

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

Spring 2018  
אביב תשע"ח

## From Jacob Cytryn, Director

*Reflections on becoming Executive Director in fall 2018*



William Faulkner, writing about far more weighty matters, wrote: “The past is never dead. It’s not even past.” Acknowledging that the past shapes the present and helps dictate the future, that our institutions and we ourselves cannot escape the events and narratives which precede today, I want to try and explicitly connect the two: where we’ve come from and where we’re going. I do this at a special moment when past and future collide, as in the fall I’ll become the Executive Director of Camp Ramah in Wisconsin: our third senior professional leader in the last fifty-eight years, stepping into the oversized and humbling shoes of רבתי ומורי / *rabotai u’morai* my Rabbi-teachers Rabbi David Soloff and Rabbi Burton Cohen.

One of my former counselors at camp has been calling me the amateur historian of Camp Ramah in Wisconsin for over twenty years. For the most part, this is the stuff of trivia – one of my hobbies – just of a Conover-ian sort. Musicals, Roshei Aidah, which counselors were on what staffs, which campers were in what aidah (and sometimes which cabin) – I’d suggest not getting me started. My obsession with meaningless trivia extends well beyond the camp that, by middle school, was the most exciting place in the world for me, the place I felt most naturally myself, the place imbued with overwhelming possibilities and potential. My passion for camp’s past – and the way it needs to inform our reality and vision – has always shone through.

This connection between past and present is deeply ingrained in my personality: undergraduate major in ancient Greek and Roman culture and literature; a lifelong academic interest in classical Jewish texts and their applicability to the world we live in and the worldviews we have; and doctoral research into the history of general summer camps, Jewish summer camps, and Ramah in particular, with a focus on attempting to document that the promises founding visionaries had in all three settings have been realized.



Over the last few years I’ve come to discover one of the great challenges of loving to learn about the past and squeezing every last drop of knowledge out of it so as to inform my own life: the accretion of memory upon memory eventually creates unwieldy and overwhelming legacies. This undermines the exact purpose of why we study the past, namely to help us navigate the present. We must not only learn from the past but, like generations of Jews before us and like we acculturate our campers and staff to do every summer, we must explore the past and find our own voice in literally re-*new*-ing it.

For us at Camp Ramah in Wisconsin, this challenge ultimately boils down to one question: **What are the core characteristics that define who we are?** Once that weighty and enormous question is answered, “the rest” – to paraphrase the ancient sages Hillel and Shammai – “is commentary.” In the coming year(s) I want to explore this question with *you*, our Ramah community. In conversations and in broader forums we will tease out this relationship between past, present, and future in order to help Ramah Wisconsin continue to provide a cutting edge educational and Judaic experience for our campers and staff that shapes and is shaped by each generation of American and Israeli Jews.

Before, during, and after the summer, please feel free to reach out to schmooze about camp. As the new Executive Director, I want to hear and learn your stories, as they are as much a part of who we are as my own. Most importantly, I want to engage in this dialogue that accepts Faulkner’s truism that the past is always with us and that opens up new avenues for a future that is loyal to that past by being both contiguous and different.

Check out our new website at [www.ramahwisconsin.com](http://www.ramahwisconsin.com) to follow our blog, youtube channel and alumni updates and stay connected using the subscription center embedded in the footer of the home page.

# New for Summer 2018!



Culinary Program in our new Teaching Kitchen!



## 2018 Camp Ramah in Wisconsin Sessions

**For current 2nd graders:**

Ruach Ramah (June 24-28)

**For current 3rd graders:**

Kochavim (July 10-23) and/or (July 24-August 6)

**For current 4th graders:**

Garinim (June 12-July 9)

**For current 5th graders:**

Halutzim (July 10-August 6)

**For current 6th-10th graders:**

Full season (June 12-August 6)

**For current 11th graders:**

Ramah Israel Seminar

**For teens with special needs:**

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

**In the Chicago area:**

Ramah Day Camp for children entering K-6 in fall 2018 (see page 16 for details)



Stand-Up Paddleboards!



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



Tzofnut (Scouting) Specialty Clinic!



