

CAMP RAMAH IN WISCONSIN

מחנה רמה

SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER



From Jacob Cytryn, Executive Director



In preparation for a year-long celebration of our 75th anniversary, Director of Institutional Advancement Linda Hoffenberg has been reviewing material in our offices, reaching out to alumni to share memories, and, through both processes, uncovering forgotten gems of Camp Ramah in Wisconsin's rich history. As with any review of institutional artifacts, for every document the value of which was likely apparent at the time – like

founding Director Henry Goldberg's report of our initial 1947 summer and his strong recommendation that a phone line be installed at camp – there are other documents whose value can only be appreciated from the distance of decades.

One such document is a written memo that Louis Newman, our director for the 1951-1953 seasons, shared with the staff during his last summer as director. Newman's educational creativity was legendary and his work at camp, a relatively small part of a transformative career in multiple settings, is something I wish I could have witnessed firsthand.



1953 Tzevet (Staff)

What is so striking about the memo is its timelessness. With the exception of a few small paragraphs, like notes about the importance of the DDT canisters in every cabin to control the mosquito population, much of the rest of the memo are near verbatim notes that I heard as a counselor and that we routinely ask our *hanhalah* (leadership team) to deliver to our counselors today. The memo written nearly 70 years ago is familiar in reminding counselors about the meteorological challenges of a Northwoods summer: "We go from extreme cold to extreme heat, from beautiful weather to sudden showers. It is important that campers avoid... inadequate clothing in the rain." Classic challenges for taking care of our campers and being a young counselor abound: helping them at mealtime; reducing the need to repair and purchase new materials like mops and ping-pong tables; picking up mail and packages; laundry; lost and found.

The importance of this artifact goes beyond the never-ending details of managing a camp. For at times in the document itself, and regularly framing the words themselves, are manifestations of the founding vision of Ramah we have inherited from, among others, Newman himself. Sprinkled throughout are allusions to the use of Hebrew, building Jewish skills and knowledge, and living in an immersive Jewish environment informed by tradition.

Lou Newman's vision for the type of individual Ramah aimed to produce, and how camp should be set up to create a new generation of American Jewish leaders, was informed by cutting-edge work in child development. His memo to the counselors in the summer of 1953 is filled with explicit and implicit examples of these beliefs. There, beneath the surface, is perhaps the piece of the "Ramah magic" we don't speak about enough: the intention we bring not only to making camp ecstatically fun and Jewishly enriching, but the fundamental way we strengthen the camp experience by focusing on the well-being of each and every child.



Through the seven decades since Newman wrote this memo, camp has grown in remarkable ways and changed, constantly, with the times. And as the standards and culture of summer camp, American Judaism, and child development have evolved, so have we. One of our original campers in 1947, Chaviva Jacobson, then known as Vivian Bassett, who returned for a number of years as a camper and staff member and remains involved as an adviser and supporter today. She once told me that, visiting camp for the first time in decades, "the only thing that hasn't changed is the smiles on the kids' faces!" Behind those smiles is, in one sentence, the history of our camp and the secret to its transformative success for 75-and-counting years of Ramahniks: A set of non-negotiable, compelling values that we adapt to the needs of each generation of our campers.

From David Kushnir, Board President



In early March of this year, I attended the National Ramah event in New York celebrating Ramah at 75 and honoring Rabbi Mitch Cohen. I was energized by being among so many dedicated, life-long supporters of Ramah and I was especially proud to represent Ramah Wisconsin, the first Ramah camp. The event recognized Rabbi Mitch Cohen as he steps down

after two decades of leadership as National Ramah Director and welcomed Amy Skopp Cooper as his successor. It was an honor to be there along with all of the living past-presidents of Ramah Wisconsin.

I was struck by the number of guests involved in the larger Jewish camping world. Representatives from the Foundation for Jewish Camp and JCamp 180 were there to show support and appreciation for the Ramah movement. Many philanthropists, community members and family foundation representatives were excited to hear about the incredible successes being shared. Everyone in attendance was reassured that notwithstanding the challenges of the last couple of years, the Ramah camps are thriving.

While Ramah as an institution is being recognized on a national level, we have launched our own year-long celebration in honor of our 75th anniversary. I love reading the blog posts filled with memories and seeing the old pictures and documents from those early years now posted in Ramah Connect (*see page 7 for*

details). The stories of the first campers are inspiring and we are indebted to our founders and pioneer families who were willing to take on this risky experiment. Their vision to provide young people with a vibrant and immersive Jewish experience still guides us today.

I'm pretty sure that our 2022 campers are more excited about the new tubing, trail biking and ninja warrior course this summer than celebrating a 75th birthday. But they may have a family member who is 75 years old and can likely appreciate the history, experience and insight that comes with that age. We hope that when we celebrate this milestone event at our camps this summer, everyone will feel part of something special.

