*

For rising 7th-11th graders: Full season
(June 16– August 10)

Taste of Tikvah (4 weeks), Tikvah and Atzmayim Vocational Program

**For rising 12th graders:
Ramah Israel Seminar**

*current 4th and 5th graders may participate in both sessions

In the Chicago area:

Ramah Day Camp for rising K – 6 graders including joint programs with Camp Ramah in Wisconsin for rising 3rd – 6th graders!

Questions about 2020 sessions?

**Contact Assistant Director Adina Allen
at aallen@ramahwisconsin.com
or 312-690-8321.**

Snapshot of



Foam parties!



80 rising third graders had
a blast at
Ruach Ramah



Farm-to-table cooking elective



Expanded outdoor adventure
experiences



New sportsmanship award
displayed on tennis courts



Inaugural Tikvah
Vocational Program
graduation ceremony



Dedication of
Seth Rich (Nivo 2005)
Memorial Roofball Court



Proud "mensch award"
winners

Summer 2020!



Stand up
paddleboards



Early morning polar bear swims
and island swims



Fun on the sports courts
day and night



Awesome staff led by amazing
Roshei Aidah



Mishlachat M'ulah!
(Excellent staff from Israel!!)



Nivo 2019 on the Givah



Kabbalat Shabbat by the lake
+8 weeks of joyful Judaism

Round-Up for Ramah!



Join our Round-Up for Ramah program to donate the change from your credit and debit card purchases. Your small change can have a big impact! For more information visit ramahwisconsin.com/roundups

Ramah Leadership Initiative (RLI)

Launched in 2018, this two-year cohort-based program offers alumni in their mid-20's through mid-30's opportunities to engage in community leadership, expand their professional networks and become ambassadors for Ramah Wisconsin. Cohort II will launch in Chicago this fall, along with Cohort III in New York.

Are you interested in developing your professional contacts and business networks? Looking for a way to give back to camp and build experience serving on a community board? Were you in Nivo 2001-2011? Then this is the program for you!

If you are interested in serving as a member of a future cohort, or know someone who might, please contact Sam Caplan, 312-690-8332 or scaplan@ramahwisconsin.com
Additional information on RLI can be found at www.RamahWisconsin.com/RLI



Leave Your Mark!

The Nivonim walkway features over 500 dedicated bricks and pavers on display for campers, staff and visitors to see. It's not too late for YOU to leave your mark on the new Nivonim campus. Go to www.givahcampaign.org to pave the way forward for Ramah and leave your name and a message for generations to come. **You can even dedicate a limited-edition brick in recognition of Rabbi Soloff becoming Director Emeritus!**

Coming soon - RamahConnect!

Imagine the ability to find long lost camp friends, network professionally within the vast Ramah Wisconsin alumni and parent community, and catch-up on alumni life-cycle and milestone events. Launching in late 2019 is RamahConnect! Watch your email for details later this year!



Madison to Ramah Scholarship Bike Ride

my.ramahwisconsin.com

Todah Rabbah to all who are using the my.ramahwisconsin.com platform to raise much-needed scholarship funds! Are you marking a special birthday or anniversary? Celebrating a Bar or Bat Mitzvah? Organizing a basketball tournament? Running a marathon? Make it an occasion to support Ramah - it takes just a few minutes to set up a personal campaign.

Givah Campaign Update + New Arts & Outdoor Performance Center!



Todah Rabbah! Now in its fifth and final year, the Givah Campaign is on track to raise \$9.5 million by September 2020. Throughout this campaign, your generous support has provided need-based scholarships for both Camp Ramah in Wisconsin and Ramah Day Camp, funded capital improvements including the Nivonim Givah campus, supported innovative programming and helped grow the Camp Ramah in Wisconsin Endowment Corporation to over \$3 million.



The Givah Campaign is a success thanks to over 7,000 individual contributions made by Ramah Wisconsin alumni, parents, and friends, together with philanthropic foundation support. This is truly cause for celebration, and we are so grateful to the Ramah community for the personal generosity that has propelled us to this milestone.



New for 2020! With the support of challenge grants from JCamp180 and the Legacy Learning Labs Project of a well-respected national foundation, the construction of a new Arts and Outdoor Performance Center is underway and will be ready for the 2020 season. It will replace the current facility, built in 1982, and increase capacity by 25%. The Center will add space for new skill-building workshops, techniques, and tools in visual arts, crafts, and woodworking. The design of the covered porch includes sound and light for enhanced outdoor performances and exciting campwide programs.