## Planning is underway for:

Family Fun Day in the Twin Cities – June 20

Family Fun Day in Chicago – July 8

13th Reunion of Nivonim 2005 on June 15-17

25th Reunion of Nivonim 1993 on July 27-29

Chicago Half Marathon/5K – September 23

*Run with Rabbi Soloff? Join Team Ramah to receive a complimentary race registration and help raise scholarship funds for campers! Email [scaplan@ramahwisconsin.com](mailto:scaplan@ramahwisconsin.com) for more information.*



Sports Intensives!



## FAMILY CAMP 2018 August 8-12

Our popular Family Camp is now full! If you are interested in being added to the waitlist or learn about Family Camp 2019, please contact Robin Rubenstein, Family Camp Director, at [rrubenstein@ramahwisconsin.com](mailto:rrubenstein@ramahwisconsin.com) or call (312) 690-8305.

**For more info on any of these programs go to [www.ramahwisconsin.com](http://www.ramahwisconsin.com) or contact Robin at [Rrubenstein@ramahwisconsin.com](mailto:Rrubenstein@ramahwisconsin.com) or at 312-690-8305.**



## From Jonathan Sherman, President



Forty-five years ago, on a cold winter evening in Chicago, a rabbinical student and his wife met for dinner with members of the Camp Ramah in Wisconsin Committee. Only 26 years old, the student made an immediate impression and was soon hired to lead the overnight camp. That evening was the

beginning of Rabbi David Soloff's service to Ramah as a director, teacher, mentor, and inspiration to generations of campers, parents, staff, and community leaders.

Rabbi Soloff has dedicated his professional life to Camp Ramah. During his first seasons as director, his year-round staff consisted of two people, one of whom was the maintenance man. There were rumors that the rabbi didn't sleep so he could keep an eye on everyone and everything. He rarely, if ever, left camp during the summer.

Over the years, Rabbi Soloff guided thousands of campers and staff who came to Ramah to meet old and new friends, explore their Judaism, study, worship, and enjoy sports, theater, art, music, and dance. He hired talented year-round employees and brought together an experienced staff that elevated Ramah as a serious educational institution. Always open to new challenges, David helped make the Tikvah program an integral part of camp, ensuring that the camp environment was supportive, inclusive, and fun. When Ramah Day Camp was imagined as a gateway for younger children to experience Ramah, David embraced the opportunity. Today, with the Ramah camping movement operating ten overnight camps and four day camps in the

United States, Canada, and Israel, Rabbi Soloff is recognized as the dean of the directorate and the person that others look to for guidance.

For all his accomplishments, Rabbi Soloff does not seek attention for himself. He speaks glowingly of his partnership with lay leaders, alumni, and others in the community. He likes nothing better than getting together with Ramahniks in person, by phone, and online. He is the first to wish someone a *yasher koach* for a job well done and the last to leave a Ramah gathering (especially if there is schmoozing).

Rabbi Soloff will soon turn over the reins to Jacob Cytryn, who will become Executive Director at the conclusion of this summer. Jacob is a *ben bayit*, a product of our movement whose life has been shaped by his experiences at Ramah. Jacob's energy and intellect, along with his life experiences at camp, make him the ideal successor to Rabbi Soloff.

Jacob's friend Jon Adam Ross (JAR) tells the following story. "In 1999, when we were junior counselors, Jacob and I had a conversation about the future of camp. Jacob was always wanting to have conversations about the future of camp. He told me I was going to run the drama program one day and that I needed to have a plan. (I did not have a plan.) I told him he was going to run the camp some day and that he needed to have a plan. (He, of course, already had a plan.) Turns out we were both right."

On behalf of a grateful community, we say a heartfelt *rav todot* to Rabbi Soloff. Thank you for your many years of inspirational service, and we look forward to your continuing work as Director Emeritus. And Jacob, as Rabbi Soloff has undoubtedly told you, *yasher koach*. The entire Ramah family wishes you well as you lead our institution to even greater heights.

# You Can Leave Your Mark on the New Nivonim Campus!



Dedication opportunities are still available on the new Nivonim campus!