In my role, I have the pleasure and honor of talking about camp with people from all generations. Some are alumni who reflect warmly on their summers at camp and attribute their lifelong friendships to Ramah. Others are camper parents who are so grateful for the care, thought and deliberate approach we take to every aspect of our programs. Many are donors who are convinced now more than ever of the importance and need for a strong and vibrant Jewish summer experience with us. I only wish I had more time to engage with all of the people whose lives have been forever impacted by their Ramah experiences.

Anniversaries grant us the opportunity to reflect on the history of our amazing institution. They also inspire us to rededicate ourselves to our mission going forward. And our friends at the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and JCamp180 are providing an outstanding incentive for support of Ramah's mission at this meaningful moment. Through their generous **All Together Now 2022 Matching Grant** program, for every \$2 donation you make, the Grinspoon Foundation will provide Camp Ramah in Wisconsin with an additional \$1, effectively increasing your gift by 50%. Please join me today to help provide hundreds of children and teens with the immersive, joyful Jewish experience for which Ramah is known.

While we celebrate with our extended Ramah family, we also reach out to welcome new families from communities large and small. We want to make sure this Ramah experience remains vibrant and strong for our children over the next 75 years. This is our way of connecting one generation to the next, as we go from strength to strength.



Update on Camper Care and Inclusion

by Lauren Mindel, Director of Camper Care and Inclusion

It has been a wonderful first six months since I started as Director of Camper Care and Inclusion. I am so grateful for the warm welcome I received from the Ramah Wisconsin community, including parents, staff, and lay leaders. There are several initiatives we've pursued since I began in this role that I am excited to share.

1) We have embarked on a new approach to our camper intake process, creating a more comprehensive intake form that looks holistically at each individual camper and their specific strengths, challenges and needs. Through this process we will better understand the needs of all campers and provide their counselors with child-specific information, tools and strategies to set up a fun and successful summer for everyone. Through follow up phone calls with families whose children need any type of additional support, we commit to provide thoughtful and intentional support for each of our campers based on their individual needs.

2) We are excited to welcome campers into the Shiluv Inclusion Program for its second summer. Shiluv is designed to support campers with various types of challenges and disabilities to participate in all aspects of our camp program while living and learning with their peers. Some of our campers who participate in this program have ADHD, anxiety, autism spectrum disorders, learning disabilities, and developmental and medical diagnoses. Shiluv participants are accommodated by their bunk counselors, activity specialists, and *rashei eidah* (division heads). They also benefit from the assistance of our experienced inclusion specialists who work closely with our staff to recognize each child's strengths and needs, and to help each camper successfully navigate camp friendships and join in the fun! During our camper intake process, we work with families to develop individually tailored plans based on each child's specific needs, providing personalized support, goal plans, and child-specific accommodations. Our goals for our campers are to create successful summer experiences where individual goals are met within the larger camp community.

3) We are currently working on refreshing our *Hadrachah* staff training program. We understand that in order to care for our campers, our staff need professional development and training opportunities to learn how to be safe, thoughtful, and compassionate caregivers. We are reimagining the arc and structure of our nine-week curriculum, the pre-summer staff week through the eight weeks of camp itself. *Hadrachah* sessions are primarily led and facilitated by our camper care team, and topics include (but are certainly not



limited to): understanding the stages of child development; helping insure campers of diverse backgrounds and identities feel included at camp; developing and maintaining healthy relationships; mental health coping skills and strategies; understanding bunk dynamics; routines, rituals and transitions; behavior management; staff and camper self-care practices; and setting limits and conflict management.

4) We continue to build on one of the great additions to our camp culture in the last five years, *Kehillah Ge'ah*, a gathering place for campers and staff who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. According to colleagues from throughout the field of Jewish Camp and those working with LGBTQ+ youth in Jewish contexts, *Kehillah Ge'ah* is a cutting-edge approach to fostering a radically embracing environment for campers and staff throughout camp. This summer, we'll be launching a second affinity group for campers and staff who identify as Jews of color within an American race context. We recently sent a communication to our current camper families about the formation of this group, driven by the desire to support the unique needs of campers and staff of color who are part of our community.

I look forward to meeting additional members of the Ramah Wisconsin community, especially the 700+ campers we will welcome at our overnight and day camps this summer. I welcome the opportunity for any and all to reach out and introduce themselves, or to learn more about the initiatives shared above.

Excitement Builds

Our new arc of camper experiences is supported by four pillars

Joy – Growth – Inclusion – Connections אושר – צמיחה – שילוב – קשרים
and offers nine distinct experiences for campers entering grades 3–11 with increased flexibility for campers to customize their schedules.

