

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 2020
סתו תשפ"א

From Jacob Cytryn, Executive Director



In the Roman pantheon, the god Janus ruled over doors and transitions – the liminal spaces between one place and the other. Representations of Janus have two heads, with one looking to the front and the other to the back. This is why he gives his name to the first month of the Roman year, January, which stands between one season and the next, an in-between time that looks both to the future and the past.

Six months after we announced the cancellation of our 2020 seasons at Camp Ramah in Wisconsin and Ramah Day Camp in Chicago, we are moving out of our own “January,” having closed the books on the Emergency Campaign which, thanks to you and more than 2,000 (!) other supporters of our work, has allowed us to weather a disruption of our core product in a way unimaginable a year ago. The way we traversed the storm of this past spring and summer, the proverbial rainbows and lemonade our community made out of stormy skies and more than our fair share of lemons, remain worthy of celebration even as we fully shift our attention to the 2021 summer.



And what will that 2021 summer hold? **First and foremost, we are confident that we will be able to offer in-person experiences for campers and staff in both Wheeling and Conover next summer.** As I write this, the specifics of those experiences remain up in the air as we wait for additional iterations of guidelines and remain hopeful that meaningful changes in the COVID-19 dynamics will alter the situation. The great news is that, of the small fraction of overnight camps that operated last summer, a good number were successfully able to limit COVID-19 spread among their population, leaving both medical and camp professionals with a playbook to run responsibly camp next summer. The same narrative is true of day camps. We view last year's parameters as a likely worst-case scenario: we hope that developments in medicine, technology, public health protocols, and the way the virus is impacting our communities next spring will mean that our camps

will look more similar to the pre-COVID iterations. We continue to work with our accreditor, the American Camp Association (ACA), the National Ramah Commission, and a variety of other relevant organizations and camp colleagues to determine how to deliver effectively wonderful Ramah experiences in 2021 to, God-willing, approximately 1,000 Jewish children, teens, and young adults! We will begin providing regular updates about our COVID-19 protocols and what we believe camp will look like in 2021 by mid-December.

What we do know today is that, without a doubt, our offerings in 2021 will cost more than they have in the past. Our economy has suffered and Ramah families will need greater scholarship support. We will likely need to invest significantly in medical supplies – testing capabilities, personal protective equipment (PPE), and more. We may have to limit our capacity and/or invest in additional facilities upgrades at the recommendation of our public health advisers. We may need to rent additional buses for either or both of our camps. Fluctuations in supply chains will impact the cost of foodstuffs and cleaning supplies. The list goes on.

The questions about next summer – about so much of our lives – can feel overwhelming. Our senior team is currently focusing on prioritized tasks in three areas, two of which we need your help with. First, we are working to enroll campers for 2021 – over 475 as I write this. Second, we are designing, with COVID, budget, and other logistics in mind, the best Ramah summers we possibly can for next year, delivering what we hope is a summer of double-impact: two times the fun, two times the ruach, two times the transformation. And third, we are working to raise the funds to cover our rising expenses and ensure our current financial stability continues. Our professional team and dedicated expert volunteers will take care of running camp; we need your help in spreading the word about the unsurpassed product we offer, connecting us to families interested in joining the Ramah family, and helping, through your own generosity, asking others to give, or connecting us to prospective donors and foundations.

Years ago I learned from our head chef the restaurant industry adage – “you’re only as good as your last meal” – particularly appropriate for a camp kitchen serving roughly 2,000 hot meals a day to a demanding crowd. Our 2019 summer was phenomenal, our enrollment for 2020 was trending up with great energy and momentum when we got derailed by, God-willing, a once-in-a-century pandemic. Knocked down, we got up, dusted ourselves off, and performed miracles in community-building, content-delivery, and fundraising. Now we turn our eyes to the future, where we know there is only one way to judge the coming year: we’re only as good as the 2021 summer is going to be, and it’s gonna be great!

From David Kushnir, Board President



Every year on Tisha B'Av, I have flashbacks to my days at Ramah. It is odd that alongside all of the amazing memories of fun, sports and outdoor adventures, I also remember what is regarded as the saddest day of the Jewish calendar. Perhaps it has something to do with this "holiday" being the only one observed over the summer months. Or maybe it feels so different than every

other day at camp that it sticks out. I know for some people, their only experience of Tisha B'Av is what happens at camp.