Go to [www.GivahCampaign.org](http://www.GivahCampaign.org) to design your brick today and forever leave your mark at Camp Ramah in Wisconsin.

## [my.ramahwisconsin.com](http://my.ramahwisconsin.com)



Chicago volunteers



Twin Cities volunteers

Once again the [my.ramahwisconsin.com](http://my.ramahwisconsin.com) peer-to-peer platform helped make the Alumni Scholarship Phonathon a big success. Volunteers helped raise nearly \$70,000 for camper scholarships! Kol HaKavod to the members of Nivonim 1994-2010 who made calls in both Chicago and the Twin Cities, and Todah Rabbah who everyone who contributed generously to help more children have a Ramah experience this summer.



Miriam Herstein - Camp Ramah in Wisconsin

Thank you for visiting! Camp Ramah is the place where I have spent nine amazing summers. I have been going there since I was three years old. At camp, I have built lifelong friendships with my aida(h) (age group). I enjoy participating in activities

[MY.RAMAHWISCONSIN.COM](http://MY.RAMAHWISCONSIN.COM)

The [my.ramahwisconsin.com](http://my.ramahwisconsin.com) site makes it easy for anyone to support Ramah. We are inspired by Bat Mitzvah Miriam Herstein, who recently used the site to launch a scholarship campaign in honor of her simcha!

### So what can YOU do?

Are you running a marathon?

Marking a special birthday or anniversary?

Make it an occasion to support Ramah!

For more info on any of these opportunities, please contact Sam Caplan, Chief Development Officer, at [scaplan@ramahwisconsin.com](mailto:scaplan@ramahwisconsin.com) or 312-690-8332.



## From Rabbi David Soloff, CEO



Rabbi David Soloff, Mickey Friedson and Rudy Turnquist in 1976

**Looking back on the past 43 years, it has been and continues to be a wonderful ride for me personally and professionally.**

My career to date has encompassed three incarnations of my role with Camp Ramah in Wisconsin. In my early years, starting in 1975, I was a jack-of-all-trades. My only full time partners were Toby Litin, our bookkeeper, and Rudy Turnquist, our maintenance man in Conover. Everyone else was a summer hire or worked part-time during the year. With the help of dedicated volunteers and similarly passionate part-time and summer staff we continued to grow the camp, and by 1979 we had prepared our first long range plan.

**I came to work for Ramah inspired by rabbinic and educator mentors who taught me their vision that Jewish summer camping and especially Ramah camping could be a critical change agent for strengthening our American Jewish community.** As I began my work, lay leader mentors added their equally powerful voices and taught me to run the camp like a business but stay focused on our Jewish education mission. Keeping our mission as the focus influenced most decisions along the way as numerous voices pressured us to bring the magic of camp to other institutions.

An early major step forward was convincing the Camp Ramah in Wisconsin board to support my going to Israel to personally interview Israeli shlichim and recruit American university students studying in Israel for the year. Prior to this the mishlachat hiring was handled centrally by the National Ramah office and individual

camp directors only met assigned candidates when they landed in the States in June. My annual work in Israel also facilitated my developing partnerships with a series of incredibly talented educators who became the backbone of our camp educational team. My annual Israel trip also helped me strengthen my own Hebrew language skills and profoundly enhanced my ability to shape our approach to teaching about Israel at camp during the summers. Following this successful experiment the other Ramah camps followed suit, totally changing how we handled shlichim and Israel staff recruiting as a Ramah movement.

**My second career evolution** was directing the camp with a more complete, full-time, year-round staff. In the 1990's we added a business manager, an assistant director, a development director, a site manager, a support staff, plus a team of key educators with significant part-time year-round responsibilities. This talented and hard-working team helped propel the camp onward and upward.

