
Mourning with Israel & Send Message of Support to Israeli Ramahniks

Sun, Oct 8, 2023 at 9:06 PM



Shalom Ramah Wisconsin Community,

Since our founding in 1947, Camp Ramah in Wisconsin's leadership has embraced a broad commitment to the Jewish people as a whole, one that always included, each and every summer, a delegation of Israeli staff. Through the decades, that delegation – our *mishlach* – has grown in size and impact to include over fifty members of our summer staff and now over twenty campers who live in Israel. As our *mishlach* has expanded, so too have the numbers of alumni and relatives of alumni and current Ramahniks living in Israel. We are a Midwest-based camp with a global reach, with a large and growing percentage of our Ramah community deeply bound up in relationships – of family, of friends, of peers – with Israelis.

We join with the worldwide Jewish community and especially beloved members of our Ramah community who live throughout Israel in this period of profound shock and mourning at the loss of so much over this weekend.

If we were at camp our high school campers and many staff would have gathered twice this weekend, on Thursday night for a spirited *mishmar* and after dinner on Saturday night (*se'udah sh'lishit*), and sung, as we do multiple times every week, the words of *Acheinu*, a powerful prayer from the weekday Torah service that has particular resonance right now:

אחינו כל בית ישראל
הנותרים בצרה ובשביה
העומדים בין בים ובין ביבשה
המקום ירחם עליהם
ויציאם מצרה לרחוקה
ומאפלה לאורה ומשעבוד לגאולה
השתא בעגלא ובזמן קריב ונאמר אמן

*Acheinu kol beit yisrael
Han'tunim b'tzarah uvashivyah
Ha'omdim bein baym uvein bayabashah
Hamakom y'racheim aleihem
V'yotzi'eim mitzarah lirvachah
Umei'afeilah l'orah umishi'ibud lig'eulah
Hashta ba'agala uvizman kariv v'nomar amen.*

Our siblings, the entire House of Israel,
Who remain in distress and captivity,
Whether on sea or on land—
May the All-present God have compassion on them,
And bring them from distress to relief,
From darkness to light, and from servitude to redemption,
Right now and in the near future, and let us say Amen.

As a camp community who spend most of our lives physically apart from each other, we send comfort, support, prayers, and hopes to each other across space, with a special focus on those currently in Israel. We know that the tightknit reality of Israeli society is such that everyone in the country has already been impacted by their connections to the victims – dead, wounded, and captured – and that those connections already spill far beyond Israel's borders. And we recognize that many members of our Ramah community, including former campers and staff – some of whom did not grow up in Israel – as well as camper parents and loved ones will be reporting for reserve duty in the coming days. [We encourage you to send messages to our Israeli staff and campers through this form, either en masse or to specific individuals.](#)

In what was for me the first inclination that something was going on in Israel, long before any of us could truly grasp the magnitude and horror that will continue to come into focus in the coming days, one of my Rabbis spoke to our synagogue community after the Torah reading on Saturday, noting that every year, three times over Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah, we recite part of the prayer King Solomon offered when the Ark was first brought into the first temple in Jerusalem, words whose power was magnified over the last two days:

יהי יהוה אלהינו עמנו כאשר היה עם אבותינו אל-יעזבנו ואל-יטשנו:

Y'hi Adonai eloheinu imanu ka'asher hayah im avoteinu al-ya'azveinu v'al-yit'sheinu

May Adonai our God be with us, as God was with our ancestors: May God never abandon or forsake us!

In this time of unbearable pain, loss, and fear, we stand together as a community. We stand together to pray the words of *Acheinu*, above, and to remind each other and ourselves that as we grieve together we find strength in our shared past and knowledge that we are part of something greater than ourselves. Our acute awareness as Jews of our global community makes moments like these feel unbearable; and we have the unfortunate duty of following in the footsteps of many generations of our ancestors who have weathered tragedies like this, and worse.

B'Shalom,
Jacob Cytryn
Executive Director



Winter Address:
67 E. Madison St, Suite 1905
Chicago, IL 60603
312-606-9316

Camp Ramah in Wisconsin 3390 Ramah Circle
Conover, WI 54519
715-479-4400

Ramah Day Camp
98 W. Hintz Road
Wheeling, IL 60089
847-537-9700

We're contacting you because you have opted in to receive information from Camp Ramah.
Your email address is listed as annlesley79@gmail.com.

To ensure you'll receive emails from us, please add registrar@ramahwisconsin.com to your address book.

[Having trouble viewing this email?](#)

To opt out of all of our communications, please [unsubscribe](#).

Camp Ramah 67 E Madison Street Suite 1905 Chicago, IL 60603 (312) 606-9316

POWERED BY
RIGHTON
INTERACTIVE