New activities include tubing, trail biking, and ninja warrior obstacle course

Ramah Adventure רמה חווית Ramah Experiential Hebrew with our talented Mishlachat from Israel עברית בענפים

Israeli culture through music and art תרבות ישראל

waterfront electives, new eidah experiences + Bogrim and Machon trips

awesome 75th birthday celebrations and more!



Neil and Elana (Nivo 2001)
with daughters Eden and Dalia

Ramah Alumni – now's the time to give your children the gift of Ramah!

Join the growing number of alumni all around the country who are sending their children to Camp Ramah in Wisconsin!

“I know that when I send my children to Camp Ramah they will make new friends, they’ll experience new experiences, they’ll learn to love Judaism, and they’ll learn to take risks. They will learn how to live independently, get along with others and make relationships and friendships that last a lifetime. It’s not easy to find all of that in one place and it’s great that camp can give them so much. I know that camp provides all of this because I was a camper myself and I’m excited to give that to my child.” – *Neil Goldsmith, Nivo 2002*

for the 2022 Season!



New Session Flexibility for Campers Entering 3rd – 6th Grade!

Whether a camper is with us for one week or for eight, one thing is constant: our commitment to making 2022 the best summer ever. We offer a variety of flexible sessions for our youngest campers and full-season sessions for campers entering 7th – 11th grade. If you have scheduling restraints for your camper, please contact Executive Director Jacob Cytryn at jcytryn@ramahwisconsin.com to discuss flexible arrangements.

Ramah Day Camp

Ramah Day Camp in Chicagoland offers all the ingredients of an amazing summer: nurturing staff, eclectic activities, a deep connection to Jewish values and traditions and a warm, family-like atmosphere. It's a place where campers can be totally themselves - and have a great time while they're doing it.

Ramah Day Camp offers four- and eight-week sessions that are designed for campers as young as entering pre-K all the way up through entering eighth graders. Additionally, ninth and tenth graders can join us as counselors-in-training. Whatever their age, and however much time they spend with us, they can count on jam-packed days and a fun-filled summer.

It's not too late to join the fun! Contact Director Talia Derman at tderman@ramahday.com or go to **ramahwisconsin.com** or **ramahday.com** for details on dates, rates, and scholarship availability.



Family Camp – August 11-15, 2022

Come experience the magic of the Camp Ramah in Wisconsin experience as a family! Family Camp is a five-day all-inclusive experience filled with sports, art, singing around the campfire, outdoor adventure, and so much more! For more info contact Family Camp Director Robin Rubenstein at rrubenstein@ramahwisconsin.com or at 312.690.8305.

We're Celebrating



Start the celebration at ramahwisconsin.com

Click the Alumni tab to view the 75th anniversary webpage, reunion updates, alumni dashboard, alumni store, and more!



Celebratory Events

It's our big birthday and we want to celebrate with you! We're planning both in-person and virtual events in 2022, beginning with livestreamed performances from camp this summer. Watch for details on an in-person 75th anniversary event in the Chicago area in spring 2023.



Reunions are Back!

For the first time since 2019 we are excited to welcome visitors to camp! This summer and next we will be catching up on eidah reunions, and look forward to hosting these alumni in 2022:

Nivonim 2007 – June 16-19

Nivonim 2008 & 2009 – July 7-10

Nivonim 1995 & 1996 – July 28-31

Nivonim 1970 & 1971 – August 4-7

Reunions are for anyone who was in the eidah at any point - i.e., if you were only in camp for one summer in Machon 2006, you are invited to the Nivonim 2007 reunion. Go to ramahwisconsin.com and click on the Alumni tab for reunion details or email alumni@ramahwisconsin.com for additional info.

Camp Stories

Visit our blog and take a walk down memory lane at ramahwisconsin.com/blog! Choose the Camp History and Alumni categories for stories spanning our 75-year history.



Reflections on Ramah's First Season

It was a fabulous summer for a ten-year-old boy from Chicago. I met incredible people: rabbis who could teach Torah, swimming, and baseball; World War II veterans; and counselors preparing to go to Palestine and fight for the establishment of Eretz Yisra'el. This living laboratory of Judaism hooked me, and I returned as a camper for six consecutive summers, with each summer bringing new challenges and achievements.

Rabbi Shelly Switkin, summer of 1947

75 Summers!

Archives & Alumni Directory

Ramah Connect is your gateway to camp photos, classic videos, historic documents, Memory Books, Visitors Day books with cabin listings and staff bios, and more. Keep checking back – we'll be uploading eidah musicals over the course of the next few months!

Create a Ramah Connect login using the app or at RamahConnect.com to access all the great content in the **Photos and Resources** sections. Ramah Connect is also great for professional networking across the vast Ramah Wisconsin alumni base and reconnecting with old friends through the alumni directory.