Along the way I have had so many amazing partners. The list of individuals is too long for this platform. They fall into seven categories: 1) the lay leaders who invested in me, inspired me, worked closely together with me to provide direction and resources to grow Ramah in the Midwest; 2) the gifted American and Israeli professional educators, artists, and rabbis who returned for many seasons, took on projects each year, and nurtured Ramah engagement in their communities; 3) the senior rabbinic colleagues who took me under their wings and taught me about the power of partnering with the Conservative synagogues and schools of each community; 4) the national and regional Ramah professionals from across North America who shared best practices; 5) the dedicated physicians and nurses who generously spent their "vacations" at camp, focusing on the health of our camp community; 6) the talented undergraduate and graduate students who served as counselors, teachers and department heads working directly with the campers each summer. Early on I learned that the staff gained as much as the campers did – if not more – from a summer at Ramah. Staff education became an organic element of our work and I worked with lay leaders to provide the requisite budget allocations to bring talented staff educators each summer; and 7) the site managers and their close associates who have maintained and enhanced our facilities at Camp Ramah in Wisconsin and Ramah Day Camp, with a special shout out to the Merkel Family and Randy Schelper.

I've been privileged to work with and be mentored by visionary lay leaders who have served as presidents during my tenure: Irv Robbin, Alan Silberman, Mort Steinberg, Jeff Kopin, Arnie Harris and Jonathan Sherman. I have partnered with these presidents on four long range/strategic plans. The planning process engaged hundreds of stake holders, both professional and lay,



Alan and Dr. Margaret Silberman, Dr. Jeff Kopin and Rabbi David Soloff in 2008

and produced the blueprints for growing Ramah Wisconsin programmatically, facilities-wise, and financially, including providing for organizational renewal and succession planning.

Strategic planning paved the way for expanding the Ramah experience to include the elementary grades. Twenty years ago we opened Ramah Day Camp in Wheeling, Illinois - a powerful Ramah experience in its own right and a pipeline to Camp Ramah in Wisconsin. Yashar Koach to our founding director Trudi Goldenberg Krames and especially to Lori Stark who will celebrate her 18th year as Ramah Day Camp director this summer.

Strategic planning guided the expansion of special needs and inclusion programming. The Tikvah program was already established when I joined the camp, and I partnered with founding Tikvah Chair Janet Robbin, and her successor Dr. Margaret Silberman, to grow the camper program and launch the post-high school vocational program, Atzmayim. I am grateful to all the talented individuals who directed our special needs programs, in particular Rose Sharon and Ralph Schwartz, who have helped these programs flourish over the last 20 years.

As a result of strategic planning we launched Ruach Ramah, Kochavim, Garinim and Halutzim – our popular introductory programs for entering 3rd – 6th graders. We also revitalized our Family Camp, a 5-day Ramah experience for young families. This August we will welcome 60 families from the Twin Cities, St. Louis, Madison and Chicago for a taste of fun, friendship and vibrant Jewish living. Yashar Koach to Robin Rubenstein, who has served as Family Camp director since 2010.

**In my third and current role** following my final season as director of Camp Ramah in Wisconsin in 2009, I transitioned to

Executive Director later termed CEO. Rabbi Loren Sykes steered the camp through the turbulent years of the recession and when the Sykes family made their decision to move to Israel in 2012, Jacob Cytryn began his current tenure as director of Camp Ramah in Wisconsin.

My role became one of mentoring successors, overseeing strategic planning and strategic relationships, and collaborating with the development team. I partnered with our senior staff to build the Ramah Wisconsin brand through better integration of our Camp Ramah in Wisconsin and Ramah Day Camp programs.

While I have collaborated with local Jewish camp directors throughout my career, it has been an especially important part of my work in the last ten years. I am proud that in Chicago we have created and nurtured a culture of collaboration among the full time camp directors across our diverse community. I will cherish the memory when, working with other camp directors and camp presidents, Jeff Kopin and I arranged a meeting with Rabbi Dennis Katz representing an anonymous donor to lay the groundwork for what became the One Happy Camper incentive program.

Each year Camp Ramah in Wisconsin and Ramah Day Camp impact the lives of over 1,000 campers and staff and their families plus alumni spanning eight decades. Providing scholarships, developing innovative programs and maintaining first-rate facilities has required a serious investment of donated funds, and I am proud of the culture of philanthropy that has developed in our Ramah Wisconsin community. We have campers who are choosing to direct their Bar and Bat Mitzvah gifts to the scholarship fund, alumni paying it forward through the annual phonathon, and nearly 2,000 annual donors who are investing in Ramah. I am confident that it's an investment that will pay dividends well into the future.

