



# CAMP RAMAH IN CALIFORNIA

At the Max & Pauline Zimmer Conference Center

*A Journey for a Lifetime*

## Final Parent Update from Rabbi Dan

Session 1

July 24, 2006

**Dear Session 1 and Gesher C Parents of Camp Ramah in California,**

We are in the midst of a wonderful end of session 1 & Gesher C in this, our 50th anniversary summer at Camp Ramah in California. Here are some of the highlights from the last few days as we head into the waning hours of 1st session, Kayitz 2006:



### END OF SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Great Performances!!! (Amitzim, Giborei Yisrael, Solellim, Tzophim & Machon) – The past few nights have featured great evening performances in the Jacoby Amphitheater and around camp. Last week, our Sollelim edah put on a performance of Mary Poppins – the first play performance by this edah in many years. On Friday night, our Amitzim campers put on a special performance for the entire camp as part of Friday night tefillot. And Saturday night featured another new edah – Giborei Yisrael - doing a great production of Aladdin! Finally, last night was “Leil Hofa’ah” – Performance Night! Highlights included a great concert by the Solellim Band, a performance of “Henei Ba Hashalom” by the camp a cappella group “Ramah-cappella,” a hip hop dance performance by the Hip Hop Etgar and the Tzophim and Machon play, “Grease.” In addition to learning all of the Hebrew lyrics, the campers had a great time singing, dancing, doing costume design and participating in all aspects of putting on great performances!

Gesher C Overnight at the Salkin Family Tree House - during the 1st two weeks of camp, our Gesher A and B campers had their final evening, closing activity in our new tree house but last Thursday night and this past Sunday night, our

our new tree house but last Thursday night and this past Sunday night, our Gesher girls, and then boys, slept overnight under the stars. These kids had a fun adventure during the hike up to the Tree House, stopping at different points along the way to play games and answer questions. After a fun evening of snacks and songs, all of the kids got to sleep and woke up in the morning to a yummy breakfast, brought up from the camp by their hard working counselors. A great time was had by all and this Gesher group has continued the Gesher tradition this summer of being one of the most "ruach filled" edot in camp.



#### **MORE HIGHLIGHTS**

**Nitzanim Overnight** – last week our Nitzanim campers had their overnight at Lake Casitas, including sleeping out under the stars, smores, and a yummy breakfast of Rocky Mountain Toast. In the morning, before heading back to camp, these campers enjoyed a fun-filled morning at the Lake Casitas water park that everyone raved about!

**Adat Shalom** – These campers have been enjoying great early morning hikes in the surrounding valley. In addition to the great scenery, the hikes included making breakfast on the trail, morning tefillot in nature, and games led by our experienced ropes course staff out on the trail.

**Amitzim/Ezra** – Last night our Amitzim edah had its final banquet, complete with a special slide show, yummy banquet food and a song session with Rabbi Dan. During the Shabbat Torah service, Rabbi Dan got this edah's help in putting on a dramatic re- enactment of the story of Rabbi Eliezer and the rabbis and their famous debate over an oven.

**Banquet** – tonight, we'll finish 1st session with a yummy banquet full of singing, cheering, costumes and our famous end-of-session video that puts a cap on the whole summer. Kids come in costumes and love taking pictures, singing their edah songs one last time and sharing memories of another memorable summer at Camp Ramah in California.



### **Amitzim Campers Having Fun at Lake Casitas**

### **Ramah Older Campers and Israeli Staff Attend Los Angeles Israel Rally**

Here is an article written by Machon Camper Seth Goldman about Camp Ramah in California's delegation to the Israel rally Sunday in Los Angeles. I am very proud that our camp's presence was felt at this important community moment in support of the state of Israel:



### **Israel Rally**

In the past couple weeks, Israel has faced a deadly crisis with Hezbollah terrorists. Now more than ever, the Jewish homeland is in need of support from Jews around the world. On July 23, 2006, Camp Ramah sent about 40 campers to partake in a pro-Israel rally in Los Angeles. The rally, which included speeches by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, and prominent religious leaders, attracted 10,000 Israeli supporters. Each speaker was greeted with thunderous applause, and after each speech the crowd proudly waved Israeli and American flags. Being a part of such an important event was a highlight of the summer for many of the campers. Much of the world is against Israel, and she needs all the help she can get. Most importantly, Israel is a huge part of any Jew's identity. Jewish people throughout southern California had a responsibility to be at the demonstration, and by all means they fulfilled it.

### **TRANSPORTATION REMINDERS**

As we prepare for another transportation day this Tuesday, July 24th, I want to review with you a number of items.