This year was no exception. As I was walking to shul on erev Tisha B'Av, I could envision (i) the lighted path created by the Nivonimers holding candles to guide us from the Chadar Ochel to the Bet Am, (ii) sitting on the floor back to back with a friend, flashlight in hand, and (iii) the special somber melody of Eichah, the chanting from the Book of Lamentations. But on this night, when the reading of Eichah began, I was struck by the opening line:

אֵיכָה יִשְׁבָּה בְּדָד הָעִיר רַבָּתִי עַם

Alas! Lonely sits the city once great with people!

All of a sudden, instead of thinking of the past, I was picturing the present and what our campsites in Conover and Wheeling looked like at that moment - a vacant kitar, a quiet Bet Am, an uninhabited tree house, a calm lake and empty cabins. Our two camps, once filled with laughter and energetic kids, were now desolate and idle. No sounds of splashing or bouncing balls or Hebrew being spoken. The home away from home for so many was sitting empty and lonely.

We all had our moments of feeling sad and frustrated at the loss of our traditional summer. But what transpired in the wake of the cancellation was powerful and inspiring. Our professional staff, led by Jacob, summoned their energy, creativity and passion, and built outstanding online programming. We proved once again that exceptional informal education is a hallmark of Ramah. These Zoom calls reminded so many campers that camp is still there for them. In order to strengthen the sense of community and provide some semblance of a normal summer, we sent our annual T-shirts to campers and staff as well as a newly revised Ramah songbook to encourage moments of ruach and Shabbat celebration.

Many personal interactions were also taking place initiated by Ramahniks on their own. Counselors took the time to reach out to each other and to former campers for one-on-one calls. Alumni reconnected with camp to learn how Ramah was responding to all that was going on. Our staff trainers made themselves available to help with anyone going through a particularly difficult time. Various eidah reunions were initiated on their own, leading to renewed friendships after many decades. This is exactly what we try to cultivate at camp - a sense of purpose, belonging and responsibility to each other that lasts a lifetime.

Nothing illustrates this sense of community more than the tremendous financial support that you, our Ramah donors, provided during this time. When the Board of Directors made the decision in May to close camp for the summer, we immediately launched an Emergency Campaign. The broad response was incredibly reassuring. We give our heartfelt thanks to the parents of our current campers, so many of whom donated all or part of their 2020 camp tuition. A large group of parents rolled over their tuition to next summer. There were also families who enrolled their children for the 2021 season, a critical part of our planning. We are so grateful for the outpouring of support from our camper families.

Generous response to our Emergency Campaign also came from our alumni with a record number of people donating for the first time. Many made gifts in addition to their annual pledge in recognition of these extraordinary times. Parents and grandparents of alumni joined in as well, remembering the impact camp had on their children and grandchildren and wanting to make sure those experiences would continue. This was certainly a multi-generational effort for which we are proud and thankful.

We also acknowledge all of our organizational partners that contributed to our campaign. Many synagogues made meaningful contributions even though they may be facing their own financial challenges. A number of charitable foundations continued and expanded their support for our camps, both in helping us plan and in direct financial support. Our camps also received funds from local Federations who understand the need and the role Jewish summer camping plays in strengthening our Jewish communities. These strategic partners all helped us through this challenging period.

As we navigate current uncertainties we look forward to filling our camps once again. What we have seen is that our community is resilient and that there is a tremendous amount of love for Ramah and respect for what we do. With your ongoing help, we will make sure that our home away from home will never be empty or lonely again.

Countdown to Summer 2021!

We are gearing up to open both Camp Ramah in Wisconsin and Ramah Day Camp next summer and are making plans to operate safely and at near-full capacity. Over 350 campers enrolled at CRW and 110 enrolled at RDC are already counting the days to camp!

As we plan for the 2021 season, the health and safety of our campers and staff is our first priority. We will continue to work with our medical committee, our COVID-19 task force, and local and state governments to help guide our planning. We are all counting the days until our virtual programs transition to in-person experiences!

Camp Ramah in Wisconsin

The outstanding overnight camp experience is open to campers entering 3rd-11th grade, with sessions of varying length based on grade. Special needs programs include Tikvah for middle school and high school campers, and the Atzmayim vocational program for high school graduates ages 18-22.

Our programs are open to children of alumni regardless of current place of residence – in fact alumni are sending their children to Ramah Wisconsin next summer from Europe, Israel and Asia!

To learn more and register go to ramahwisconsin.com or email registrar@ramahwisconsin.com

Ramah Day Camp in Chicagoland

Campers entering kindergarten through 6th grade enjoy sports, swimming, music, cookouts, arts & crafts and so much more! Our Gesher program for 7th-8th graders and CIT program for 9th-10th graders ensure campers can continue their Ramah experience while learning valuable leadership skills.