#### **It is now time for a fourth stage of my Ramah career.**

As of October 1, 2018, I will transition to the role of Director Emeritus. In this part-time position, I look forward to continuing to teach lay leaders, collaborate with our development team, consult on special projects for both camps and engage with alumni. I am so excited for Jacob to take on his new role as Executive Director and look forward to his leading Ramah Wisconsin **מחיל לחיל** – from strength to strength.

Just as Rabbi Soloff has left his mark on camp, you too can permanently say *Thank You* and *Yasher Koach* with a limited-edition Rabbi Soloff Tribute Brick on the Nivonim walkway at camp. Tribute bricks will be uniquely marked – details are at [www.givahcampaign.org](http://www.givahcampaign.org) in the *Leave Your Mark* section.



## Introducing our new Director of Operations!



In March we welcomed Scott Topal to our year-round professional staff as the new Director of Operations. Scott graduated Northwestern University where he studied learning & organizational change and business institutions by day and served as president of

Hillel by night. He has a longtime connection to Ramah, having spent five summers at Camp Ramah in Nyack as a counselor, s'gan (assistant) rosh aidah, assistant director of communications and program director – focusing on logistics, risk management and operations. Prior to coming to Ramah Wisconsin, Scott worked at Accenture as a management consulting manager. There he led teams and advised global financial, pharmaceutical and government clients to leverage new technology, launch new internal departments and improve operational efficiency. We are excited to welcome Scott to our professional team! You can contact Scott at [stopal@ramahwisconsin.com](mailto:stopal@ramahwisconsin.com)

We bid a fond farewell to Benji Bearman, who served as Ramah Wisconsin Business Manager/Chief Operating Officer since 2006. Benji coordinated our camps' operations, logistics, and finances, and brought increased efficiency to our infirmary and food service. He supervised the work on our facilities and led many significant construction projects including the kitchen/dining hall complex and new Nivonim campus in Conover, and similar projects at the day camp. We wish Benji well on the next chapter in his professional life, and thank him for the important role he has played for Camp Ramah in Wisconsin and Ramah Day Camp.

## Alumni Spotlight: Ben Paley



Attending a Ramah summer camp is, for many, an experience that lasts a lifetime—sometimes generations. For me, a shy 14-year-old with high-functioning autism, the prospect of attending Camp Ramah in Wisconsin so far away from my familiar surroundings—a three-hour flight plus a seven-hour bus ride through the Dairy State — was daunting. But if I had the opportunity to speak with my 14-year-old self, I would tell him (despite his screams) that he

would gain more from Ramah than any other experience.

And success at camp would lead to other important opportunities. One of those was a spot, fully funded, through the Hillel of Broward and Palm Beach counties, to attend the 2017 AIPAC Policy Conference. I was taken aback by the 18,000 Israel advocates all sitting in one room. Although I had been told about the number before, to see it in person was something else. Over a three-day period, I would meet and learn more about a variety of topics related to US-Israel relations with some of the 18,000 advocates in attendance, including 4,000 college students. One highlight of AIPAC: learning about other countries' relations with Israel.



**Take E. Buckatabon Road and make a right on Ramah Circle.** What? Believe it or not, Camp Ramah in Wisconsin has a new address! The interior road within camp, commonly referred to as the “garbage trail”, has been officially renamed Ramah Circle by Vilas County. Check out the new sign posted at the camp entrance and make a note of our new summer mailing address: **Camp Ramah in Wisconsin, 3390 Ramah Circle, Conover WI 54519!**



# A Unique Reunion

By Tom Price

In 1973, my colleague (and Camp Ramah in Wisconsin bunkmate in 1965 and 1966) Larry Sternberg and I were slated to staff the Ramah Seminar in Israel. The summer before, our campers in Nivonim nagged us relentlessly to take them to Eastern Europe and what was then the USSR so that they could see some of the roots of modern Israel on their way there. Being young and stupid, we agreed to plan the first-ever trip of this sort, without any official imprimatur from either Camp Ramah in Wisconsin or the National Ramah Commission.

