

קול רמה



Nisan 5766 Spring 2006

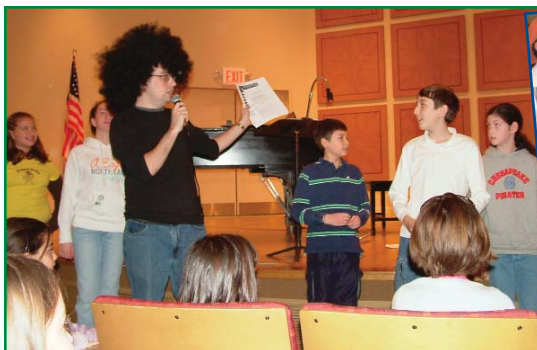
Ramah Haverim All Year Round!

This past January, Ramahniks from both *Machaneh Alef* and *Machaneh Bet* gathered to rekindle the magic of the summer.

Over 200 campers from *Solelim*, *Bogrim* and *Machon* arrived on a Saturday night to do what they like to do best: socialize, eat pizza and hang out with friends and staff members to the sounds of the Brian Gelfand Group. They were excited to reconnect with fellow campers and *tzevet* members. Many were already planning for *kayitz* '06! The following Sunday afternoon saw close to 250 *Machaneh Alef chanichim* gather to play the "Hairy" Potter Trivia Game! "Hairy," looking suspiciously like *Rosh Machaneh Alef* Fred Elias, asked representatives from each *edah* questions about our favorite best selling book, which is always released in the summer!

The weekend ended with pleas of "Can't we go to Camp now?" and cries of "I am soooo excited to be back at Camp!"

With *Pesach* upon us, can frisbee on the *kikar* be far off?



Machaneh Alef campers play a game with "Hairy Potter."



Ramah Israel Seminar: *Tzeitchem L'Shalom!*

During the summer of 2006, over 700 teen-agers will visit Israel through Conservative Movement programs. Camp Ramah in the Berkshires is proud that close to 40 Ramah Berkshires *chanichim* will participate in Ramah Israel Seminar this summer! Our *chanichim* will hike, explore and learn in the Land of Israel, while sharing the life-changing experience with Ramahniks from all of the other camps. Have a terrific, meaningful experience! *Lehitraot* on *Yom Seminar!*

Rabbi Paul Resnick, **Director** ♦ Rabbi Amy Roth, **Assistant Director** ♦ Steve Eisen, **Business Manager** ♦ Elana L. Gershen, **Director of Development**
 Dr. Beth Jaret, **Breira B'Ramah Director** ♦ Steve Goldstein, **President** ♦ Rabbi Jerome Abrams, **Director Emeritus**

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TAAM Ramah: Back by Popular Demand!

TAAM Ramah, the one-week program for children entering third and fourth grades, is almost sold out for *kayitz* '06. From August 6-13, campers will "taste" the best of Ramah. They will live, swim, play, sing and be part of Camp Ramah in the Berkshires. We still have a few spots for boys, so call 201.8781.RAMAH ext. 208 or email info@ramahberkshires.org.



2005 TAAM Ramah campers embarking on their first Ramah experience!



This past January, Rabbi Amy Roth and seven second-year staff counselors participated in Weinstein Institute, the National Ramah counselor training program. Together with peers from each of the Ramah Camps, the Berkshires *madrichim* enjoyed spirited program-sharing sessions, *limud* (study) of *tefillah*-related themes, and lots of fun in the sun at Camp Ramah in California. Here they are pictured on Ventura Beach, where they had meetings, "played" and took part in a moving *Maariv* service as the sun set over the Pacific Ocean.

So What's in the Mix for *Kayitz* '06?

Machon waterskiing adventure

A-side sport leagues

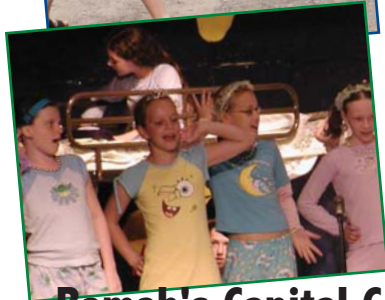
Hug Yisrael for *Solelim* and *Bogrim*

Rikud (Dance) team

Inter-camp athletic competitions

Perek "Het": Extra period of fun, sports and arts for the whole camp!