To learn more and register go to ramahday.com or email registrar@ramahday.com

Leadership Team Transition

להתראות וברוכה הבאה!

In recent months we said *l'hitraot* to Adina Allen, wishing her all the best on her new endeavors, and welcomed Daniella Elyashar as our next Assistant Director!

Kol HaKavod to **Adina Allen**! In the five years that she served as Assistant Director of Camp Ramah in Wisconsin she assumed primary responsibility for camper recruitment and expanded our year-round programming through creative partnerships with synagogues and USY. Adina focused on the experience of our staff members as well, from applications and interviews through the last day of camp and beyond. Adina is now pursuing an M.B.A. from the Fisher School of Business of the Ohio State University. We wish her and her husband, Rabbi Josh Warshawsky, much *naches* as Adina takes the next step in her professional career.

We are thrilled to welcome **Daniella Elyashar** as our new Assistant Director! Daniella has been a cherished and valuable member of the Ramah Wisconsin family since the summer of 2014 when she first joined us as a *shlichah* (Israeli staff member). She spent three summers as a counselor, three more as a Rosh Eidah and, during that time, completed a B.A. in Education, History, and Philosophy from the Hebrew University. Just after her first summer on staff she was hired by the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) to recruit new *shlichim* to work in summer camps across North America; over the succeeding years she took on additional projects with a major focus on preparing new *shlichim* for their roles. Daniella joined our professional staff in September and is already a valued member of our year-round team!



Former and Current Assistant Directors Adina (right) and Daniella

Remote with Ramah -

Our creative and fun online programs known as Remote with Ramah went into high gear in June and July, providing a virtual camp experience for hundreds of campers, families, staff and alumni at no cost thanks to generous donors like you!



This summer campers loved virtual Yom Sport, cooking, kikar dancing, art, morning *tefilot* (prayer), Hebrew games, challah baking and pre-Shabbat concerts. The connections made during online cabin activities and eidah reunions were particularly meaningful during this summer without camp.

Physically-distanced events included a summer drive-in movie and a fall Yom B'Ramah in Chicagoland, the Twin Cities and online - engaging more than 140 Ramah families!



"Remote with Ramah was the immersive Jewish camp experience we needed right now. We walked around singing Hebrew songs that were stuck in our heads. We hung art projects around our house. We emailed with an old friend in another state who spotted my child online. We played Boker Tov Ramah games around the dinner table. We ate muffins for days. Thank you for showing up, for experimenting, for creating, and for adapting. Thank you to the staff who showed up for every session prepared and positive. You listened to every camper, giving them the outside attention that they crave so much right now. Todah rabbah." — Farrah Udell



Virtual Camp Experiences!



The Great Mental Fog of 2020, also known as this pandemic season, has a remarkable ability to blur the front view as well as the back. It is all the more extraordinary to remember the sheer creativity and dedication that marked this past summer.

In May, with the brainstorming efforts of Elissa Hoffman (Rosh Drama '20), we developed a programming idea that would recreate one of camp's most beloved traditions. The first-ever virtual **Machazemer Medley** was born, featuring singing, choreography and musical accompaniment from typical camp Hebrew musical productions. So how did we create an engaging, physically distanced musical experience? We delegated! Program Director Annie Glasser turned our ideas into practical solutions, including

creating a poll for the kids to vote on song inclusion. Elissa led the campers in drama games and script-reading rehearsals, encouraging them to bring their energy to the screen. Irit Gavze (Rosh Rikud '20) created choreographed videos to each song, complete with costumes, to inspire the campers to have fun with their roles. And that's just the beginning, because I vastly underestimated the amount of work this was going to be.

Through the months of planning and execution, I had the opportunity to work individually with each camper. During zoom rehearsal, their smiling faces never failing to cheer me up. Our conversations, while mostly about lyric pronunciations or musical structure, sometimes veered to stories about their makeshift summer plans, camp, and their friends. It was a rare glimpse into their non-camp lives, while doing virtual camp things. It lent a depth all the more poignant to their video submissions.