Miraculously, nothing went too terribly wrong, and the next summer we were asked to expand this program, run it out of the National Ramah office in New York, and open it to campers from other camps – all of which we gladly did. Thus was born the predecessor of what became many similar programs: the March of the Living, the Ramah Seminar in Poland, etc. The educational impact of that first trip was so great, and so immediately apparent, that we were not surprised when 25 years later many alumni said that it had completely changed their lives.

More surprising was the approach made to me by Linda (Lieberman) Bracha at a restaurant in Jerusalem in May, 2016, on behalf of herself and a small group of alumni of that first trip: would I be willing to organize a sort of reunion trip at some point in 2017? After a bit of give-and-take over dates and route, we decided to schedule this “reunion” for the period just before the High Holidays in September, 2017. With an optional pre-trip in Budapest, the full trip included Vienna, Odessa, Kiev, and Prague, and attracted a total of 18 alumni and their significant others.

We eventually found that we wanted to invite Camp Ramah in Wisconsin alumni from the 1974 trip as well, in part because so many of the alumni from the 1973 trip were unavailable. The trip was a resounding success, because people came infused with the same “ruach” they had as campers, equipped with the same shironim they used back in the 1970’s and blessed with the same spirit of adventure they brought to the original trip. The accommodations were more luxurious, travel was by air instead of by bus, and the food was a LOT better, but the overall “feel” of the trip was much the same. Special thanks to all who contributed in so many different ways to the success of this traveling “reunion.”



Front (from left):  
Bonnie Katz, Paula Harris, David Sherman,  
Carey Wexler Sherman, Tom Price,  
Larry Sternberg, Carl Tishler

Rear: Norm Sherman, David Levenfeld,  
Gary Zaidenweber



Front (from left):  
Paula Harris, David Sherman, Carey Wexler  
Sherman, Mitzi Dunau, Michelle Schwartz,  
Linda Lieberman Bracha, Eli Bracha

Rear: Larry Sternberg, Norm Sherman,  
Larry Lidov, Tom Price



Reunion of Ramah Wisconsin **Mishlachot** 2000-2001  
in Israel in February

# Donor Recognition

## October 1, 2017 - March 15, 2018

We gratefully acknowledge these gifts and pledges for the current fiscal year made to Camp Ramah in Wisconsin and Ramah Day Camp since October 1, 2017.

View a complete list in the online edition at [ramahwisconsin.com](http://ramahwisconsin.com)

\*indicates Camp Ramah in Wisconsin Committee member

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

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# Alumni and



Get a onesie for your Future Ramahnik by sending an email to Robin at [rrubenstein@ramahwisconsin.com](mailto:rrubenstein@ramahwisconsin.com)!

We had a blast at the Twin Cities Ramah Event in November featuring musician Josh Warshawsky!

Left: Ramah Wisconsin representatives at the **Weinstein Institute**, the National Ramah Winter Leadership Training Conference held in January in Ojai, California. The 110 attendees included camp directors, senior counselors, Roshei Aidah, Ramah Service Corps Fellows, and Tikvah staff members.



The rain didn't dampen the spirits at the Ramah Wisconsin alumni Sukkot dinner in New York!



Wisconsin Ramahniks joined hundreds of enthusiastic educators, songleaders and clergy in immersive and inspirational workshops, prayer and song sessions at **Songleader Boot Camp 2018** in St. Louis in February.

Below: Ramah Wisconsin participants in **Tichon Ramah Yerushalayim (TRY)**, Ramah's high school program in Israel. From left: Aryeh Rubin, Elias Bier and Levi Rose with Director Jacob Cytryn, Ramah Wisconsin and TRY staff member Liza Bernstein, and Aliza Grabin, former Ramah Wisconsin Mishlachat member and current TRY Associate Director.



**Stay connected! "Like" Camp Ramah in Wisconsin and Ramah Day Camp**



# Community Events



Ramah Wisconsin's representatives at the February **Ramah Shabbaton in Israel**, which brought together North American staff, Israeli shlichim, leaders of Ramah Israel programs, and Ramah directors.