We gratefully acknowledge these generous donors who have made lead gifts to dedicate aspects of this new facility:

The Vales Family – Omanut Building
The Newberger Family – Outdoor Performance Stage
The Lidov Family – Artist Studio

For info on the Givah Campaign and remaining dedication opportunities contact Chief Development Officer Sam Caplan at scaplan@ramahwisconsin.com or 312.690.8332.

Donor Recognition

October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019

*indicates current Camp Ramah in Wisconsin Committee member

**indicates my.ramahwisconsin.com peer-to-peer fundraising campaign

We are grateful for the generous support of 1,800 donors for scholarships, innovative programming and state-of-the art facilities that served over 1,000 campers and staff members during the 2019 season! View a complete list of donors in the online edition of *Machanenu Ramah* at ramahwisconsin.com.

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View a complete list at ramahwisconsin.com.**

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October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019

*indicates current Camp Ramah in Wisconsin Committee member

**indicates my.ramahwisconsin.com peer-to-peer fundraising campaign

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When Worlds Collide: Tikvah Vocational Program - Supervisor Dinner



Atzmayim, our Tikvah Vocational Program, is unique in that our camp home is not only on the shore of Lake Buckatabon, but also in the town of Eagle River. When Atzmayim participants are not eating, sleeping, and having fun in camp, they are in town working at various job sites, gaining valuable work experience, and forming relationships with their supervisors at these businesses. These experiences will ultimately help our participants overcome the 80 percent unemployment rate for people with disabilities when they search for a long-term job. To show our supervisors our appreciation for their mentorship and support, we invited them to join us at camp for a celebratory dinner.

Atzmayim prepared a delicious dinner (with some assistance) and made hand-made signs and notes to make our guests feel welcome. It was incredible to host professionals from all around

the Northwoods and to see them together in a social setting with our participants.

After dinner our Atzmayim participants took turns sharing why they love coming to work and some of the valuable skills that they have learned from their supervisors. Hearing participants speak about the skills they've learned at their job sites was astounding and it was even more heartwarming to hear supervisors talk about how much they have appreciated getting to know our participants. One thing was clear - the Atzmayim program sets up our participants for success in the future and fosters meaningful relationships with local businesses.

from a July 2019 post by Rosh Atzmayim Sam Weiner on the Camp Ramah in Wisconsin blog. Read more at ramahwisconsin.com/blog

Family Camp August 12-16, 2020

Last August 38 families had an amazing time at Family Camp – and now it's your turn! You are invited to enjoy a stress-free vacation filled with fun activities for both children and adults led by our fabulous Ramah Wisconsin staff.

“Family camp is more than just camp. It is 5 days of spiritual awakening, reconnecting as a family, meeting like-minded families that turn into lifelong friendships, and so much more. The spirit of Ramah Wisconsin left us feeling renewed and full of inspiration as we head into another busy school year.”

— Karaleigh Salmi



“Add this weekend to the comprehensive catalogue of unforgettable camp memories. I have talked to many aidah mates since returning back to our daily lives who spoke glowingly of the experience. It was exceptionally done and exceeded every expectation.”

— Brendan Lyss, Nivo 2006



Nivonim 2006 – 13th reunion

Front row from left: Jake Shanas, Joanna Neslon, Gabriela Bronstein, Melissa Title, Rita Weintraub, Kayla Hammes, Elli Smerling, Miriam Heller, Natalie Eisen, Audrey Zada, Carly Nashban, Seth Berkman, Daniel Robinson, Ari Spector, Elana Cohen, Flynn Okner, Kate Collison, Alex Shapiro, Ben Phillipson, Jessica Reiser, Daniel Olson, Benjamin Goldberg
Back row: David Feldman, Brendan Lyss, Ron Rosenberg, Josh Weintraub, Andres Sevi, Joey Heller, Zach Newburgh, Sahar Zada, Michael Klein, Jeremy Frankenthal, Alex Goldin, Daniel Kanter, Josh Warshawsky, Molly Hoffman, Yael Zinkow, Elana Abraham, Josh Pomerantz



Nivonim 1994 – 25th reunion

Front row from left: Yael (Siegel) Rahimi, Melanie Goldfarb, Laura (Leffak) Berger, Aviva (Sklare) Schwartz, Erin Hornick, Rachel (Ruebner) Chernoff, Donna (Elyashar) Rudolph, Sarah Rodin, Lauren Grossman, Susie Barezky, Randi (Baskin) Blume, Rachel (Goldenberg) Modlin, Arden Goldstein, Michal (Garr) Porat, Susan Goldsmith, Sarah (Zimble) Shulkind, Debbie (Kaplan) Werlin
Back row: Marissa (Benuck) Levy, Kari (Chester) Trueger, Lesley (Farby) Berkowitz, Josh Steiman, Micah Kafitz, David Traub, Avi Edwards, Sam Feinberg, Matt Litwack, Josh Azulay, Andy Shulkind