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



Vintage Graffiti Tour

A beautiful new Nivonim campus was built in 2017 thanks to generous community support of the Givah Campaign. It expands the footprint of the original "Nivo Hill" (as seen in photo) and replaces the four original cabins that were the home of our oldest campers for much of our camp's history.

While graffiti was not permitted in other cabins, there was a tradition to add your name to the hallowed walls (and ceiling and floor) of the Givah. Before the original cabins were replaced, photographer Greg Shapps (Nivo 1986) captured the seven decades of graffiti and created a virtual reality tour. Go to ramahwisconsin.com/Graffiti-Tour to start the tour.



SCAN ME



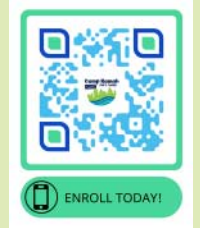
Share

We'd love to include your memories and memorabilia in this year of celebration! Do you still have a t-shirt from your first summer at camp? Artwork you made in omanut or nagarut? A special moment that changed your life? Send us your photos or record a video through the portal on the 75th anniversary webpage or email to alumni@ramahwisconsin.com. We'll incorporate submissions into our year of celebrations.

Ramah Connect!

As described on page 6, **Ramah Connect** is your gateway to vintage camp photos and memories. It's also great for professional networking across the vast Ramah Wisconsin alumni base and reconnecting with old friends through the alumni directory. Join today to stay connected at ramahconnect.com or by downloading the Ramah Connect app.

Here's an update from around the Ramah community! Mazal Tov!



Births

Nessie and **Anna Ruiz Tarkoff (Nivo 1996)** – Luna Estella
Katie (Hanus) (Nivo 2000) and Matthew Doscher - Julia Elle
Molly Hoffman (Nivo 2001) and **Yael Zinkow (Nivo 2006)** - Norah Mei
Aliza (Rudolph) (Nivo 2001) and Ben Scheier - Sarina Anna Mira
Rabbi Sarit Horwitz (Nivo 2002) and Rabbi Abie Schachter-Gampel - twin boys
Mollie Flink (Nivo 2002) and Steven Chaitman - Tal Lior
Rena (Hoffman) (Nivo 2002) and Roberto Munster - Ariel Elias
Hannah Sufrin (Nivo 2002) and Aaron Soffin - Magnolia Bryn
Zahava and **Ari Berkowicz (Nivo 2003)** - Abey
Shaina and **Avi Herring (Nivo 2003)** - Orly Nessa
Jamie Cooper (Nivo 2004) and Mark Schnitzer - Ruby
Orli (Korrub) (Nivo 2005) and Brandon Koloms - River Noa
Naomi (Mann) (Nivo 2005) and Dan Rose - Vivian and Rubin
Jackie (Wolff) (Nivo 2005) and Michael Friedman - Remi Madeline
Juliana and **Howie Abrams (Nivo 2007)** - Sadie Dove
Hannah (Kreindler) (Nivo 2007) and Matt Opad - Harrison Louis
Rebeccah Singer (Nivo 2007) and **Lior Shragg (Nivo 2006)** - Eve Arielle
Rebeccah Hartz and **Ron Schrag (Nivo 2007)** - Micah Shem Tov
Alieza Schvimer (Nivo 2008) and David Hoffman - Gabriel Micah
Rabbi Shani Abramowitz (staff 2010s) and **Joseph Eskin (Nivo 2007)** - baby girl
Rebecca Abrams (Nivo 2014) and **Benjy Salzman (Nivo 2014)** - Hailee
Lainie (Former Registrar) and Erick Goihman - Noah Solomon



If you'd like a onesie for your new baby, contact Ann Lesley Rosen at arosen@ramahwisconsin.com

Weddings

Kenny Kalman (Tikvah/Atzmayim 2000s) and Heidi Jane Wangelin
Rabbi Brett Kopin (Nivo 2007) and Sofia Zway
Leora Goldblatt (Nivo 2007) and Dan Falkin
Alexis Fishman (Nivo 2008) and **Aaron Kaye (Nivo 2005)**
Amy Rubinoff (Nivo 2008) and Ricky Bortz
Allie Rosen (Nivo 2010) and Kyle Bank
Sara Ungerman (Nivo 2010) and **Zach Spellman (Nivo 2009)**
Lucy Orenstein (Nivo 2010) and **Eitan Katz (Nivo 2011)**
Edon Valdman (Nivo 2012) and Agnes Barroll
Roi Mordechai (Staff 2017) and **Ella Ortzinski (Staff 2017)**

Engagements

Caryn Peretz (Nivo 1995) and Jeff Ray
Jacob Millner (Nivo 2000) and Annie Berger
Alicia Saffdie (Nivo 2000) and Doc Omni
Ben Gellman-Chomsky (Nivo 2002) and Melissa Karas
Isaac Pure (Nivo 2005) and Stephanie Chinapen
Sara Lederman (Nivo 2006) and Josh Katz
Benjamin Cohen (Nivo 2008) and Amy Lecza
Leora Sherman (Nivo 2008) and Gavin Ross
Adam Rudolph (Nivo 2009) and Joseph Shemario Pipco
Andrew Freeman (Nivo 2010) and Joelle Swatez

In the News

Kol Hakavod to **Dr. David Shapiro (Nivo 1969)** who volunteered in a refugee center medical clinic at the Polish border providing support to Ukrainian refugees through NATAN International Humanitarian Aid.

