# Return to Ramah - First Day of Camp Edition!



A feeling of awe and appreciation permeates camp – a recognition of how lucky we are to have gotten to this point, to have returned to our beloved camp home. That feeling of gratitude has already been expressed many times with the *shehecheyanu* blessing we say at important moments of newness and renewal.

We know this summer will be filled with exuberant *shehecheyanu* moments - for the more than 150 campers we welcome for the first time, for the campers who missed out on memories and joy last summer and are looking to have double the fun this year, for our camp community to embrace the realities of running camp during a pandemic, for hundreds of parents and guardians sending their children away for personal development and friendship-building for the first time in over a year.

After nearly two years of absolute silence, our camps are finally alive with the sounds and sights of another amazing Ramah summer!













## From Jacob Cytryn, Executive Director



Jacob and Daniella

On the first full day of Staff Week 2021, braving unseasonably warm temperatures and high humidity, our entire staff gathered for the first time under the majestic canopy of our new *Merkaz Tarbut*, a cultural center bringing together our visual arts and carpentry programs with a stunning new outdoor performance space. We sat there all masked, having just completed our second cafeteria-style meal

following COVID-19 protocols and learning how to operate most efficiently when the campers arrive.

What happened next is an apt framing for our summers at Ramah Day Camp in Chicagoland and Camp Ramah in Wisconsin, tying together three themes: the opportunity for a special kind of enhanced summer, gratefulness at having reached this moment in our camps' history and in our lives, and a refocusing of our camper experience on a newly refined set of core values. First, we polled the crowd for some favorite "doubles" – among them baseball doubleheaders, Wrigley's Doublemint gum, double popsicles, and, the newest one: the double-stuffed Oreo. We then spoke about the unique opportunity we have during this summer to offer each other and our campers double the fun, double the friends, and double the activities.

We transitioned into a reminder of how lucky we are to have gotten to this point, to have arrived at camp. Assistant Director Daniella Elyashar reminded us all that the Hebrew word for arrive is *l'hagi'ah*, and a number of staff members recognized that a form of that verb is found in the shehecheyanu blessing we say at important moments of newness and renewal. **This summer is a shehecheyanu summer.** 



Gathering on the porch of the new Mercaz Tarbut

Next we were led in a series of games and activities that operated on two levels: first, they helped demonstrate for our counselors how they could be brought back to the playfulness of childhood at camp and how to do so within our COVID-19 safety guidelines.

The second level is even more important, as we introduced to them the four core values that serve as guideposts to us as we design and implement life for our campers. These values are **joy**, **growth, inclusion,** and **connection**. First and foremost, camp must be joyful; second, campers grow every summer and the intentional nurturing of that growth is a core part of our educational role; third, we strive to be as inclusive and welcoming a community as possible for all our campers and staff, from all their backgrounds and life stories; and, finally, camp is about building connections with peers, counselors, Judaism, and more.

As Staff Week ended, so did our 22-month countdown to camp. The buses rolled in from Buckatabon Road and I know that I was not the only one overcome with emotion. The campers bounded off the buses, overflowing with excitement to finally be back at camp. The 2021 season – our #ReturnToRamah – is underway and we will do our absolute best to fill it with double the connection, double the inclusion, double the growth, and – surely – double the joy.



## David Kushnir, Board President



I have never been more excited for the start of camp than I am right now. This includes the summers when I attended as a camper and staff member, as well as more recently when I was sending my kids to camp. Each year, as the weather gets warmer and the school year winds down,

the positive energy for another Ramah summer goes up. But this year, those feelings are heightened due to the loss of our traditional summer programs in Conover and Wheeling last season. The many challenges we have faced during the pandemic have only increased the need and excitement for our return this year.

Part of my excitement comes from knowing how hard our professional staff members have worked to get to this point. Throughout the year, their creativity and ingenuity shined through with the many online programs to keep our campers connected. At the same time, they had to envision what in-person camp would look like this summer. Early on our professionals developed contingency plans for how to operate our camps in an ever-changing environment. Every detail of camp had to be reviewed to make sure we would be in compliance with whatever rules or limitations would be put in place. Our purchasing, logistics and programming had to be reimagined, along with measuring every inch of the cabins and buildings for health and safety measures. No part of the summer experience was left untouched.

My excitement grew after every "Countdown to Camp" program we held for our families on Zoom. These were a critical part of our overall communication plan and an important opportunity to share our evolving preparations. I heard from many individuals that these points of contact, along with many follow-up phone calls, calmed the nerves of both parents and campers. It instilled confidence in our community that we were thinking through every issue and that we would be prepared. Our medical committee, led by Dr. Mark Drexler, was instrumental in guiding us each step of the way.

