



# CAMP RAMAH IN CALIFORNIA

At the Max & Pauline Zimmer Conference Center

*A Journey for a Lifetime*

## News from Camp Ramah in California - Summer 2006

Session 1

July 21, 2006 - 25 Tammuz, 5766

### Dear Families of Camp Ramah in California,

This week has been a strong week for our summer program at Ramah. On top of the typical activity of sports, swimming, electives, Jewish learning and Israel education, campers have been treated to the following highlights:

**YOM KEIF LANU** - On Tuesday our normal activity stopped for a special day of programming titled "Yom Keif Lanu" (Day of Our Fun). Counselors worked hard to plan fun, wacky activities for their campers. Highlights included a carnival station for each edah featuring a water slide, a special Maccabiah (competition) for Gesher and many other fun programs.

**CAMPING TRIPS** - This week Sollelim and Nitzanim ventured out for their camping trips. Sollelim spent two nights, three days at Malibu Creek where they slept under the stars, hiked, canyoneered, and chose between mountain biking or rock climbing. Nitzanim set out for Lake Casitas for one night, one day to sleep out under the stars, enjoy a camp fire and have fun at the Lake Casitas Water Park.

**PERFORMANCES** - Two great camper- centered performances occurred this week. First was Wednesday night's Dahlia festival, featuring Israeli singing and dancing and coordinated by our Cultural Arts staff. The festival sprang to life as one edah danced a choreographed number to music and singing of different edah. Then on Thursday night Sollelim performed a Hebrew/English version of Mary Poppins for campers in Sollelim and Adat Shalom. Coming up is a similar performance of Aladdin by campers in Giborei Yisrael for campers in Gesher, Nitzanim and Giborei Yisrael.

### **Machon Trailbuilding**

This week kicked off a trailbuilding project on Camp Ramah property by our Machon campers. Intended as a graduation gift from theedah and generously funded by members of the Ramah community, campers are hard at work to build a weather-safe trail leading from the Amphitheater up towards our private Salkin Family Tree House. The trail can be used for a short hike or for educational activities, as the campers will also be building benches, tables and wooden signposts along the way.



### **Blue Fringe Concert**

On Sunday night Jewish contemporary rock group Blue Fringe joined us for a concert in the Jacoby Family Amphitheater for a night of great music and high energy. Campers as young as 4th grade and as old as 10th grade rocked out to great Jewish and modern American music.



### **Jeff Astor Volleyball Court**

No more sand . . . the former beach volleyball court dedicated in memory of Jeff Astor, brother of Ramah Board member Beth Astor Freeman and uncle of Ramah campers, has been resurfaced. The Jeff Astor Volleyball Court is now a hard surface, in use for both volleyball and basketball games, thanks to a generous gift from the Freeman family.



### **Board Members Visit Camp**

Members of the Camp Ramah Board, spouses and family members visited on Sunday for the annual summer Board meeting, always held at camp. They participated in a workshop on Board/staff relationships led by Dr. Beryl Geber after a tour of all that's new and exciting at camp this year.

### **This Week's Torah Portion - "What Will You Do To Be Popular? "**

Parshat Mattot-Masei  
Rabbi Daniel Greyber – Camp Ramah in California

"You shall not pollute the land . . ."  
Numbers 35:33

In his book "Guard Your Tongue," the Hafetz Hayim, following the interpretations of Baal Hatosafot, interprets this verse to forbid flattering a wrongdoer. (These interpretations are based on the fact that the Hebrew verb

to walk away from a conversation when it turns negative, or to rebuke someone when they are speaking in a hurtful way about another person. But that is what Jewish tradition demands of us. That's what a person of character can do because s/he knows that what others think of him/her is less important than what kind of person s/he is. Our ultimate worth comes from God, and ultimately it is God before Whom we will give an accounting of the moments of our lives.

P.S. Below I've pasted two important messages about the continually unfolding events in Israel – one from Rabbi Yosef Kanefsky, President of the L.A. Board of Rabbis, and one from Ehud Danoch, Israeli Consul General.

### **Israel Deserves our Support**

Rabbi Yosef Kanefsky  
President, The Board of Rabbis of Southern California  
Rabbi, B'nai David Judea Congregation, Los Angeles

It seems that it all happened in the flash of an eye. Suddenly, out of nowhere, Israel is at war again. Its air force and navy bombing sites throughout Lebanon

democratic nation that wakes up every morning with radical Islamic anti-Western forces within easy rocket distance of its civilian population. Support of Israel when it faces off against these forces, is the only thing that will one day – may it come soon – bring peace.

In a vacuum, who could argue with calls for restraint and calls for peace when innocent civilians are in harms way? But Israel isn't in a vacuum. It is in the Middle East.

### **Letter from the Consul General**

As you know, Israel is now entering its second week of conflict on two major fronts. Since the initial kidnapping of three Israeli soldiers by Hamas and Hezbollah last week, the situation in Israel has escalated. The constant bombardment of rockets fired upon Israel has become much worse. Since last Wednesday, there have been more than 1400 strikes against Israel. The attacks have been directed at many of Israel's most populous centers. In the continuing assault on Nahariya, there was a major strike against the city, with one rocket directly hitting a residence. As a result, one man was killed and at least sixty were injured in the attack. In addition, almost 80 Katyusha rockets have landed in the north of Israel today hitting Tiberias, Golan Heights, Carmiel

and many are suffering from shock. Israel is continuing to strike strategic targets within Gaza to weaken Hamas and bring Gilad Shalit back home.

We continue to hold in our hearts and minds the abducted soldiers Gilad Shalit, Ehud Goldwasser, and Eldad Regev, and their families. Israel is committed to any means necessary to ensuring that all three soldiers return back home and appreciates the prayers of the Jewish community. At this time, the Israeli spirit is our country's greatest strength.

Ehud Danoch  
Consul General  
Consulate General of Israel

Kol Tuv and Shabbat Shalom,



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Camp Ramah in California

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