Mazal tov to **Marc Swatez (Nivo 1981)** on becoming CEO the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis.

Kol HaKavod to **Jeff Kaminsky (Nivo 1987)**, a member of the Northbrook, Illinois, Community Emergency Response Team who spent weeks in Berlin coordinating supply logistics and Ukrainian refugee resettlement efforts.

Mazal tov to **Tomer Rothschild (Nivo 1988)** on joining the Board of Directors of The Oasis School.

Mazal tov to **Orlee Tatarka (Nivo 1997)** on being named Head of Production at Wieden+Kennedy Portland.

Kol HaKavod to **Ariel Keren (Nivo 1998)** on his work with the Dream Doctors Project and his trip to Moldova to provide comic relief to Ukrainian refugees as a medical clown.

Mazal tov to **Raanan Hershberg (Nivo 2000)** on his The Tonight Show appearance!

Mazal tov to **Ben Sales (Nivo 2002)** on becoming a news editor at eJewishPhilanthropy.

Mazal tov to **Steven Dyme (Nivo 2006)** on his success with Flowers for Dreams, leveraging flowers to advance causes of justice and charity.

Mazal tov to **Rabbi Brett Kopin (Nivo 2007)** on the publication of his new book Creating Sacred Communities written with Dr. Ron Wolfson.

Mazal tov to **Eitan Kantor (Nivo 2008)** who is taking on the role of Music Director at Hebrew Educational Alliance in Denver.

Mazal tov to **Audrey Weiner (Nivo 2009)** on her work on a Super Bowl commercial

Kol HaKavod to **Ellior Rose (Nivo 2020)** on being named Schnucks Athlete of the Week.



Kol HaKavod to **Eliana Halivni (Nivo 2021)** on being named one of JUF Chicago's 18 Under 18.

Kol HaKavod to **Rabbi Gesa Ederberg (Staff 2019)**, of Berlin's New Synagogue, who is coordinating efforts to welcome Ukrainian refugees into the homes and schools of her community.

Mazal tov to **Don Phelps (summer office staff)** who is retiring after 25+ years of teaching at Three Lakes School in Northern Wisconsin!

Our Sincere Condolences

To the family of **Rabbi Everett Gendler (camper in 1947)**, who passed away in April 2022.

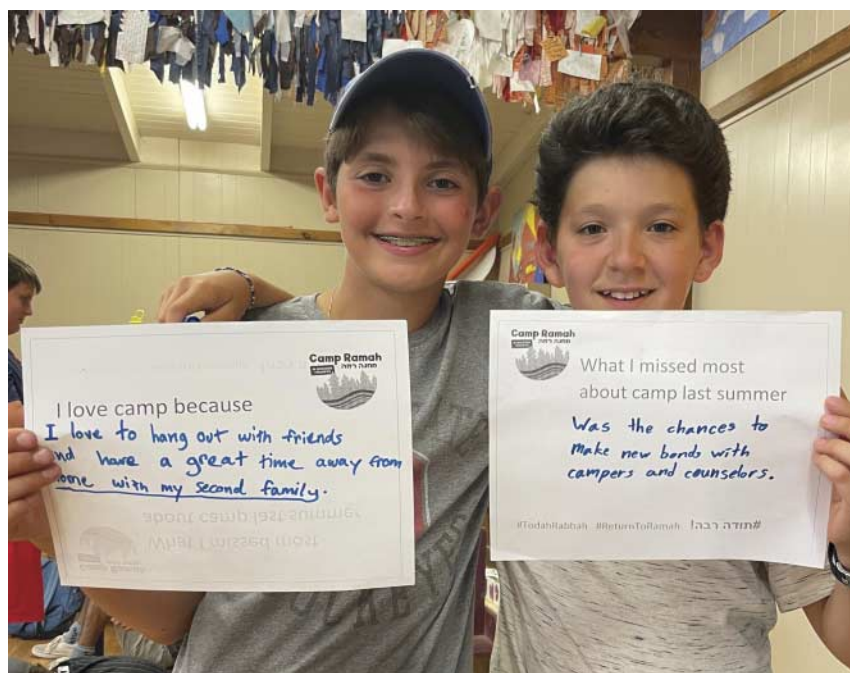
To the family of **Mayira Hirsch Kavon (Nivo 1983)** who passed away in April 2022.