Hiking in the Gunks



Ramah's Capital Campaign: Be Part of our Exciting Growth

Our Capital Campaign is in full swing. We have raised over \$2 million dollars in pledges and we are moving towards our \$7 million goal. Our next project — a Gymnasium — is quickly becoming a reality as the plans are

being reviewed and finalized.

We have already made great strides toward reaching our goal and the progress is evident. We have a new Amphitheater, B-Side tennis courts and bunk renovations, to name a few of the improvements. But we need to do more and we need the help of the entire community to achieve our goal.

Other projects in our Capital Campaign include:

- Additional bunk renovations
- Comprehensive multi-function sports fields
- Creative Arts Center
- New administration and operations center
- Swimming pool
- Endowments for programming

We thank those who have graciously stepped forward and joined our Capital Campaign. Their foresight and generosity have enabled us to begin our building and renovation process

and allow us to look forward to our next phase of development.

We invite you to join these dedicated contributors and become a part of the future of Camp Ramah in the Berkshires. For more information, call Elana Gershen, Director of Development at 201.871.RAMAH or email DevelopRamah@ramahberkshires.org



Artist's rendering of new Gymnasium

Zionism: Alive and Well and Living in Wingdale!

One of the most well-known groups around the Camp community is the *mishlach*. Both campers and staff members alike know that the close to 30 Israeli staff members, who come to Camp to work in a variety of capacities, are, above all, *shlichim* — emissaries from the Jewish Agency for Israel. But besides injecting Israeli spirit, language and flavor into the fabric of our camp life, the *mishlach* members are, first and foremost, cherished individuals who are integral parts of our community and lives in Wingdale.

For the past few years, Camp Ramah in the Berkshires has been a participant in a program sponsored by the Avi Chai Foundation, which encourages *shlichim* to return for second, third and fourth years.

Michal Chacham, also known as “Michal Teva,” will be a fourth-year *shlich* during the summer of 2006. Known for her love of nature and animals, Michal’s energy

and innovativeness helped to make *Teva* (nature) a vibrant place in Camp! Under her guidance, campers gave the animals Hebrew names and learned how to create things out of natural materials.



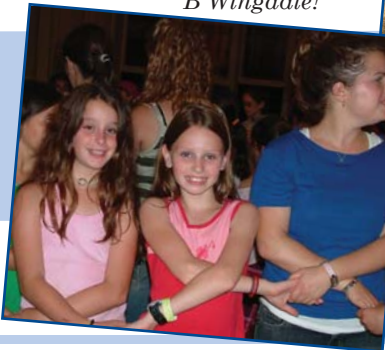
Michal did it all with Israeli flavor. During the summer of 2005, Michal returned as *Rosh Mishlach*. She helped to train the Israeli *shlichim*, and supervised them in Camp. But Michal, a native of Tiberias, missed *Teva*! Who says you cannot have it all? This summer Michal will be *Rosh Mishlach*, but insists on having her hand in *Teva* as well.

Michal grew up in the Orthodox Israeli world. Her first exposure to the Conservative Movement was through her *shlichut* at Ramah Berkshires. Since that time (2003), she has been working during the year for Ramah Israel Programs (as a counselor on TRY — the Ramah high school program) as well

as a counselor on many of the community trips (Ramah Israel Institute). “Working at Ramah has really opened up my eyes about other forms of Jewish observance. I had never heard of the Conservative Movement until I came to Camp that first time.”

And she, along with our many returning *shlichim*, is completely committed to Ramah Berkshires. Michal remembers her first time in Camp: “We were all so surprised at how much Camp loves Israel — all the signs in Hebrew, kids singing Hebrew songs, and people speaking Hebrew. Our time in Camp really helped us to appreciate our home — Israel — even more.”