I am so proud that we have now opened our camps safely, taking into account the physical and emotional health of all of our campers and staff. This accomplishment is incredibly meaningful and I am grateful to all the individuals and organizations that carried us from the beginning of the pandemic to the start of the 2021 camp season. Your commitment to our mission never wavered and only intensified over this past challenging year. This summer's Ramah experience will once again prove that our product is well worth the investment.

I have always believed that the Ramah partnership with our community is a mutually beneficial one. This idea is depicted in something I learned over Shavuot about the Ark of the Covenant. There is a great deal of mystery and magic (and a good movie, too!) around the Ark that Moses built to house the tablets upon which the Ten Commandments were written. The Levites were given the holy task of carrying this heavy Ark through the desert, river and rough terrain with the Israelites. Yet the Talmud describes that when things were difficult for the Levites, the Ark actually carried them and allowed them to continue on their journey. This image makes me think of the incredible relationship between our camps and our community. Our camps educate and inspire our young people to be fully engaged in their home Jewish communities. Our communities carry and support our camps, especially in difficult times like this past year, to continue our holy work.

This metaphor of the Ark of the Covenant and our camps has a further application. The Talmud describes that the Ark actually contained two sets of tablets - the first set that Moses broke and the second set that remained intact. It may seem odd to keep the first set around since it made the Ark heavier and was a constant reminder of the troublesome episode with the golden calf. But it was part of the Israelites' history and perhaps an inspiration to them going forward. So too, for us, the continuous chain of providing summer camp experiences was broken last year. We will not forget the time, energy and resources required to get us back to where we are now. While we do not know the long term impact of our lost summer, we are now exceptionally prepared to move forward for this summer and into the future. With the help of our extraordinary community and our amazing professional staff, we are returning to our camp homes stronger and more excited than ever.

# A summer of joy, growth and connection -

Our #1 priority has always been the health and safety of the camp community, and this year that priority includes additional protocols and unique components.

Based on established best practices, camping industry guidelines, and medical expertise, Camp Ramah in Wisconsin is following these guidelines to prevent COVID-19 from entering camp and to minimize its spread if it does:

- Vaccination A COVID-19 vaccine was required for staff members, and encouraged for campers ages 12 and older. (Our camp population includes approximately 150 campers ages 8-11.)
- Testing All campers and staff, regardless of vaccination status, were required to take two PCR COVID-19 tests prior to arrival day. On the first day, tests were administered at the bus departures or upon arrival at camp, prior to entering the camp bubble. Mask and pod protocols are in effect for the 7-10 day arrival period; assuming everyone tests negative, masks and pods will no longer be required.

After four negative tests over a 17-day period, staff members were allowed to remove their masks for the last days of staff week. They re-masked for the camper arrival.



Additional washing stations were added and new picnic tables were built for outdoor eating



At Camp Ramah in Wisconsin trailers were rented to provide additional showers and restrooms to maintain "pod" and cabin capacity requirements.





Special purchases were made for both camps: COVID-19 testing kits, personal protective equipment (PPE) for medical staff, disposable masks, shields, additional washing stations, hand sanitizer and pumps, and HEPA/UV filters in cabins and buildings. We are particularly grateful to Magid Glove & Safety for expanding their annual support to include much of our PPE needs for this summer.



Additional covered outdoor spaces were built for medical use and as program areas

# all while following COVID-19 guidelines



Both camps have additional transportation costs to maintain reduced bus capacity.







For many years, Camp Ramah in Wisconsin has partnered with Camp Leaders to bring European university students to work in our kitchen. Due to COVID-19 it was not an option this year, and we are grateful to camper parents and alumni who stepped up in a big way to help out for one or more weeks.

# **Enhanced Staff Experience**

"I cannot wait to get back to my home away from home, a place that we've all been deprived of for far too long. I think for all members of the Ramah community, this summer will be one of healing and of joy as we rekindle our collective love for camp." – Avi Shapira, Junior Counselor

After 15 months of navigating the pandemic, our camp community has joyfully reunited in person at camp. To ease the transition from virtual experiences to real-life interactions at camp, we've expanded our team of *Yoatzim* (staff advisors) and made investments to support the mental, emotional and social health of the entire camp population. In pre-season sessions, during staff week, and throughout the summer our staff members are gaining skills needed to be sensitive to our campers' needs, which undoubtedly have been affected by changes to school and social environments.