To the family of **Marilyn (Schachtman) Broms (Nivo 1971)**, who passed away in March 2022.

To the family of **Joe Wessinger (Tikvah early 1980s)**, who passed away in December 2021.

Our 2021 Shoafim (8th grade) campers, as part of their summer focus on tzedakah, wrote notes of thanks to supporters of the camp scholarship fund. They were so excited to return to camp to “hang out with friends and have a great time away from home with [their] second family” and “make new bonds with campers and counselors.” It was a joyful and meaningful *shehecheyanu* summer that happened thanks to the generosity of camp alumni, families, and community partners.

A special shout out goes to the 386 donors who together contributed over \$170,000 for camp scholarships as part of the **December 2021 Alumni Impact Campaign**. We're grateful to Campaign Chair Jason Litwack (Nivo 1997), Twin Cities Chairs Elana Goldsmith (Nivo 2001) and Ben Hofkin (Nivo 2000), and Chicago Chair Micah Kafitz (Nivo 94) for leading the effort to provide hundreds of campers with an outstanding Ramah experience this summer.



Sports Campus Renovation!

We're excited to share that construction will begin in August 2022 on our next capital project, the **renovation of our central sports campus** with a focus on accessibility and inclusion. The new state-of-the-art design includes four basketball courts including a Championship Court for older campers and staff, and a junior court for our youngest campers. Additionally, the project features four tennis courts with playable lines for pickle-ball and a brand-new climbing and playscape feature.

At the initiative of multiple generations of Moriah Congregation Ramah alumni, efforts are underway to dedicate a significant part

of the enhanced sports campus to the memory of Rabbi Sam Frait, z"l. Rabbi Frait, the long-time spiritual leader of Moriah Congregation, located in the Chicago suburb of Deerfield, stood for all that Ramah, and the broader Conservative Movement, is about. From his pulpit he preached about the importance of Ramah, behind the scenes he helped raise funds and encourage parents to get more and more campers to Ramah, and, on the basketball courts of Conover and elsewhere he embodied a particular type of Ramahnik: unabashedly proud of being Jewish and unashamed to throw an elbow to secure a rebound. Alumni of Camp Ramah in the Berkshires, Rabbi Frait and his wife

Deena loved visiting their children Hannah (Nivo 1996), Zeke (Nivo 1998), and Avram (Nivo 2000) at camp.

The sports campus renovation is supported in part by the Yashar Initiative grant, generously funded by the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation and coordinated by the Foundation for Jewish Camp. For details on dedication opportunities, please contact Sam Caplan, Chief Development Officer, at scaplan@ramahwisconsin.com or 312.690.8332.



Todah Rabbah to camper Cassie Berman who raised \$500 in honor of her Bat Mitzvah using the give.ramahwisconsin.com/diy platform. She wrote, "Camp Ramah is my home away from home. I love being at camp because there are so many things to do and the camp experience can be personalized to who you are. My favorite activity to do at camp is drama - even though it's chaos, it's a lot of fun! I hope everyone gets to have a camp experience and that's why any funds donated will go towards Camp Ramah's scholarship fund."



Donor Recognition

October 1, 2021 – April 15, 2022

* indicates Camp Ramah in Wisconsin Va'ad committee member
 ** indicates my.ramahwisconsin.com peer-to-peer fundraising campaign
 ♦ indicates Legacy Society member

We are grateful for the generous support of over 1,000 donors since our fiscal year began on October 1, 2021.

View a complete list of donors in the online edition of *Machanenu Ramah* at ramahwisconsin.com.

Shomrei Ramah

\$150,000 and above

2021 Alumni Impact Campaign (Nivo 1994-2004)
 Foundation for Jewish Camp and
 The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation

Director's Circle

\$100,000 and above

Estate of Michal and Uzi Halevy♦
 Federal Emergency Management Agency
 Matthew Zell Family Foundation

President's Circle

\$50,000 and above

Crown Family
 Harold Grinspoon Foundation
 Nina and Arnie* Harris♦
 Lorie Chaiten and Harold Hirshman
 Susan and Marc* Sacks♦
 State of Wisconsin Covid Relief

Rosh Eidah

\$25,000 and above

Ann and Mike Hofkin
 Chaviva and Ralph (z"l) Jacobson
 Lisa and Adam Vales

Rosh Anaf

\$18,000 and above

Julie Strauss and Joel* Brown♦
 Dr. Margaret and Alan* Silberman♦

Northwoods

\$10,000 and above

Anonymous (1)
 Dr. Edward Azoff
 Dr. Wendy and Dr. Howard Bach♦
 Mary and Alan Becker
 Dr. Arthur Elstein♦
 Tamar Green and Ben* Hofkin♦
 Kaplan Family Foundation
 Dr. Lena and David* Kushnir♦
 Naomi and Jason* Litwack
 Wilfred J. Minkus Charitable Trust
 Stacy Palestrant and Tomer* Rothschild
 Robin Newberger and Steven Sacks
 Tamar* Newberger and Andrew Schapiro
 Nancy and Michael Schoenberger
 Carol Ann* and Michael Schwartz♦