Mishlach 2006 members are excited about bringing a little bit of Israel to our community. *L'Shana Ha Ba'ah B'Wingdale!*



Costumes and Dress-up: Not Just for Purim

B'chol Dor Va Dor — In Every Generation — we are supposed to imagine *yeztiat mitzrayim* (the exodus from Egypt) as though we ourselves left *mitzrayim*. Next to cleaning and kashering, this is perhaps the biggest challenge of *Pesach*. Adults usually have more trouble “imagining” than do children... so maybe we should take a cue from the popular young children’s pastime of “pretending.” One way we can address the *haggadah’s* directive for us to “see ourselves as if we left Egypt,” is to “make believe,” or dress the part.

“Playing dress-up” as Israelites exiting Egypt is one way we can put ourselves into the mindset of “*yeztiat mitzrayim*.” There are some

other customs and traditions that echo these goals. For people following the North African Jewish practice, this means taking a staff and a pack on their backs and simulating the exodus from Egypt by encircling the *seder* table. Some families set up their dining room as a tent, with sheets on the walls, and pillows on the floors. That is a unique way of saying “we are also leaving Egypt with our ancestors!”

These visual expressions of our connection with history are powerful and important,

especially in light of the Talmud's dictum that we are to go to any lengths to encourage children to ask questions at the *seder*. But perhaps there is another way to rise to the challenge of seeing ourselves as also having experienced the exodus from *mitzrayim*.

In a less concrete way, we can understand *mitzrayim* as something other than a direct translation of Egypt. One midrashic understanding of *mitzrayim* is more universal: stemming from the Hebrew “*metzar*,” or

“strait,” *mitzrayim* has also come to mean our own personal distresses or challenges in life. For some, *mitzrayim* might be some type of addiction; on *Pesach* we seek to free ourselves from this harmful habit. For others, *mitzrayim* might be self-destructive attitudes or relationships. We all have our own personal forms of *mitzrayim* from which we need to free ourselves. In thinking about it this way, we may be able to better ourselves, as well as better fulfill the requirement to see ourselves “as if we had been redeemed from *mitzrayim*.”

חג כשר ושמח!



Staff Enhancement Fund

Rabbi Paul and Martha Resnick in memory of Seymour Goldberg, Saul Nimowitz, Albert Wishner, Helen Davidson, Arie Halpern, Rita Zaroff, Miri Sela's father, Dr. Carol Fuchs Kaufman, Chuck Kutner, Sol Chernoff, passing of Larry Rubin's parents; **in honor of** Arlene and Robert Kagan on the birth of your grandson, Adam Wallach on his engagement to Sofia Hubscher, Yoni Goldstein on the occasion of his *bar mitzvah*, the birth of Jacob Michael Stupak, the birth of Jonah David Skolnik, Joan and Harvey Bucholtz on the birth of their grandson, Karen Stein on the occasion of her marriage, Josh Friedman and Shiri Steindel on the occasion of their marriage; **Harriet and Joel Shalman** in memory of Sy Goldberg; **in honor of** Yoni Saposh and Arielle Greenbaum's wedding, Fred Elias, Eric Brief, Eddie Silvera, Joe Lemonik, Eve Eichenholtz, Jenna Statfeld, Hillel Skolnik, Alex Visotsky, Eric Markowitz, Rachel Gordon's engagement and Sarah Finkelstein's *bat mitzvah*; **Mark and Mindy Treitel, Paul and Zelda Neustadt** in honor of Mark Neustadt and Rachel Friedman and family; **Alison Joseph** in memory of Morry Sherman; **in honor of** the birth of Sarit Rina and Ezra Yair Schwab and the birth of Leor Simcha Schachter; **Paul and Monika Bloom** in memory of Lillian Greenzweig; **in honor of** the birth of Nadiv Pele Edelman and the birth of Jacob Michael Stupak; **Michael and Suzy Appelbaum** in memory of Irving Allerhand.