Many staff members opted-in to virtual staff training opportunities this spring: a four-session seminar promoting diversity, equity and inclusion was led by the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs and a leadership development course was presented as part of the Nachshon Counselor Fellowship.

At least one staff member in each eidah has trained to be a *mini-medic* liaison to the camp infirmary. They've completed CPR and Red Cross First Aid courses and will be responsible for collecting the daily COVID-19 health screening data.

For the health and safety of our camp community, Camp Ramah in Wisconsin is operating in a bubble, with campers and staff remaining at camp with no summer visitors. So what about a day off for our staff? *Roshei Tzevet* (head staff) Melissa Levin and Tobiah Markovitz are coordinating a variety of programs to enhance staff life in the Mercaz Kopin staff lounge and in the new staff café in the Levine Seminar Center. Days off and evenings will include in-camp getaway spaces for streaming movies, evening campfires, and more.

We are thrilled to welcome our talented 2021 mishlachat - 45 Israeli staff members serving as cabin counselors and educators, and as waterfront, outdoor education, music, sports, and dance



Mini-medics training with Ramah Wisconsin Medical Director Mark Drexler (Nivo 84)



Roshei Tzevet Melissa and Tobiah

specialists. They offer unparalleled opportunities for American campers and staff to get to know Israel through organic interactions and genuine conversations.





Staff Week Havdalah

# Introducing Shiluv - a new approach to inclusion

Since 1973, Camp Ramah in Wisconsin has been proud to welcome campers with unique challenges and disabilities as part of our inclusion and special needs programs including Tikvah and Atzmayim. This summer we are piloting a new approach to inclusion known as *Shiluv*, (integration) developed in recent years in ongoing dialogue with camper families and experts in special education. Campers previously in the Tikvah program now live with their age group peers and spend most of their day in eidah activities. The *Shiluv* approach both enhances our camp community and significantly diminishes the identity of Tikvah as a separate eidah.

As in previous summers, our Atzmayim vocational participants, high school graduates ages 18-21, are working five mornings a week at a variety of job sites with the guidance of job coaches. What's different this year - since camp is operating in a "bubble" per COVID-19 protocols - is that our ten Atzmayim are working in camp rather than in the local Eagle River community. Job assignments include the camp kitchen, office, laundry, woodworking shop, and the new staff café. Todah Rabbah to our Atzmayim for all their help to keep operations running smoothly in this unique season.



We are thrilled to announce that Camp Ramah in Wisconsin has been awarded a Yashar Initiative\* grant! This generous grant will support our next capital project, the renovation of our central sports campus with a focus on accessibility and inclusion. This first design draft will be refined in the coming months. Fundraising for this exciting project is underway and the new central sports campus is projected to be ready for the 2022 season. For details on dedication opportunities, please contact Sam Caplan, Chief Development Officer at scaplan@ramahwisconsin.com or 312.690.8332 for more info.

\*The Yashar Initiative is generously funded by the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, coordinated by the Foundation for Jewish Camp.





2021 Atzmayim Vocational Participants and Staff

# 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. Here's an update from around the Ramah community!

#### **Births**

Zoe Georgia, daughter of **Gil Pinsberg** (**Nivo 1992**) and Toby Goldstein

Shoshana Rose, daughter of Ariella and Marc Fiedler (Nivo 1998)

Daughter of **David Katz** (**Nivo 1998**) and Amanda Russell

Robert Jeffrey, son of **Michelle (Steiman)** (**Nivo 1999**) and Jordan Edelman

Orly Bea, daughter of Jodi and **Avram Fraint** (Nivo 2000)

Ella Rose, daughter of **Ilana Dworin** (**Nivo 2000**) and Alex Kehl

Aviv Michal, daughter of **Emilie** (**Botbol**) (**Nivo 2001**) and Scott Berman

Roey Milo, son of **Avi Allen (Nivo 2002)** and **Sarah Gold (Nivo 2003)** 

Lenna Jordan, daughter of Becky Eisenberg (Nivo 2002)

Zev Eitan, son of Meredith and Eric Kirshenbaum (Nivo 2003)

Yona Yehudit, daughter of Gabe Kravitz (Nivo 2003) and Dr. Yael Smiley

Rose Mia, daughter of Dr. Benji Derman (Nivo 2004) and Dr. Becky Levine

Leor David, son of Dr. Elan Green (Nivo 2004) and Shira Dickstein

Ezri Oliver, son of Elena and Ben Heisler (Nivo 2004)

