



Ramah Berkshires

Alumni Association



Summer/Fall 2006/5766

RAMAH BERKSHIRES ALUMNI TO BUILD RECREATION COMPLEX

V'Acharei Chen... (and afterwards...) is the newsletter of the Camp Ramah in the Berkshires Alumni Association.

A small group of anonymous alumni recently approached Camp with the idea of enhancing Camp's sports and recreation facilities. In addition to making a contribution, these alumni wanted to facilitate a greater level of fundraising across the Alumni Association.

In order to accomplish both goals, they challenged the Alumni Association to raise \$250,000 to contribute to a Recreation Complex. For each dollar the Alumni Association raises, this group will contribute four dollars. Altogether, if the Alumni Association meets the challenge, we will raise \$1.25 million to build the Recreation Complex.

The centerpiece of this project is a Covered Recreation Pavilion that will be built on B-side. This building will include a full-length basketball court. Other features may include a multi-purpose floor, a surrounding hockey wall, a climbing wall or other recreation facilities, pending the final design.

Other projects under consideration to round out the Recreation Complex include:

- Enclosed multi-purpose rooms built as part of a larger renovation of *Bet-am-Bet*
- New outdoor multi-court basketball complex
- Expansion of the current tennis court complex

- New outdoor volleyball court

Final plans for the Recreation Complex will be based on additional site studies, final construction estimates, and additional guidance from the Facilities Committee, the Ramah Committee, and the Alumni Association.

If you are interested in learning more about the Alumni Association Capital Campaign or volunteering your help in any way, please contact any of the following:

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marc_damsky@mnsn.com

By Jeremy Sokolic '86

Alumni Association: A Year-Round Endeavor

It has been a banner year for the Ramah Berkshires Alumni Association. While most of us count down the days from one Labor Day Weekend to the next, we were still able to satisfy our Ramah fix with some amazing events throughout the year to keep us going until those glorious September days.

In November we hosted a Sunday morning brunch, geared towards young families. Held in the party room at Lincoln Towers (thanks to Leslie and Jeremy Teicher!) old friends were able to chat and nosh on bagels and lox while their kids enjoyed running around with each other. More than 50

people attended including many children. Thanks to Ilana Kustanowitz, who put the whole thing together with grace and panache.

We also held a Ramah-wide Shabbat Dinner at the end of March. For the first time ever, Ramah Berkshires opened up the invite to anyone in the

V'Acharei Chen... is edited by Rebecca Tobin '93 and Sarah Sokolic '88

For general inquiries to the Alumni Association please email hanhallah@yahoo.com

Continued on page 3

A Message from Camp

As many of you return to Camp for Labor Day weekend, we hope you have had a chance to see the recent additions that have been made to our Camp facility. The challenge before us is to renew our facility while reinforcing the experiences that made Ramah so special to all of us. The Berkshires Alumni are an integral part of our vision. Ramah is not just a summer camp; it is a part of our lives. We turn to the alumni – who are our best example of what Ramah is – to impart that message to a new generation and help provide for our future.

The challenge before us is to renew our facility while reinforcing the experiences that made Ramah so special to all of us. The Berkshires alumni are an integral part of our vision.

Recently Camp has begun to work with the Alumni Association to broaden our database of Ramah Alumni. We hope to help people keep in touch with Camp and each other. Events such as the Labor Day weekend have played an important role in the lives of individuals, as well as the greater Ramah community.

Our annual *Gesher* reunions at Camp not only bring *edot* back together but also introduce our current *Gesher* campers to the history of our camp and the memories made here. Through the Ramah Basketball Association, the Ramah network continues to grow and connect people. We look forward to continuing to strengthen the bonds with the Alumni Association and develop new projects in the coming years.

We are also delighted that the Alumni Association is taking part in our Capital Campaign. Phase I of our Capital Campaign has been completed, and improvements around Camp include the amphitheater and the new B-side tennis courts. Most recently, we have completed the batting cage, A-Side sports complex and golf driving range, renovated several bunks and added new bleachers at our basketball courts. These improvements have greatly enhanced camp life.

In the future we hope to raise the funds to build a new creative arts center, a new administration and operations center and a swimming pool. We have embarked on this ambitious undertaking to ensure that we can provide the highest quality facilities possible for our campers and staff members who deserve the best, while we continue to make each summer at Camp Ramah in the Berkshires a fun, educational and rewarding experience.

We are pleased to be working with the Alumni Association as together we develop the future of Camp Ramah in the Berkshires. We have made great strides. We look forward to the assistance of our alumni as we make the Ramah Experience a continuing reality in your lives and in the lives of future campers. Your support is crucial. With your help we will grow stronger together.

*Steve Goldstein, President
Rabbi Paul Resnick, Director
Elana Gershen, Director of Development*

Weekend in Wingdale: Labor Day 2006

In this year's Labor Day 2006 Evite, Zach Kahn promised that he "will be there like swim wear" – what more could anyone ask for?

Featuring the second annual widely-popular poker night, accompanied once again by inspiring karaoke performances right next door, a political debate after *Shabbat* dinner, a cook-out, live music on Saturday night, a square dance, and much more, this year promises to be as fantastic as ever.

The Labor Day planning committee is happy to welcome two first-year alums Ilana Khan and Jesse David, and alumni vet, Betsy Covitt.

A YEAR-ROUND ENDEAVOR

(Continued from page 1)

New York area who went to any of the Ramah Camps nationwide. The dinner was a rousing success and completely oversold, with more than 130 people attending and a waiting list to boot. Attendees caught up with old friends from Camp and reminisced with their Seminar buddies! One person even flew in from Boston to attend. Ilana Kustanowitz, once again, impressed everyone with her enthusiastic event planning and seamless organization.