Scholarship Fund

Rabbi Noam Marans and Rabbi Amy Roth in memory of Seymour Goldberg, Saul Nimowitz, Albert Wishner, Dr. Carol Fuchs Kaufman; **in honor of** the birth of Jacob Michael Stupak, Yoni Goldstein on the occasion of his *bar mitzvah*, the birth of Jonah David Skolnik, Joan and Harvey Bucholtz on the birth of their grandson, Josh Friedman and Shiri Steindel on the occasion of their marriage; **Steve Goldstein and Marlene Noveck** in memory of Seymour Goldberg, Rita Zaroff, Dr. Carol Fuchs Kaufman, Irving Allerhand; **in honor of** Rabbi Stuart and Linda Saposh and Ilene and Jeffrey Greenbaum on the marriage of Yoni Saposh and Arielle Greenbaum, Adam Wallach on his engagement to Sofia Hubscher, Arlene and Robert Kagan on the birth of their grandson, Jacob Michael Stupak, the birth of Jonah David Skolnik, Joan and Harvey Bucholtz on the birth of their grandson, Josh Friedman and Shiri Steindel on the occasion of their marriage; **Steven and Susan Eisen** in memory of Saul Nimowitz, Rita Zaroff, Arthur Kessler, Dr. Carol Fuchs Kaufman, **in honor of** Yoni Goldstein on the occasion of his *bar mitzvah*, Joan and Harvey Bucholtz on the birth of their grandson, Josh Friedman and Shiri Steindel on their marriage; **Rachel Green** in memory of Seymour Goldberg; **Dana Rosenfarb** in memory of Michael Ross; **Lola Blady** in memory of Sam Blady; **Mr. and Mrs. David Schlusel, The Bass Family** in memory of Nathan Mark; **Mark Brownstein and Johanna Ginsberg** in honor of Adam Wallach on his engagement to Sofia Hubscher; **Joel and Arlene Sokolow** in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Schwartz; **Gerald and Janice Rosen** in honor of Sara Rosen; **Henry and Honey Pine** in memory of Rita Zaroff; **The Larkey Family** in honor of Susan Werk; **Martin and Barbara Golden** in memory of Ben Golden; **Arnie and Lynne Gordon** in honor of

the birth of Jonah David Skolnik; **Paul and Na'ama Kalker** in memory of Rita Zaroff.

Camp Improvement Fund

Rabbi Joshua Finkelstein and Elana Gershen in memory of Seymour Goldberg, Saul Nimowitz, Sy Goldberg, Rita Zaroff, Dr. Carol Fuchs Kaufman, Sol Chernoff; **in honor of** Adam Wallach on his engagement to Sofia Hubscher, Arlene and Robert Kagan in honor of the birth of their grandson, Yoni Goldstein on the occasion of his *bar mitzvah*, the birth of Jonah David Skolnik, Kathleen and Wayne Moser, Joan and Harvey Bucholtz on the birth of their grandson, Josh Friedman and Shiri Steindel on their marriage; **Benno and Joy Kimmelman** in memory of Seymour Goldberg; **Jared Weinberg** in memory of Seymour Goldberg; **Wayne D. Smith and Leslie Scher** in memory of Seymour Goldberg; **Norman S. LoPatin** in memory of Seymour Goldberg; **Boris and Ruth Cohen** in honor of Andrew M. Cohen; **Peter and Barbara Paris and Family** in memory of Saul Nimowitz; **Mr and Mrs. Leonard Solomon; Arthur and Janet Jakoby** in honor of Ricki Gorman and Aby Laznik — thanks for a great Summer of 2005; **Simmy and Ilana Kustanowitz** in memory of Ken Goldrich; **Adam Wallach** in memory of Judge Burton Kolko, Rabbi David Kogen, Dr. Miriam Klein Shapiro and Phyllis Nevins; **Faye Dittelman** in memory of Jeff Dittelman and Dr. Miriam Klein Shapiro; **in honor of** Josh Kaplan's engagement and **in honor of** the birth of Maya Schwartz; **Lynne and Arnie Gordon, Rachel, Jeff, Sheryl and Elliot** in memory of Saul Nimowitz; **Robin Blumenthal** in honor of Dr. Jane Davidson, Rabbi Amy Roth and the *Tzeirim* Staff of 2005; **Irving Green** in honor of Michael Green on the occasion of his *bar mitzvah*; **The Gorman family** in memory of Saul Nimowitz; **Mindy Smith and Ira Leiderman and Family** in memory of Sy Goldberg; **Linda Alboher** in memory of Seymour Goldberg; **Morris and Roanna Shorofsky** in honor of Rebecca and Jonathan Mack; **Dr. Harvey and Joan Bucholtz** in honor of Yoni Goldstein on the occasion of his *bar mitzvah*; **Amy, Abs and Chloe Kotulski** in memory of Lillian Greenzweig; **Kent Roth, Morris and Roanna Shorofsky** in memory of Rita Zaroff.