Amitai Tzvi and Yonah Lev, sons of Rabbi Gita Karasov (Nivo 2004) and Daniel Buonaiuto (Former Staff)

Elan Asher, son of **Samantha** (**Kopin**) (**Nivo 2004**) and Yoni Silverman

Sophie Jane, daughter of **Becky Wolf (Nivo 2004**) and Max Jacobson

Ezra Alan, son of **Heidi (Zimmerman) (Nivo 2004)** and Matt Simons

Yonatan Coby, son of **Tome (Allali) (Nivo 2005**) and Matthew Travers

Ezra Nathan, son of Jonah Newman Krischer (Nivo 2005) and Amy Krischer

Lev Gavriel, son of **Debbie (Sherman) (Nivo 2005)** and Oren Rasowsky

Isaac, son of Elana Abraham (Nivo 2006) and Josh Pomeranz (Nivo 2004)  $\,$ 

Miriam Ruth Violet, daughter of Amanda and Jonathan Cohen (Nivo 2006)

Maya Jade, daughter of Carly (Cooper) (Nivo 2006) and Aaron Wolff

Ella Sofia, daughter of Jenna and Jeremy Frankenthal (Nivo 2006)

Asher Louis, son of Marybeth and Aaron Senser (Nivo 2006)

Son of Rebecca (Elkayam) (Nivo 2007) and Mike Miller

Levi, son of Hadley and Adam Parritz (Nivo 2007)

Shira Yehudis, daughter of Arielle (Salsberg) (Nivo 2007) and Aaron Zuckerman

Mia Brooke, daughter of Natalie Salzman (Nivo 2009) and Matan Yosef

Jack Marlin, son of Jordan (Newmark) (Former Registrar) and Dan Wirt

# Ali Sider (Nivo 2002) and Sanford Glass Jonah Harris (Nivo 2009) and Maya Feldman Paul Sherman (Nivo 2011) and Korry Honon

Welcome Robert Jeffrey

Edelman and all new future

Ramahniks! If you'd like a onesie for your new baby,

contact Shaina Sugar at

ssugar@ramahwisconsin.com

Paul Sherman (Nivo 2011) and Kerry Honan (Nivo 2010)

Edon Valdman (Nivo 2012) and Agnes Barroll

#### Weddings

Jonathan Zimbler (Nivo 2000) and Lisa Schuman Jared Skoff (Staff 2010's) to Karen Brier



Mazal Tov to alumni Paul Sherman and Kerry Honan!

#### In the News - Congratulations to:

**Rabbi Yosi Gordon (camper in the 1950s)** on being honored for 40 years of service to the Talmud Torah of St. Paul, Minnesota.

**Brad Lippitz (Nivo 1978)**, on being featured on Crain's Notable 2021 Real Estate brokers list.

Kim Gordon Frankenthal (Nivo 1981) on her new position as Afternoon News Anchor at Cumulus Media News/Talk WLS-A/Chicago.

**Miriam Ament (Nivo 1987)** who was recently featured on Aish.com as a "Trailblazing Jewish Woman" for her work as founder of No Shame On U.

**Andrew Pass (Staff 1980s-90s)**, whose A Pass Educational Group, LLC, recently acquired Victory Productions.

Rabbi Eli Garfinkel (Staff 1990s) on his new book, *The JPS Jewish Heritage Torah Commentary*.

Mara Davis (Nivo 1993) who recently competed and won on Jeopardy!

Claire Sufrin (Nivo 1994), co-author of *The New Jewish Canon*, which was named a 2020 National Jewish Book Award Finalist.

Jill (Pessis) Smiley (Nivo 1999) on being named as a Magnus Health Frontline Hero for commitment and service to Rochelle Zell Jewish High School, Deerfield, Illinois

Miryam Raizen (Nivo 1999) on her recent performances with Colorado Hebrew Chorale.

**Sigal Samuel (Staff 2000s)** on her new book, *Osnat and Her Dove: The True Story of the World's First Female Rabbi*.

**Dana Fine (Nivo 2001)** on her new book, *Quarantine Fosters: A Story about Quarantining, Fostering, Adopting, and Friendship.* 

**Matthew Levin (Nivo 2008)** who was recently featured in Boston University's Alumni magazine for his work with the Boston Red Sox.

**Rebecca** (Nadis) Strobehn (Staff 2010s) on being named one of the 36 under 36 by the *Detroit Jewish News*.

Sam Orloff (Nivo 2015) on being chosen as a Gaither Junior Fellow.