1. Pick up by Car - For those of you picking up your campers by car remember that you must adhere to the 9 to 10am timeframe posted in our Parent Handbook. Please do not arrive early; your car will be held at the gate until our staff is prepared for you to pick up your kids. Please also be sure not to come late! Your kids are excited to see you and it's crucial that you be on time. Finally – please do NOT block the roads around camp. Doing so not only is a fire hazard; it also impedes the on-time departure of our buses.

2. Buses - Please arrive at our transportation sites for the following pick-up times:

- a. Bel Air Presbyterian: 11am
- b. Ner Tamid in Palos Verdes & Adat Ari El: 11:15am
- c. Shomrei Torah: 10:45am
- d. B'nai Israel in Tustin: 12:30pm\*\*
- e. Beth Am in San Diego: 1:30pm\*\*
- f. Etz Hayyim in Thousand Oaks: 10am

\*\*A special note for our Orange County and San Diego families. Because of the extra distance traveled by these buses from the camp to these areas, we try our best to ensure bus arrival at the scheduled times. Please know that we endeavor to have these buses leave camp first and we do whatever possible to ensure an on-time arrival. Nonetheless, we appreciate your patience and flexibility if they arrive outside of the times listed above. You can feel free to call our office at (805) 646-4301 to get a status update on the buses within an hour of the scheduled arrival time.

3. Taking a Plane – A Ramah staff member will be sure to take your child to his/her departure gate. Some, but not all, flights will be staffed by Ramah staff members. Please do NOT contact our office to check on flight status – contact the airlines directly.

### **Letter From Rabbi Dan & Zach about the Internet**

Dear Parents:

At Camp Ramah in California, our primary focus, at all times, is the safety of your children and our staff. As Jewish educators and camping professionals, we feel compelled to write you this letter about a very serious topic. As your kids return from camp, we know that one of the primary ways that they will keep in touch is through the internet. We hope that you will read this letter in the spirit that it is offered: one of caring, concern and a sense of responsibility to share information with you on important topics that affect the safety of our children.

Many of our campers have created on-line accounts at [www.MySpace.com](http://www.MySpace.com) or similar websites that have recently been named as potential danger zones for luring away children or teens by sexual predators on the Internet. These social networking sites are extremely popular among teens and young adults who post profiles, photos and BLOGS often answering dozens of questions about their likes and dislikes, revealing personal details for everyone, including predators, to see. Mistakes may be as innocent as posting a pictures with their school in the background, or with people wearing a camp shirt. In some cases, we noticed teenagers who specifically listed their home address. At this point, it would be best to assume that your child may use one or more of these sites

would be best to assume that your child may use one or more of these sites and may be revealing sensitive information, or communicating with someone who does, without realizing it. We strongly recommend that you take the assumptive approach and ask your child to show you their site and help them recognize and remove confidential information.

As you know, when we post photos on our camp website during the summer, it is a password-protected website that only parents have access to, through passwords we provide. The Internet is a wonderful tool with thousands of educational, entertainment and informational websites that can open up a new and exciting world to your children. We encourage this exploration tempered with some reasonable precautions. We look forward to seeing you all again very soon.

If you would like to speak with us about this issue, or any other, please call us at (310) 476-8571.

B'virkat Shalom,

Rabbi Daniel Greyber and Zach Lasker  
Executive Director and Assistant Director  
Camp Ramah in California

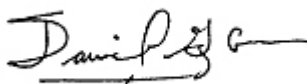
PS. There is a wealth of information on-line with valuable tips from experts on how to protect your children. Below are just a few of the Internet sites that are working to help keep the Internet safe for our children:

1. "Cyberangels" – [www.cyberangels.org](http://www.cyberangels.org)
2. FBI Internet Safety Guide - [www.fbi.gov/kids/k5th/safety2.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/kids/k5th/safety2.htm)
3. Web Wise Kids - [www.wiredwithwisdom.org](http://www.wiredwithwisdom.org)

#### **FINAL THOUGHTS FROM RABBI DAN**

I want to take a moment to thank you again for the confidence and trust you place in me and our wonderful staff at Camp Ramah in California in letting us take care of your children for the summer. Doing so is a holy task filled with uncertainty and bumps along the way. As we finish 1st session, I can say that I feel truly blessed in knowing all of the amazing memories and lessons and experiences that the kids had along the way. May God bless all of us with a year of peace and goodness and thank you again for being part of another summer for a lifetime at Camp Ramah in California.

Kol Tuv,



Rabbi Dan  
Camp Ramah in California

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email: [info@ramah.org](mailto:info@ramah.org)  
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