Director's Discretionary Fund

Seymour Zises.

Breira Fund

Noel and Pauline Siegel in honor of Golda Och; **Rabbi Moshe Edelman** in honor of the birth of Olivia Rose Haworth; **Alice Stern** in memory of Stanley Stern; **Zerach Greenfield** in honor of Rabbi Jerome Abrams; **Susan H Savel** in memory of Rose and Morris Savel; **Dr. Charles and Barbara Mann** in memory of Dr. Carol Fuchs Kaufman; **in honor of** Richard and Sherry Skolnik on the birth of their grandson, Jonah David Skolnik; **Rabbi Jerome and Leah Abrams** in memory of Danielle Yaffa Pinchasi.

Library Fund

Ray and Marion Sader in honor of Tyler J. Martin; **Jim and Lisa Schlesinger** in honor of Matan Skolnik on the occasion of his *bar mitzvah*, Hillel Skolnik on his engagement to Sharon Barr, Bob and Arlene Kagan on the birth of their grandson, Steve Goldstein and Marlene Noveck on the occasion of the *bar mitzvah* of their son, Yoni and *Refuah Shelaymah* to Bruce Greenfield.

Scholarship Journal Dinner Dance: Open the Doors

On Sunday, March 12, 2006, over 200 people gathered at the Park Avenue Synagogue in Manhattan to honor five outstanding honorees: Danny Perla, Sarah Sokolic, Jeremy Sokolic, Rabbi Howard Stecker and Deanna Stecker. They all play a vital role for Camp. Danny was a member of the Executive Committee, having served as vice-president. He was also co-chair of our Capital Campaign. Sarah and Jeremy are leaders in our alumni association, having founded respectively the Ramah Babies Association and the Ramah Basketball Association. Deanna serves as a camp *yoetzet* and

Howard is a member of our Camp teaching faculty. We are especially proud that our honorees are all alumni of Ramah Berkshires and represent the best of our current professional and lay leadership.

The evening was festive and fun and we raised significant funds for the Scholarship Fund. We extend a huge thanks to our alumni, parents, staff and extended community for its enormous support of our annual Ramah Scholarship Journal Dinner Dance. We hope you will join us next year at this most worthy and enjoyable Camp event.



Honored at the Scholarship Journal Dinner Dance were (left to right) Danny Perla, Jeremy Sokolic, Sarah Sokolic, Deanna Stecker and Rabbi Howard Stecker.

Mazal Tov! CRB Receives Grant for Staff Training

Camp Ramah in the Berkshires is pleased to announce it has been chosen to receive the Cornerstone Fellowship through a grant from the Foundation for Jewish Camping and the Avi Chai Foundation. This exclusive training program is solely for third-year staff members. We are very excited that Camp Ramah in the Berkshires will have a significant representation of third-year counselors as part of this group.

The Foundation provides an intensive 5-day training seminar at a retreat center in the Catskills for third-year counselors from Jewish camps across the country, as well as follow-up sessions during the course of the summer. Aside

from the complimentary trip and training, the grant awards each staff member an honorarium separate from the summer salary.

We look forward to reaping the benefits of the inspiration and opportunity that this grant affords our staff.

Ramah Internship Program

The Internship Program, coordinates internships with alumni for staff members who will be in Camp for the summer. Internships, which take place during the time between the end of the college year and the beginning of Staff Week, enable staff members to work at Camp and still bolster their resumes in the fields of their choice. Please contact us to help sponsor an internship at: marc_damsky@msn.com