**Samantha Brody (Nivo 2017)** who was appointed to the Hillel International Student Cabinet.

#### **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**

- 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



**Rabbi Gesa Ederberg (Staff 2019)** on receiving the Louise Schroeder Medal of the Berlin Parliament for her "commitment to democracy, gender equality and peaceful coexistence in Berlin."

Karen Nochimowski (Staff) and her son Oren (Nivo 2021) for creating a free little food pantry in Chicago.

**Rabbi Aaron Melman (Rabbi-in-Residence)** who was recently sworn into the Illinois Army National Guard (Reserve) as a Chaplain (Captain).

#### **Our Sincere Condolences**

To the family of **Richard Rikess** (**Nivo 1980**), who passed away in November 2020. To the family of **Tammy Kaplan Pilblad** (**Nivo 1986**), who passed away in January 2021.

To the family of **Debbie Frank (Nivo 1992)**, who passed away in December 2020. To the family of **Jordan Feldman (Nivo 1992)**, who passed away in February 2021.



Todah Rabbah to camper Nava Herstein (top left), who raised over \$1,500 in honor of her Bat Mitzvah using the **give.ramahwisconsin.com/diy** platform. She wrote, "Camp Ramah is the place where I get away from the stress of school and homework. There, I get to see my friends and the place I love. Art, sports, tefillot... I am never bored at camp! The relationships I have made at Camp Ramah in Wisconsin will stay with me forever."



Kol HaKavod to Nivonim 1994-2013 volunteers who created fundraising pages and made calls to their friends last December as part of our first all-virtual **Alumni Impact Campaign**.

Over 425 donors generously contributed \$144,000 to support camper scholarships.





#### October 1, 2020 - May 31, 2021

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

#### Shomrei Ramah \$150,000 and above

Anonymous (1)

Foundation for Jewish Camp and The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation

#### Director's Circle \$100,000 and above

2021 Alumni Impact Campaign (Nivo 1994-2013)\*\*
Harold Grinspoon Foundation
Lorie Chaiten and Harold Hirshman

Richard Warner

Matthew Zell Family Foundation

#### President's Circle \$50,000 and above

Anonymous (1)

Crown Family

Nina and Arnie\* Harris\*

Susan and Marc\* Sacks\*

Lisa and Adam Vales

#### **Rosh Aidah**

#### \$25,000 and above

Ann and Mike Hofkin

Tamar Green and Ben\* Hofkin\*

Jack & Goldie Wolfe Miller Fund

Elyse\* Rabinowitz and Jim Porter◆

Roselind and Sheldon Rabinowitz\* (z"l)

Charles & M.R. Shapiro Foundation, Inc.

### Rosh Anaf

#### \$18,000 and above

Anonymous (2)

Julie Strauss and Joel\* Brown

Patti and Alan Caplan/Shalom Memorial Park

Carol\* Weintraub Fogel and Dr. Ronald Fogel

Neera\* and Michael Kaufman\*

Vered and Jeremy Kaufman

Cyndi and Jamie Rosenthal

Dr. Margaret\* and Alan\* Silberman\*

#### **Northwoods**

#### \$10,000 and above

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Anshe Emet Synagogue, Chicago IL

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Mary and Alan Becker

Dr. Arthur Elstein\*

The Bob Feldman Memorial Scholarship Fund

Dr. Lena and David\* Kushnir\*

Wilfred J. Minkus Charitable Trust

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Tamar\* Newberger and Andrew Schapiro

Nancy and Michael Schoenberger

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Arnee and Walter Winshall

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#### \$5,000 and above

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Mindy and Dan Ribnick⁴

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Lynn Barr and Marvin Rudman

Jodie and Mark\* Silberman\*
Idyth and Jay Zimbler

#### **Bet Am**

#### \$3,600 and above

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Sara and Dr. Mark\* Drexler

Deborah and Gregory Greenberg

Meredith and Dr. Benjamin Lewis

Mary Ann and Joel Rich\*

Stacy Palestrant and Tomer\* Rothschild

Eric Siegel

#### **Northern Lights**

#### \$2,500 and above

Miranda and Steve\* Altschul

Heidi and Ben\* Azulay

Amy and Rabbi Eric Cytryn

Tamar and Jacob Cytryn<sup>◆</sup>

Marlynn and Rabbi Elliot Dorff

Marilyn Ernsteen

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Richie Rikess Memorial\*\*

#### Buckatabon

#### \$1,800 and above

Anonymous (1)

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Dr. Deborah and Rabbi Charles Dobrusin

Karen\* and David Ebroon⁴

Judy Groner and Ronald Eisenberg

Jeni and David Elyashar

Dr. Julie and Dr. Michael Gideon

Marjorie Goldstein

Dr. Ranna Rozenfeld and Dr. Shane Greenstein

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# We are grateful for the generous support of over 1,000 donors since our fiscal year began on October 1, 2020. View a complete list of donors in the online edition of *Machanenu Ramah* at ramahwisconsin.com.