In all, the Machazemer Medley included a vast cross-section of Camp Ramah in Wisconsin, from campers to former *mishlachot* to staff to parents of campers. Each submission is a story, a measure of sincerity, and a moment of what could have been. In piecing them together, however virtual the result, we glimpse the binding ties of camp community. You can view the amazing Mahazemer Medley at ramahwisconsin.com/remote-with-ramah

— Meira Silverstein, Rosh Performing Arts 2020



Our Tikvah, Atzmayim, and alumni programs have continued into the fall months with opportunities to sing together, learn together, develop skills together, and laugh and have fun as a community. We have maintained weekly (and at points twice and thrice weekly) gatherings with our committed staff and participants, with so many highlights. Each Sunday we have

enjoyed a weekly Shavua Tov check in, where everyone has an opportunity to share, listen, ask and answer questions about their week. Special Needs Program Director Ralph Schwartz continued to lead a regular alumni Zoom call where our graduates discuss their professions, adult lives, and experiences engaging with Judaism- topics have included Jewish holiday experiences, expressing gratitude, and questions we would like to ask our political candidates. We have also enjoyed monthly Shabbat-style Zemirot singing, which has included some new friends from the Tikvah and vocational programs at Camp Ramah in New England and Camp Ramah in Canada. Karaoke, an international Tikvah dance party with new friends from Flying Fox in Australia, and other camp favorites have also been fun highlights of our fall programming. We can't wait for our Just Dance *peulat erev* coming up in the winter months!

— Jared Skoff, 2020 Special Needs Consultant

We are honored to feature excerpts from our summer series of Ramah reflections by alumni and staff, shared through summer divrei Torah and blog posts. Check out the entire series at ramahwisconsin.com/blog

Ramah



AS we step back from the world, we are now, perhaps more than ever, consciously engaging with our communities. We are checking in on each other, donating food, and remembering the importance of tzedakah. We are kikar dancing online, singing our favorite mishmar songs, joining in on eidah Zoom calls. Together we are striving to be better – to build better relationships, to fix what

we didn't know was broken, to prepare ourselves to be better agents and leaders in this world. While we talk to our camp friends and join online Ramah programs, we are reminded that camp is much more than a place in Conover, Wisconsin. Camp is a community, a values system, and an entire world that pushes us to think of who we are and who we can be. — **Liza Bernstein, Rosh Machon 2019, commentary on Behar-Bechukotai**



YESTERDAY 8 of the 12 campers from Tzrif Yud-Zion (cabin 17) were on a Zoom call with our counselor, Rabbi Yak Epstein, and camp director, Rabbi Burt Cohen, from that summer. ..What struck me, and others, on that call was just how deeply Camp impacted our lives. To a person, reflecting for an hour yesterday morning made us all realize how deeply

ingrained a vision driven institution had penetrated all of our lives in significant and enduring ways....

... as a group, we had never been together again since August 1971. And for that hour, we continued the conversation we left as the buses departed that final day of our camper life. On those bus rides home, the lyrics of Tapestry might have been sung “my life has been a tapestry of rich and royal hue, an everlasting vision of the ever-changing view...”. How little we knew and how little Carole King knew when she wrote her discordant last verse—just how true that first verse would be for us and for her. My life has been a tapestry of rich and royal hue—and I am grateful for my parents’ decision—whatever drove it—to invest in me. Should anyone ever say again, “oh Jewish summer camp it’s so unnecessary”—tell them this story of a group of old men sitting on a phone call for an hour with two older men and being reminded that our souls were forever changed as a result of a summer we spent together 49 years before. — **Rabbi Morris Allen, Nivonim 1971**



THIS Shabbat I think about the staff that should be at camp, that should be having a last experience of not being in charge before their charges come and the heavy work begins. The work they would have done this summer would have challenged them and seen them grow immeasurably. Thankfully, next summer, we will experience the Shabbat of staff week again, and they will experience the responsibilities of being leaders of the children of Israel again.

— **Natalie Blitt, Education Consultant, commentary on Beha'alotcha, which would have coincided with staff week 2020**



BELIEVE that you are a giant, and so you will look in the eyes of others too. That's what we try to instill in every Ramahnik. I would not be the person, the rabbi, the musician, the teacher I am today were it not for my 20 summers at Camp Ramah in Wisconsin. Every summer I was encouraged by my counselors, my rashei eidah, my peers, and my superiors to aspire to be the best version of myself, and to

believe that I could inspire others as well.

On this Shabbat as we celebrate so far from each other and throughout the summer, I hope we find ways to build each other up from afar until we can return to the Kikar flowing with pizza and chocolate milk, where we always see each other like giants.