Nivonim 1969 – 50th reunion

From left: Terri (Soltan) Kleinbaum, Miriam (Wells) Freidson, Steve Greenberg, Leslie (Kohn) Goldblatt, Buddy Hoffman, Nancy Abramson, Nathan Unterman, Mark Harris, Steven Tenzer



Remembering Rabbi Zicky Bonder

The Ohel Yitzhak synagogue in camp is named in memory of Rabbi Zicky Bonder (z"l), a charismatic and brilliant educator who served as Associate Director before he passed away 50 years ago. On the last morning of camp, Jacob Cytryn presented a portrait of Rabbi Zicky Bonder to the Nivonim campers who davened in the Ohel Yitzhak throughout the summer. The portrait was donated by Zicky's sister, Shoshana Ben-Dor, known in camp as Bayla Bonder. Jacob read a reflection that Rabbi Burt Cohen wrote about the Bonder family impact on Ramah and Cantor Nancy Abramson, who was visiting with her 50th reunion group, led a prayer. The portrait will be displayed in Ohel Yitzhak.

We look forward to these 2020 reunions!

All aidah members are invited – even if you were in camp for just one summer and it wasn't Nivonim. For example, the June reunion is for anyone who was in Bogrim 05, Machon 06, etc.

Nivo 2007 June 19-21, 2020

Nivo 1995 July 23-26, 2020

Nivo 1970 August 7-9, 2020

For information on upcoming reunions or Family Camp go to ramahwisconsin.com or contact Robin Rubenstein at rrubenstein@ramahwisconsin.com or at 312-690-8305. Stay connected! “Like” Camp Ramah in Wisconsin and Ramah Day Camp on Facebook and follow @ramahwisconsin on Instagram and Twitter.



In my role as Director Emeritus I am privileged to continue my professional association with Ramah Wisconsin working on growing our Legacy Society. At the May 5 event to honor my years of service to Ramah Wisconsin so many meaningful words were expressed about **my legacy**; my hope is that you will consider how Ramah can be part of **your legacy** as well.

The Ramah Wisconsin Legacy Society is made up of 140 individuals and couples who reflected on the impact that Ramah has had on their lives and made a commitment to include Camp Ramah in Wisconsin in their will or trust. Each Legacy Society member has his or her own connection(s) to Ramah – they are campers, staff, parents, grandparents, community philanthropists, supporters of Jewish education and more.

I currently teach Jewish studies monthly to 12 of our lay leaders. This has given me the opportunity to discuss legacy giving with each of them. I am touched to hear about their deep commitment to making it possible for more families to access a Ramah experience. It's so meaningful to know that scholarships made it possible for some of their parents to send them as campers many years ago. People share that they want Ramah to continue to be a unique camping experience and to be available for their grandchildren. Other folks have shared that they have made a provision for Ramah in their will to show their children their commitment to the Jewish education that Ramah provides.

Their comments reflect so many of the Ramah stories I have heard and seen over the course of my career. I have also witnessed the tremendous impact that estate giving has had in strengthening Ramah Wisconsin. Bequest gifts have grown endowments supporting scholarships, have helped keep tuition down, and have helped keep Ramah programming relevant and engaging. In some cases, bequests have helped with facility construction like the Hadar Ochel Dining Complex and the new Nivonim campus.

The Ramah Wisconsin Legacy Society was established in 2010 with the support and guidance of JCamp180. We are proud to be a participating organization in *Create a Jewish Legacy*, a program of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, and an audit partner in *It's Your Legacy*, a program of the Jewish Federation of Greater St. Paul and the Minneapolis Jewish Federation, in partnership with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Through the *Create a Jewish Legacy* program, Camp Ramah in Wisconsin is currently challenged to add 36 new members to our Legacy Society. We recently received a \$10,000 grant when we reached the half-way point, and will receive another grant when we add 18 new Legacy Society members. Please consider completing the Declaration of Intent today and making Ramah a meaningful part of your legacy. *Todah Rabbah!*

— Rabbi David Soloff, Director Emeritus

Legacy Society Members

Anonymous (6)
Shira and Rabbi Steven Abraham
William Agress
Dr. Phyllis Gorin and Rabbi Morris Allen
Wendy and Howard Bach
Abby and Sheldon Badzin
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Declaration of Intent

In the Jewish tradition of sharing our blessings, I/we take deep satisfaction in declaring my/our intent to help Camp Ramah in Wisconsin provide for the needs of future generations of Jewish children.