Miriam and Morton Steinberg♦
 Arnee and Walter Winshall

Agam

\$5,000 and above

Anonymous (1)
 Rachel and Dr. Andrew Abeles
 Beverly Fink
 Brooke and Isaac Glassman
 Ashlyn* and Daniel Gorlin
 Alison and Isaac Judd
 Marlene Kaplan
 Sarah and Michael Kashani
 Stephanie* and Dr. Kurt Kavanaugh♦
 Deborah Rivel and David Levenfeld
 Gigi Cohen and Michael Levin
 Susan and Bob Mednick
 Liat* and Ron Meisler
 Ellen and Micah Nathan
 Sharon and Leon Oberlander
 Ayala* Cohen and John Podhoretz
 Resnick Family
 Helaine and Howard Resnick
 Harriet and Joseph Resnick♦
 Rachel and Ron Cooper
 Fay and Leonard Ribnick Family
 Philanthropic Fund
 Robyn* and Benjamin Schein
 Cheryl and Steven Topal
 Idyth and Jay Zimblar

Bet Am

\$3,600 and above

Dr. Phyllis Gorin and Rabbi Morris Allen♦
 Karen* and David Ebroon♦
 Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
 Meredith and Benjamin Lewis
 Leslie and Michael Litwack♦
 Charlotte and Michael Newberger
 Fran and Jonathan* Sherman♦
 Meredith and Andrew* Weprin

Northern Lights

\$2,500 and above

Anonymous (1)
 Daniel Cohen
 Barb and Andy Fishman♦
 Sarina and Robert Gerson
 Andrew Glick

Barry Goldberg
 Daniel Hofkin
 Sara Eisen and Matthew Levine
 Barbara and Jonathan Minkus
 Robin and Jonathan Parritz♦
 Dr. Susan Feigenbaum and Dr. Jay Pepose

Buckatabon

\$1,800 and above

Anonymous (2)
 Shira and Mike Altman
 Mark* Altschul
 Lynnsie Balk Kantor♦
 Laura* Elkayam and Rabbi Ezra Balser
 Sarah and Samuel Caplan♦
 Lili Chester
 Sheri and Neil Cooper
 Phyllis and Rabbi Barry Cytron♦
 Tamar and Jacob Cytryn♦
 Esther Goldberg-Davis and Rabbi Alexander Davis
 Dr. Deborah and Rabbi Charles Dobrusin♦
 Judy Groner and Ronald Eisenberg
 Sheri Rosen and Jeremie Kass
 Meredith and Dr. Eric Kirshenbaum
 Ally and Jordan* Kirshenbaum
 Joseph M. Levine Foundation
 Shary and Dr. Marc Levitt♦
 Dr. Herbert Lippitz
 Shira and Jonathan Oberlander
 Keren and Rabbi Simcha Prombaum
 Randee and Robert Romanoff
 Arona and George Sarfatty♦
 Dr. Sarah* and Andrew Shulkind
 Elizabeth Silver-Schack and Prof. Larry Silver
 Libby and Adam Smoler
 Sarah Ungerman and Zachary Spellman
 Shira Steinberg♦
 Tammy and Michael Sugar
 Elise and Dr. Marc Swatez
 Michele and Ira Weiss
 Suzanne and Adam Zimblar

Kikar

\$1,000 and above

Anne Opila and Todd Abraham
 Sarah Gold and Avi* Allen
 Bobbi and Robert Aronson
 Leore Avidar
 Talia and Dr. Adam Baruch♦

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♦ indicates Legacy Society member

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We remember with gratitude the generosity of these donors who made legacy gifts 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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The best choice that Al and Barb made for me over forty years ago was to send me to Camp Ramah in Wisconsin. I remember the feeling of the bus pulling into camp from the winding Wisconsin roads. The first time that bus pulled into Machaneh Ramah I knew that this was my home and this place was going to change the course of my life.

For five consecutive summers I had the privilege and honor of sharing my summers with like-minded Jewish youth from around the Midwest. This was my family. They were the people I grew with through Kabbalat Shabbat by the lake, the rikudiyah and plays in Hebrew to color wars and nightly activities. It wasn't just the activities and Jewish traditions that made Ramah my home...it was the opportunity to make lifelong friends who I continue to share life events with – all through a Jewish lens.