When not planning special events, Ramah alumni partake in various ongoing activities that bring Ramah into their every day lives. See below for more details.

By Rebecca Tobin '93

A DECADE OF RBA

The Winter Ramah Basketball Association (RBA) concluded its 10th season this past March! Every Sunday this past winter, 67 Alumni and spouses of Alumni got together to play basketball at Basketball City in Manhattan. The following team members won the league championship and took home the coveted "Jerry Cup": Evan Bell (captain), Aaron Blum, Ehud Marcus, Evan Majzner, Guy Reuven-Zada, Ryan Enis, Seth Bell, Simeon Gutman and Steve Seiden.

The 11th season of RBA will start this November at a brand new location. For information on the league please email RBA's new commissioners Eric



On July 9th, over 30 alumni from *Gesher '96* reunited in Camp on a beautiful sunny afternoon for a chance to reconnect with old friends, enjoy Abie's new cooking style in the *Chadar*, reunite with Nettie at canteen and learn about all the other new happenings at Camp Ramah. On the tour around Camp, the alumni were excited to see a beautiful new amphitheater, a challenging rock wall

and zip line, and new fun and exciting toys in the *Agam* (waterfront). *Gesher '96* also had the opportunity to meet with this year's current *Gesher* to explain what life was like in Camp 10 years ago, sing their *edah* song and share stories and laughs. One of the highlights of the day was the big softball game between *Gesher '96* and this year's current softball *chug*. While the rest of the world was

watching the World Cup finals, *Bogrim* and *Gesher '06* campers watched as the alumni, despite their "old age," pulled out a marginal victory. Some *Gesher '96* alumni stayed through dinner and asked camp staff if it would be possible to do this reunion every year as they truly enjoyed interacting with current campers.

By Jonathon Apter '96

Steinthal and Phil Zaks at WinterRBA@Yahoo.com.

By Josh Golomb '93

BIRTH OF A NEW RBA: THE RAMAH BABY ASSOCIATION

When her son, Isaiah was born in 2003, Sarah Sokolic knew it was time for a new kind of RBA. She started the Ramah Baby Association for Ramah mothers from all camps as a playgroup and support network

for friendship and advice. RBA is now in its third year and is growing with more than 35 names on the mailing list and between 8 and 12 moms (and sometimes dads) meeting every Monday afternoon. RBA is now enjoying a new generation as many Moms are on their second babies! For more info see www.thejewishweek.com/news/newscontent.php3?articl=10130 for the Jewish Week article on RBA.

By Sarah Sokolic '88

The Alumni Association has made a donation to Ramah Noam in Israel which was closed early due to the recent war.

Recent Mazel Tovs

ENGAGEMENTS

Lauryn Hecht and Adam Covitt ('90)
Renee Wankoff ('95) and Mark
Covitt ('90)
Lisa Kutlin and Alex
Goldenberg ('94)



WEDDINGS

Joanna Kasirer and
Josh Kaplan ('89)
Lori Cohen and Alon Gitig ('90)
Aviva (Queen) ('98) and Steve
Seiden ('97)
Sophia and Adam Wallach ('80)
Ranit Saposh ('97) and Gabe Shiff
Elyssa Folk ('97) and William
Friedland
Susie Bernfeld ('99) and Scott
Schmedresman
Rachel Levy ('98) and Konrad Konik
Aviva and Amos ('98) Berger
Barbara Labendz ('95) and Jon Fink

BIRTHS

Amy and Rick ('89) Atlas on the
birth of their son Joshua Tobey –
and to big brother Zach.
Sherri (Locke) ('93) and Scott
Hockfield on the birth of their twin
daughters Chloe Ryan and Maya Rose.

Jessica and Adam ('91) Kaplan on
the birth of their daughter Rae
Ruth and to big brother Joseph.
Sarah ('88) and Jeremy ('86) Sokolic
on the birth of their second son
Coby – and to big brother Isaiah.
Sharon (Zaks) ('93) and Michael
Zucker on the birth of their
daughter Chloe Tova.
Dana and Adam ('89) Fine on the
birth of their son Judah David and
to big brother Charles.

Adena Mann Katz ('91) and Yariv
Katz on the birth of their son
Elan Ariel.



Erica Greenbaum Bank
('92) and Eliot Bank on
the birth of their daugh-
ter Maya Eliana.

Erica Schwartz Edelman
('91) and Ephraim Edelman ('89) on
the birth of their son Nativ Pele.
Gail (Paris) ('91) and Ed Schwartz
on the birth of their daughter Sarah
Mollie.

Meredith (Englander) ('90) and
Adam Polsky on the birth of their
daughter Lucy Hannah – and to
big brother Hayden.
Ronda and Andrew ('89) Bloom on

the birth of their son Ethan Joshua –
and to big brother Matthew.
Stephanie Levitz Englander ('88)
and David Englander ('87) on the
birth of their son Ayal Haviv.
Aviva (Sklare) and Moshe Schwartz
('93) on the birth of their son Eliezer
Aharon.
Sara (Wolf) ('91) and Eric Feldman
on the birth of their daughter Orly
Nava.

OTHER MAZEL TOVS

Michelle Weisfelner Bloom, M.D.
('93) on matching for her cardiology
fellowship at Mount Sinai School of
Medicine.

Michael Diamond ('93) on his
Master in Business
Administration at
the New York
University Stern
School of Business.

Benjamin Werber ('93) on comple-
tion of his CFA.



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