☐ I/We have made provision, or

☐ I/We will make provision to include Camp Ramah as beneficiary in:

☐ a bequest in my/our will

☐ a deferred lifetime gift

☐ life insurance gift

☐ through a trust fund and/or foundation

☐ through a retirement fund

☐ Please add my/our name(s) to the Ramah Wisconsin Legacy Society.

Print your name as you would like to be listed in the

Ramah Wisconsin Legacy Society

☐ I/We do not want to be listed.

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email

Signature

Date

**Please mail to Camp Ramah in Wisconsin Legacy Society, 67 E. Madison Street, Suite 1905, Chicago, IL 60603
or email to LHoffenberg@ramahwisconsin.com.**

Please consult your attorney or tax advisor for professional guidance in this area.



We are excited to announce that **Talia Derman** joined our full-time staff as the Director of Ramah Day Camp (RDC) in late October. Originally from Minneapolis, Talia is a former Camp Ramah in Wisconsin camper (Nivo 2000), Program Coordinator, member of the RDC Advisory Committee and a current RDC parent. She is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison

and Harrington College of Design with degrees in Psychology and Interior Design, respectively. During her five summers on staff at Camp Ramah in Wisconsin and for the last thirteen years in the workforce, Talia has worked to deliver beloved products to customers in the most supportive and efficient ways possible, a skillset that has prepared her and on which she will build as Ramah Day Camp Director. Talia, her husband Ari (Nivo 2000), and their three children live in Deerfield, Illinois.

As Director, Talia will work under the supervision of Executive Director Jacob Cytryn and with other members of our year-round and summer teams to take Ramah Day Camp from strength to strength. She will build on accumulated wisdom from the camp's last nineteen summers under the successful leadership of Lori Stark, and she looks forward to partnering with returning Assistant Director Judy Jury and Office Manager Ilisa Brown.

Talia shared this message with the community: "I am thrilled to join the Ramah leadership team and look forward to bringing my professional skills as well as my Jewish background to the role of Day Camp Director. While my recent work experience as a corporate executive brings meaningful background and sets of skills to the position, it is my lifelong commitment to Camp Ramah, dating back to my Halutzim summer at Camp Ramah in Wisconsin in 1995, that will truly guide my path in this important undertaking.

For me, Ramah has always been about individuals and families on their Jewish journeys supported by an amazing Jewish community. My former Ramah Wisconsin experiences have set the foundation for my Jewish leadership and I look forward to building upon that in Wheeling. I am ready to uphold and promote the critical missions and values of the Ramah movement and I am excited to jumpstart our youth programming initiatives as we hit the ground running. I look forward to connecting with everyone over the coming months to gather thoughts and ideas to continue the success and growth of Ramah Day Camp."



As we wish a *mazel tov* to Talia on her appointment we say a sincere *yasher koach* to **Lori Stark** for her tremendous leadership, energy, and educational vision as Director of Ramah Day Camp for nearly two decades. Rabbi David Soloff shared these words of thanks at the fall meeting of the Camp Ramah in Wisconsin Committee, "Lori, you

have been the visionary leader who has brought RDC to where we are today. Over the past 19 seasons you have led the camp, built a staff, shaped a RDC program, recruited thousands of campers, and established RDC as the largest feeder for new campers annually to Camp Ramah in Wisconsin from the Chicago area.

At the center - at the heart of camp - has been your child-centered focus, emphasizing free play, small group interactions, empowering kids to make decisions and learning to function in groups. You built wonderful relationships with thousands of children and their families. You created "Story with Lori" which became a highlight of the summer for campers and staff members alike. You initiated a partnership with Keshet and taught inclusion from the beginning of your tenure. You developed a camper care staff to help individualize programming for diverse camper needs.

It has been a personal privilege to have worked so closely together with you as colleagues as you translated your vision for the RDC into reality. On behalf of all of us and the entire Ramah community - Kol Hakavod and Todah Rabbah."

Please join us as we recognize Lori as part of our *Summer in January* celebration on January 26, 2020, at 3:00 p.m. at North Suburban Synagogue Beth El in Highland Park, Illinois.

Camp Ramah in Wisconsin
67 E. Madison Street, Suite 1905, Chicago IL 60603

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 Talia Derman, Director, Ramah Day Camp
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For additional information contact:
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 312-690-8325, E-mail: LHoffenberg@ramahwisconsin.com
www.ramahwisconsin.com www.ramahday.com

Ramah Day Camp is a warm and nurturing environment where kids come to make great friends, grow socially, learn Jewish values and most importantly - to have fun! Campers entering kindergarten through sixth grade enjoy sports, swimming, music, cookouts, arts & crafts and so much more!
For details call (312) 606-0444 or email info@ramahday.com.