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Betty Winer

Radyne and Dr. Steven Wolf

Rachel Adelman and Gary Zaidenweber

Zeke's Monday Night Basketball Group

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#### \$180 and above

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David Feldman

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Beth and Gordon Gendler

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Marlene and Herb Gerson

Michelle Gilats

Darcy and David Gilbert Burke

Heidi and Howard Gilbert

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Leora Goldblatt

Lesley and Matt Goldenberg

Dr. Bonnie and Dr. Gary Goldish

Tiffany and David Goldman

Elana and Neil Goldsmith

Laurie and Joel Goldsmith\*

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#### **Of Blessed Memory**

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

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#### We both began our Ramah journey in 1961.

I was a camper from 1961 to 1965 and Arona returned again after 1961 as a baby sitter and junior counselor in 1968. Later our son, Brian, was a camper for several years.

In 2004, Arona and I attended a reunion weekend and that's when we "returned" to Ramah and have been involved every year since then. We have added to our love for Ramah by volunteering our expertise. I volunteered through architectural services to design numerous camp buildings including the Chadar Ochel, staff housing, Nivonim campus, Tikvah vocational housing, the new arts center and outdoor performance stage, the Tikvah moadon, Ramah's Chicago business office and improvements to several other buildings in Conover and at Ramah Day Camp in Wheeling, Illinois. Arona assisted by volunteering with the Atzmayim vocational program. Just as Ramah has been a meaningful part of our past and

present, we have made Ramah part of our estate planning so that the future of Jewish camping is a certainty.

George Sarfatty





I was 10 years old in Cabin 1 with Jerry Flanzer as my counselor.

That's me in the back row, third from the left.



Arona is shown here on a swing. Esther Hankin, Arona's mother, was a Hebrew teacher that summer.

## We gratefully recognize these new members of the Legacy Society:

Miranda and Steven Altschul

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# 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!

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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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And there are two new ways to give!





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For more info, go to **ramahwisconsin.com/ways2give** and **give.ramahwisconsin.com** or contact Sam Caplan, Chief Development Officer, at scaplan@ramahwisconsin.com or 312.690.8332.



## From Talia Derman, Director



Boker Tov Machaneh Ramah Yomi! (Good morning Ramah Day Camp!)

Finally, after nearly two years of waiting, camp is in session! It was thrilling to welcome our campers on the first day and I am in awe of our talented staff whose enthusiasm is contagious. There was a magical quality to the start of camp; a true the start of camp; a true (shehecheyanu) moment, and I felt both

gratitude and appreciation to be part of this much-anticipated Return to Ramah.

We've reached this milestone after many months of thoughtful planning for a safe, healthy and fun summer at camp, guided by our Ramah medical committee, the CDC, the American Camp Association and the National Ramah Commission. And we've reached this moment thanks to the incredible support and partnership of our camper parents all through this pandemic journey.

We are so excited to watch the summer unfold around our four programming pillars – joy, growth, inclusion and connection. We're launching the Sha'ar (Gateway) Hebrew immersion program, and introducing a new Counselor-in-Training track for 9th and 10th graders. And we are thrilled to welcome eight Israeli staff members this summer – our largest *mishlachat* (delegation) ever!

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

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



As I write this, I can see campers trying out our new low ropes course and enjoying the oversized blue blocks, new swings and slide in our play area. The big news is our state-of-the-art playscape planned for next summer! Thanks to the Day Camp 2021 matching grant made possible by JCamp180, a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, all gifts to the playscape project will be matched 1:2. We look forward to dedicating this wonderful new facility in honor of Lori Stark's 19 years of leadership as Ramah Day Camp Director during the 2022 season.

Todah Rabbah to our incredible families for sharing your amazing campers with us and to the entire Ramah community for getting us to this point! I am grateful for each and every one of you and look forward to continuing to deepen the ties within our very special community.



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 Gesher 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.