—**Rabbi Josh Warshawsky, Nivonim 2006, commentary on Sh'lach L'cha**



WE can't stay in Shabbat mode all of the time because our labors are needed to go out and create a more just and equitable world. This summer, it is more apparent than ever, just how much work there is to be done. But I am forever grateful that camp provided me with some of the best tools to do that work. Camp taught me the power of

community, critical thinking, and of lifting up our collective voices

Reflections

in powerful ways, and those are gifts that we can leverage each and every day of our lives, even when the last embers of the Havdalah flame have gone out.

— **Rabbi Gita Karasov, Nivonim 2004**



THIS summer has become a time for reflection and contemplation. At the beginning of the outbreak, I asked a group of women whom I work with, what were the gifts in this very daunting situation. For me, the answer is the gift of gratitude... I am grateful for the opportunity

of many, many years in Ramah, Wisconsin – the years of learning and the years of teaching, the years of receiving and the years of gifting others. I am grateful for the friendships formed in Ramah – and those friends who have remained a part of my life for so many years. I am grateful for the love of Hebrew, the love of Israel, the love of Israeli song and dance, nurtured in camp and that became a formative part of who I am. I am grateful for the gift of having spent so many summers surrounded by those very tall trees, the magnificent lake, the amazing moments of fast moving weather, the sound of the rain on the roof of my room, the feel of the breeze as it sighs its way through the trees, and the pure fun of sighting a deer, a bear, and yes, even a skunk or two.

For me, this summer is an opportunity to just “be” in gratitude, in the hopes that before long I can join in with others in creating even more memories. For those of you missing your summer experience at camp, I hope it will also be an opportunity to reflect about what camp really means for you, what you have received from camp, and what gifts of yours you can share with the camp as it moves on from this summer, out of hibernation and evolving back into the wondrous place it is. — **Minda Wolff Garr, 40 summers as camper and staff member**



MY belief that trust is the key to driving positive change was largely formulated at Camp Ramah in Wisconsin: in my cabins over the years, on the kikar throughout my summers as a camper and staff member and in so many other spaces. While camp’s cabins and the kikar were empty this past summer, the unique power of the

camp community gives us all the tools to build trust and pursue justice so that we can do good in the world and even lead in these challenging times, despite being separated. — **Adam Schrag, Nivonim 2010, commentary on Shoftim**



IT is impossible to minimize the impact that Ramah has made in influencing my adult life and my career in the rabbinate. Ramah has helped me create the most important and deep friendships.

Ramah also created one of the most exciting experiences for me of being both subject and creator of a great educational experiment. Ramah is a wonderful laboratory where you can bring together your whole Jewish self, your artistic passions, your intellectual pursuits, and your worldly values in creating a community of meaning.

One of the most rewarding aspects of our relationship with Ramah today is as Ramah parents. Our son, Gavi, went to Ramah Darom his whole life, and our daughters, Ellie and Dani are campers at Ramah Wisconsin.

The absence of camp this year has been one of the saddest parts of the summer, but the connection with camp friends is one of the few bright lights for our children during this dark time.

— **Rabbi David Glickman, Rosh Drama 1996**



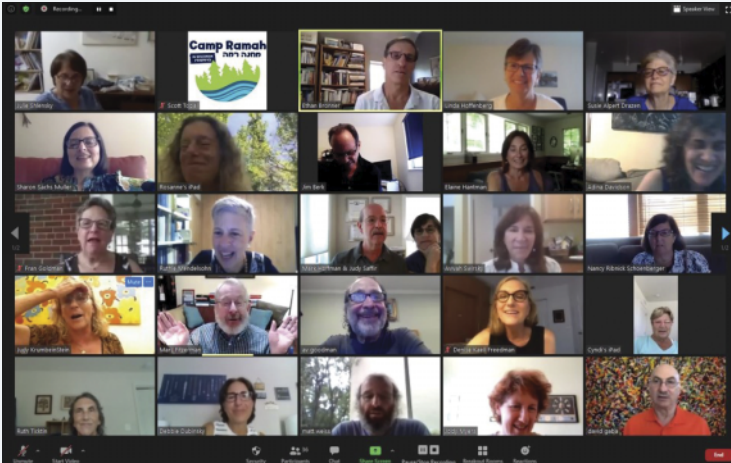
CAMP is empty this summer – but to me that’s not the saddest part about the cancellation of the 2020 season. There is a beauty in the stillness of a camp-less Ramah that is hard to describe. The tragedy this summer is that the place, while beautiful, won’t be utilized for its correct purpose: a place for growth and development. I can

think of no better location for people of all ages to wrestle with the challenges of the day. Shabbat discussions on the kikar would coalesce around the pressing issues of the day... That Ramah is one of the best places for these conversations is part of its history, which infuses each summer with the energy to tackle the most important of issues in age-appropriate ways. Yet this summer will not feature growth, learning, or memories made at camp. This summer the location, like those forgotten stops in the wilderness, will be divorced from its history. — **Rabbi Jeremy Fineberg, Nivonim 2005, commentary on Matot-Masei**