Campers and their families had a great time at the **Ramah Shabbaton in Des Moines** in February

on Facebook and follow @ramahwisconsin on Instagram and Twitter.





## “Are we being good ancestors?”

*Jonas Salk*

My husband Michael and I are blessed with three sons, three wonderful daughters-in-law and eight amazing grandchildren. In our role as the “oldest generation” of this clan, we’ve been talking about how best to share our value of tzedakah in a meaningful way. What can we do in our lifetime? What provisions can we make now that will have meaning in the future? In short, how can we be good ancestors?

A few months ago we told our grandchildren that they could each pick an organization they’d like to support, and we would make a donation in their honor in celebration of Hanukkah. We were so proud that they responded with generosity and in a thoughtful, caring way. They chose organizations doing important work in the U.S., Israel, and around the world.

One of our grandsons told us he wanted the contribution in his honor to be directed to the Ramah Scholarship Fund so “everyone can come to camp.” As a Ramah alumna and longtime member of the year-round staff, this especially touched my heart.

Michael and I find it very meaningful that we can help “everyone come to camp” for generations to come by making a provision for Camp Ramah in Wisconsin in our estate plan. We hope you will consider joining us as members of the Legacy Society. Together we’ll help provide an outstanding camp experience for future campers and forever be remembered as devoted Ramah supporters. And we’ll be good ancestors too. — *Linda Hoffenberg*

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Hoffenberg cousins at Camp Ramah in Wisconsin last summer



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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       a 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.

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please fax to 312.606.7136 or mail to: Camp Ramah in Wisconsin, Legacy Society, 65 East Wacker Place # 1200, Chicago IL 60601**

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

For additional information contact Linda Hoffenberg, Director of Institutional Advancement, at 312.606.9316 ext. 225 or  
LHoffenberg@ramahwisconsin.com



## From Lori Stark, Director



### The Dream of Esrim

This summer marks Ramah Day Camp's 20th season! We can all take pride in the accomplishments of these two decades and set new goals as we dream of what the next 20 (esrim) years will bring.

Our strategic planning process has guided us to set priorities, and with the help of the generous Ramah community we have made facility improvements to our sports courts and pools. Thanks to community support we have also introduced innovative programming like our *Ivrit* Infusion Initiative and specialty clinics in gymnastics, fused glass, rocketry, tennis, martial arts and much more.

This summer we are excited to expand our cooking program in our brand new teaching kitchen! Campers have always loved our bishul cookouts, cooking with herbs and vegetables from our garden, and challah baking. This summer they'll be able to expand their repertoire in our new *mitbachon!*

Our head programming staff are busy planning enriching and exciting opportunities for our campers. In *omanut* (art) we are adding even more materials for the children to work with in our makom *ldimyon* (Makers' Space or Imaginarium). This area provides children with the opportunity to make something from nothing and let their own initiative and creativity emerge. New this summer we are welcoming a seasoned baseball coach, whose passion is to work with elementary age children. He is enthusiastically planning fun games and activities to keep the



Campers love cooking with herbs and vegetables from the camp garden.

kids moving and building coordination and stamina all summer long. Meetings are underway as we train our next *Rosh Ivrit* to continue the serious and high level of Hebrew exposure to our camp culture we began developing last summer through our *Ivrit* Infusion Initiative.

This is my eighteenth summer as the director of Ramah Day Camp. It is energizing, gratifying and fascinating to see the sacred space of this camp come to life every summer. L'chayim!

**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!**

Chicago area campers entering grades 3-6 can experience both Ramah Day Camp and Camp Ramah in Wisconsin in one summer at special rates! **Ruach Ramah** offers entering 3rd graders a 5-day taste of the overnight camp experience. **Kochavim** offers entering 4th graders the opportunity to spend twelve action-packed days at Camp Ramah in Wisconsin and the rest of the summer at Ramah Day Camp.

Two sessions are available. **Garinim** (for entering 5th graders) and **Halutzim** (for entering 6th graders) offer four weeks at Ramah Day Camp and four weeks at Camp Ramah in Wisconsin.

For details call (312) 606-0444 or email [info@ramahday.com](mailto:info@ramahday.com).

### Camp Ramah in Wisconsin

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