After five years of being a camper I spent the summer with Ramah in Israel and then joined the staff for two summers. I remember my first summer “employed with a real job” and I realized that there was nothing more important than helping to shape and share experiences with the future of our Jewish community. I graduated with a K-8 teaching degree and worked in the Jewish community for over twenty-years. I celebrated my 25th reunion and had the opportunity to come home then.

The Ramah circle came fully around when my sons Gilli and Eitan started their journeys with this magical place. The summer of 2022 Eitan will be attending



From left, Jeffrey, Eitan, Karen and Gilli Gerson

Ramah for the entire summer and I can't wait to come and visit him and come back home. It has been way too long since I have been home. I can't wait to share this with my husband Jeffrey, who went to Jewish summer camp as well. I want to experience Kabbalat Shabat on the lake, watching campers roll down the kikar and dancing. Most importantly I am looking forward to sharing my sense of home, peace and happiness as I drive through those gates off of Buckatabon Road.

I hope the legacy that Jeff and I leave will allow others to come “home” and have a peaceful, engaging and loving environment to grow in just like I did over forty years ago. My heart and happiness are due much to the life I lived at Camp Ramah in Wisconsin and has made me the Jew I am today.

Karen Herstig Gerson, Nivonim 1988

What will your legacy be?

By including Camp Ramah in Wisconsin in your will, trust, retirement account, life insurance policy, or estate plan you will forever be remembered as a devoted supporter of Ramah. Please join over 150 Legacy Society members who have completed a Declaration of Intent and help ensure Ramah's vibrancy well into the future!

We gratefully recognize our new members of the Legacy Society:

Shoshana (Bayla) Ben-Dor

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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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Please mail to Camp Ramah in Wisconsin Legacy Society, 67 E. Madison Street, Suite 1905, Chicago, IL 60603
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Please consult your attorney or tax advisor for professional guidance in this area.

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Camp Ramah in Wisconsin and Ramah Day Camp provide outstanding opportunities for joy, growth, and friendship in a vibrant Jewish community of peers. Please support this meaningful mission – there are many ways you can help!

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From Talia Derman, Director



I've always loved spring - the feeling and fresh air that comes as the snow melts, rain washes away the dirt and grime and leaves fresh greenery with the promise of summer hanging in the air. The assurance of a fresh start. When I was a camper in the 90s at Ramah Wisconsin,

there was a popular trend of having what we called a "Nothing Book." It was essentially a journal where we wrote (copied from others) little poems, limericks and "advice" about everything and nothing all at the same time. One of my favorite quotes that I included in the book is "Today is a gift, that's why we call it the present." Cute, right? Well I am definitely appreciating this spring, this present, as we prepare for another unforgettable summer at Ramah Day Camp.

We have record enrollment numbers, with more campers than ever before coming from the city of Chicago and the southwest suburbs. We have an incredible team of professionals - including the new addition of Annie Glasser as our Summer Assistant Director and Dina

Greenberg as our Site Director of Camper Care. We are excited that many of our exceptional 2021 staff members are returning and look forward to welcoming new faces who will bring their own unique experiences and energy into the space.

We have nine amazing shlichim (Israeli staff) coming from Israel this summer, new programming and new field trips planned, and so many other fresh ideas and fun to come!

As a Ramah Wisconsin alumna, I would be remiss if I did not mention my excitement to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Ramah this summer. Yes – those big birthday celebrations in Conover will spread all the way to our day camp in Wheeling! My experience at Ramah Wisconsin had such a profound impact on my life and truly made me who I am today. And now, in honor of appreciating the present, I am grateful to be celebrating my second season as Director of Ramah Day Camp. Our team is preparing for a 23rd season filled with hilarious day camp fun and adventure - enhanced by joyful Jewish experiences - and I can't wait to see it unfold.

To our returning camper families and to our new camper families, I urge you to enjoy the present. Enjoy the fresh, new start that spring brings. And let's make this the best summer yet at our beloved Ramah Day Camp!



Left: Summer Assistant Director
Annie Glasser



Right: Site Director of Camper Care
Dina Greenberg

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Jacob Cytryn, Executive Director
Daniella Elyashar, Assistant Director
Talia Derman, Director, Ramah Day Camp
Scott Topal, Director of Operations
Lauren Mindel, Director of Camper Care and Inclusion
Sam Caplan, Chief Development Officer
Rabbi David Soloff, Director Emeritus
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A summer at Ramah Day Camp in Wheeling, Illinois, is filled with endless opportunities for joy, growth, inclusion and connection – not to mention great friendships. Campers entering pre-kindergarten through sixth grade enjoy sports, swimming, music, cookouts, arts & crafts and so much more! Contact us at info@ramahday.com to register and learn more about our Sha'ar Hebrew immersion program, Geshar program for 7th-8th graders, and Counselor-in Training program for 9th-10th graders. Transportation from the city and suburbs is provided.