Ramah - an experience that lasts a lifetime!

alumni.ramahwisconsin.com

A silver lining in the pandemic cloud - we've heard so many great stories of camp friends reconnecting through spontaneous and organized reunions and online events!
Stay in touch via our alumni web page at alumni.ramahwisconsin.com



The three reunions scheduled to take place at camp last summer happened via Zoom – the 13th reunion of Nivonim 2007, 25th reunion of Nivonim 1995, and 50th reunion of Nivonim 1970. While not the same as reuniting on the kikar, it was pretty awesome to reconnect.



A three-part sports talk show, with Ramah sports highlights from the 80's, 90's, and today was a fun walk down memory lane hosted by Rabbi Jeremy Fine (Nivonim 1998) and Ari Derman (Nivonim 2000). Where else can you hear a debate on the pros and cons of including the greased watermelon toss as a Yom Sport event? Check out the recordings on the Camp Ramah in Wisconsin Facebook page.



This summer campers Eliana Halivni and Shira Pellegrino (Nivo 2021) interviewed alumnus Aaron Freeman (Nivonim 2010), Basketball Communications Manager for the Minnesota Lynx, about his exciting experiences in the WNBA Bubble - the Wubble. Check out the full interview at: bit.ly/inthewubble



Our Facebook Live Last Night of Camp broadcast was a fun-filled event featuring current campers and staff along with alumni musician Brian Gelfand and comedians Randy and Jason Sklar. You can watch the show at ramahwisconsin.com/remote-with-ramah



Ramah Connect!

Are you on **Ramah Connect**? It's an app for professional networking across the vast Ramah Wisconsin alumni base, reconnecting with old friends through the alumni directory, and viewing vintage camp photos. Join today to stay connected at Ramahconnect.com.

Births

Goldie Rose, daughter of Heidi and **Jonathan Jonas (Nivo 1991)**
 Alice Ewing Louise, daughter of Maggie Henderson and **Zakai Kozberg (Nivo 1995)**
 Noam Eitan, son of **Rachel Bier (Nivo 1997)** and Roey Pasternak
 James Levi, son of Jen Pehr and **Jon Adam Ross (aka JAR, Nivo 1997)**
 Nathan Sherman, son of **Sarah (Ettinger) (Nivo 1998)** and **Sam Caplan (Nivo 1995, Chief Development Officer)**
 Stella, daughter of **Shayna Cherry (Nivo 1998)** and Chris Foust
 Tehillah Bat-Zion, daughter of **Sarah Cytryn (Nivo 2000)** and **Gabi Mitchell (Staff 2009)**
 Levi Bennett, son of **Marci (Fiedler) (Nivo 2000)** and Nathan Kramer
 Jake Charles, son of **Naomi (Fox) (Nivo 2000)** and Brett Taylor
 Isaac Mayer, son of **Debbie Kaplan (Nivo 2000)** and Mike Mnookin
 Liba Esther, daughter of **Tamar Rubin (Nivo 2000)** and **Adam Parker (Nivo 2000)**
 Remi Rose, daughter of **Melanie (Billow) (Nivo 2001)** and Dan Steindler
 Aaron Michael, son of Annette and **Daniel Edelstein (Nivo 2001)**
 Nathan Isaac, son of **Dana (Fine) (Nivo 2001)** and Steven Blitzstein
 Asher Philip, son of Miriam and **Evan Dreifuss (Nivo 2002)**
 Orlee Rose, daughter of **Gretchen (Frankenthal) (Nivo 2002)** and David Miller
 Noa Shay, daughter of **Adina Rubin (Nivo 2002)** and Richard Straka
 Marley Noa, daughter of Betsy and **Ken Schack (Nivo 2002)**
 Ayelet Shoshana, daughter of **Lisa (Banoff) (Nivo 2003)** and Matt Rothenberg
 Bridger Monroe, son of Steph and **AJ Rosenberg (Nivo 2003)**
 Noah Benjamin, son of Laura and **Micah Shapiro (Nivo 2003)**
 Rachel Skye, daughter of **Ashley Silver (Nivo 2004)** and Michael Summers
 Sonny Budaj, son of Michelle and **Ian Sherman (Nivo 2005)**
 William Ivri, son of **Audrey (Gellman-Chomsky) (Nivo 2006)** and **Sahar Zada (Staff 2010)**
 Remi Lila and Noa Essie, daughters of **Gila Hoffman (Nivo 2006)** and Asaf Ben-Gai
 Grey Mille, daughter of **Alex (Kahn) (Nivo 2007)** and Jared Kwait
 Noa Eden, daughter of **Julie Edelman (Staff 2000s)** and Oliver Broad
 Colbie Cecilia, daughter of **Jacque (Pener) (Staff 2000s)** and Anton Luckhoff
 Albert Shimon, son of Ari and **Sammy Botbol (Nivo 2010)**

Engagements

Elijah Palnik (Nivo 2002) and Ortal Hadar
Brenda Cole (Nivo 2005) and Brad Wulfstat
Deena Cowans (Nivo 2005) and Zack Slavkin
Aaron Kaye (Nivo 2005) and **Alexis Fishman (Nivo 2008)**
Brett Kopin (Nivo 2007) and Sofia Zway
Madi Shaffer (Nivo 2007) and Jerry Shifrin
Leora Goldblatt (Nivo 2008) and Dan Falkin

iPhone

1. Go to the app store and download the "Graduway Community" app
2. Search for "Camp Ramah in Wisconsin"
3. Sign in/Register

Android

1. Go to the Google Play store and download the "Camp Ramah in Wisconsin" app
2. Sign in/Register

Computer Browser

1. Visit www.ramahconnect.com
2. Sign in/Register



Noa Ebstein (Nivo 2009) and Moshe Karamani

Josh Sacks (Staff 2010-12) and **Tess Glassman-Kaufman (Nivo 2009)**

Eitan Katz (Nivo 2011) and **Lucy Orenstein (Nivo 2010)**

Weddings

Elena Silberman (Nivo 1986) and Steven Horak
Eli Rosenberg (Nivo 1995) and Amy Parison
Gabe Roth (Nivo 1998) and Marina Arutyunyan
Josh Kowitz (Nivo 2005) and Jamie Diamond
Jeremy Frankenthal (Nivo 2006) and Jenna Lewis
Rabbi Elli Cohn (Nivo 2007) and Oliver Braunschweig
Shira Olson (Nivo 2008) and Scott MacPhee
Jon Gordon (Nivo 2009) and Erin Rachel Doppelt

In the News

Kol HaKavod to **Rabbi Morris Allen (Nivo 1971)** who was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award from UW-Madison School of Social Work.

Kol HaKavod to **Sheryl Kalman (Nivo 1979)** on being named an Unsung Hero by the St. Louis Jewish Light.

Kol HaKavod to **Lisa (Koch) Kornick (Nivo 1981)** for her work as a founder of First Women's Bank in Chicago.

Kol HaKavod to **Mark Rotenberg (Nivo 1970)** and **Rebecca Russo (Nivo 2001)** for their work on the Hillel International Campus Climate Initiative.

Kol HaKavod to **Sophie Homonoff (Nivo 1993)** for being recognized as Iowan of the Week for her role as Director of Education for the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines.

Mazel Tov to **Micah Kafitz (Nivo 1994, member of the Vaad)**, on starting a new position as Assistant Vice President at Associated Agencies.

Check out **Sam Lazarus (Tikvah 2000s)** in his role as Phil on the new Apple TV series "Little Voice."

Kol HaKavod to **Miriam Estrin (Nivo 2002)**, creator of the *New York Times* crossword puzzle in the October 18, 2020 edition.

Mazal Tov to **Rabbi Deena Cowans (Nivo 2005)** on her ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary in May.

Congratulations to **Yali Derman (Nivo 07)**, **Ariel Katz (Nivo 07)**, **David Rosenberg (Nivo 01)**, **Alex Siedband (Nivo 06)** and to **Rabbi Nate Crane** of our partner congregation Beth Hillel Bnai Emunah for their recognition among Oy Chicago's 36 Under 36.

Kol HaKavod to **Daniel Warshawsky (Nivo 2009)** who won the LEAD Award, given to one outstanding Chicagoland youth professional each year.

Kol HaKavod to **Amos Gewirtz (Nivo 2010)** who was featured in Forbes online for his collaboration on the startup Vizi.

Our Sincere Condolences

To the family of **Deborah Wilk (Nivo 1980)**, who passed away in March 2020.

To the family of **Allen Agron (1950's camper)**, who passed away in November 2020.

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Three Generations of Legacy Society Members!

I have always felt very fortunate to come from a family with such strong ties to Ramah. To quote my Bubby, my grandparents' love affair with Camp Ramah in Wisconsin began in 1961 when my Zayde (z"l) spent his first of 18 summers as the camp doctor. My mom and all of her siblings were campers and staff members. My mom and dad met and got engaged while on staff. My siblings, cousins and I followed in our parents' footsteps and spent many summers at Ramah as campers and on staff. And now, M'Dor L'Dor, it is the next generation's turn.

My husband David and I now have the zechut (privilege - another one of my Bubby's favorite sayings) of seeing our children, Gali, Eytan and Rafi, fall in love with Camp Ramah. G-d willing, this summer Gali will have the opportunity to spend her first full month in Conover for her Garinim summer and Eytan will spend his first summer at Ramah Day Camp.

As three generations of Ramah Wisconsin Legacy Society members, my grandparents, Betty and Dr. Irv Rozenfeld (z"l), my parents, Debby and Charley Dobrusin, and David and I are showing our children what it means to be deeply committed to Ramah's future. — *Nami Dobrusin Goldenberg (Nivo 1996)*



Betty Rozenfeld pictured with her five children and many of her 13 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

May Their Memory Be a Blessing

We remember with gratitude the generosity of these donors who made a legacy gift to Camp Ramah in Wisconsin in recent years. They will forever be remembered as devoted supporters of Ramah who helped provide an outstanding camp experience for generations of young Jews.

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From left: Mark, Alex, Jacob, Ruth and Evelyn Harris at camp in 2012.



What will your legacy be?

By making a gift to Camp Ramah in Wisconsin in your will, trust, retirement account, life insurance policy, or estate plan you help ensure Ramah's vibrancy well into the future! Please join over 150 Legacy Society members who have completed a Declaration of Intent and help Camp Ramah in Wisconsin thrive for generations to come.

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

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From Talia Derman, Director



Reimagine. This word has taken on a life of its own as we have said it so many times over the past 7 months. What would it look like to *reimagine* camp in a virtual space? How can we possibly *reimagine* a place that is so special, so colorful and so full of life on a 10x14 screen? When we rolled out our virtual offerings for Summer 2020 there were other questions that arose.

Would we be able to engage

campers? Could we offer camp activities virtually? Would anyone participate? Thankfully, the answer to all these questions was yes. Our incredible Ramah community turned out in strong numbers to bake challah, make incredible *Omanut* (art) projects and play lots and lots of games. It was definitely not camp, but it brought our community together in a safe way. It was also not the summer I imagined, but the way in which I was able to interact with campers and their families was unlike any I would have experienced if we were physically at camp. Insight into campers' home life, time spent with younger siblings not quite old enough yet for camp, and full family participation in *Nagarut* (woodworking) and STEAM projects were just a few of the benefits this summer afforded me. Even time spent with my own children doing the camp activities together was amazing. It was truly a summer experience I will never forget.

The latest reimagining we did was in October when we hosted *Yom B'Ramah* both virtually and in-person in Chicago and



Minnesota. The virtual event included baking, *omanut* (art) and *rikud* (Israeli dancing). The weather in Minnesota was cold (nothing that the community can't handle) yet sunny with plenty of donuts and limited edition Ramah face masks for our families. The weather forecast in Chicago was cold and rainy. Our plans to meet at Ramah Day Camp were becoming less and less likely, so we once again began to *reimagine* the day. We contacted Anshe Emet in Chicago and North Suburban Synagogue Beth El in Highland Park and they graciously agreed to let Ramah hold a drive-up event in their parking lots. Dozens of families enjoyed making tie-dye pillowcases, winning prizes, grabbing a swag bag – all while drinking hot chocolate and coffee, with masks and social distancing required. Our *tzevet* (staff) was incredible and made the day a huge success. Families were grateful that we quickly reimagined the day in order to still bring them fun Ramah experiences. We really enjoyed connecting with our amazing families during a time when connections are more important than ever.

My takeaway from this summer and *Yom B'Ramah* is that even on the sunniest of days we can and should continue to *reimagine* our programs and touch points with our camper families (both during the summer and throughout the year) to ensure we remain an engaged, strong, and inclusive community.

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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 6th grade enjoy sports, swimming, music, cookouts, arts & crafts and so much more! Our Geshet program for 7th-8th graders and CIT program for 9th-10th graders ensures campers can continue their Ramah experience while learning valuable leadership skills. For details call (312) 606-0444 or email info@ramahday.com.