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AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

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Subseries 1: General Files, 1949-2004.

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Folder
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Summer camps. 2001-2002.

For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the
American Jewish Archives website.

and Gypsies, the Bulgarian finds no defect in the Jews that might justify special measures against them.”

During the war, Jewish families were “evacuated” from Sofia to the countryside, and the men were sent to labor camps throughout Bulgaria and put to work building roads. In the end, however, no Bulgarian Jews were deported to the Nazi death camps.

After the war, the majority of Jews did not remain in Bulgaria. In 1949, 45,000 immigrated to Israel, settling mainly in the port city of Jaffa. Why did they all leave? “Because they were afraid of the Communists,” said Harry, whose parents were among the 5,000–6,000 mostly Communist Jews who remained in Bulgaria. “They were afraid that what the Nazis couldn’t accomplish, the Communists would. They so narrowly missed the horrors of one repressive regime, they were not willing to take the risk with another. They gave up their homes, their community, and their money to start a new life in Israel.”

And they gave up their beautiful synagogue in Sophia, which had been

damaged by Allied bombers in 1944 but continued to function. After the war, the Communist government considered turning the synagogue into a concert hall, with a café-nightclub in the basement. Although the remnant Jewish community was small and Communist—and had little use for worship—they objected to the plans, which eventually were scrapped.

In Communist Bulgaria, the Jewish community was regulated by the Public Cultural and Educational Organization of the Jews in Bulgaria, which did nothing to nurture either religious or cultural Jewish traditions. “The Communists tolerated all religions,” Harry explained, “but if you wanted to succeed in Communist society, you kept your beliefs to yourself.”

After the fall of Communism in 1989, Jewish life was revived by a group of inspired and dedicated young Jews in Sophia who formed the Organization of Jews in Bulgaria (OJB) “Shalom.” Three years later, under the first democratic Bulgarian government, Jewish properties formerly adminis-

tered by the Communists were returned to the community, and the rental revenue was used to fund the Jewish cultural center. OJB Shalom now unites the approximately 8,000 Jews from nineteen regional branches and coordinates the activities of Jewish groups nationwide. Although several Jewish foundations in the United States and Israel support specific Jewish projects (the Ronald Lauder Foundation, for example, has been very active in funding recreational and educational programs), OJB Shalom is self-supporting. It tries to fill, as much as it can, the former role of the prewar Consistory, the governing body created in 1925 to represent and administer to all the Jewish communities in Bulgaria. OJB Shalom functions as a meeting place, library, and information bureau as well as a medical and rehabilitation center for the aged.

The center of Jewish educational life in Sofia is a public primary school, the Bulgarian State School #144, renowned citywide for its excellent facilities and expert teaching staff. In 1992, the school,

REGIONAL CAMPS
For ages 8 and up

CAMP COLEMAN
Cleveland, GA
770-671-8971

CRANE LAKE CAMP
W. Stockbridge, MA
212-650-4208

EISNER CAMP
Great Barrington, MA
212-650-4130

CAMP GEORGE
Parry Sound, ONT. Canada
905-762-1581

GOLDMAN CAMP
Zionsville, IN
317-873-3361

GREENE FAMILY CAMP
Bruceville, TX
254-859-5411

CAMP HARLAM
Kunkletown, PA
215-563-8184

JACOBS CAMP
Utica, MS
901-205-2267

OLIN SANG RUBY CAMP
Oconomowoc, WI
847-509-0990

CAMP SWIG and CAMP NEWMAN
Saratoga, CA and Santa Rosa, CA
415-392-7080

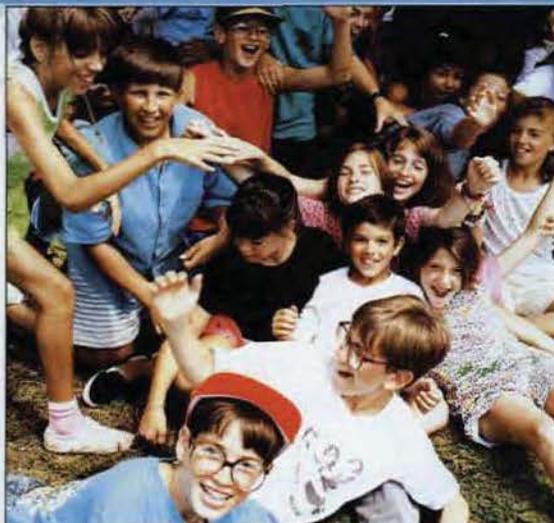
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- Relevant for congregants
- Reflects the vision of the congregation

For an application, please contact the UAHC Department of Adult Jewish Growth at 212.650.4087 or ajgrowth@uahc.org. To register on-line, visit www.uahc.org/growth/learners. The application deadline is May 1, 2003.



which then enrolled sixty Jewish and 400 non-Jewish students, introduced Hebrew into the curriculum. Today, Jews constitute about half of the 312 student body. Every Friday the school organizes a *Kabbalat Shabbat* for the younger children, and once a month the students make challah to take home for Shabbat. In addition, the school offers parents the opportunity to take evening courses to advance Jewish literacy and assist their children with their studies.

In 1996, the Bulgarian government decided to restore the Sofia Synagogue and asked the minister of culture to raise money for the project. He secured contributions from leading Jewish foundations (Lauder, Rich, and Doran) and individuals from as far away as Mexico, Japan, and Israel. Emil Kalo, the president of OJB Shalom, told me that they still need another \$70,000 to complete the project. Then he added in jest, "The synagogue would not have needed such a costly renovation had my Communist parents allowed the plans for the concert hall to go through. In Marseilles and Luxembourg, the synagogues have been used as concert halls and the government pays for all the upkeep. The same thing would have happened here in Sofia."

The Sofia Synagogue follows the Sephardic tradition, although, Emil admits, "after fifty years of Communism we've forgotten many of the religious habits." Men and women sit on separate sides of the center aisle, but there is no barrier between them. There is no cantor, but Emil assured me that "the congregation sings all the same Jewish songs that other communities sing." The community, which is growing very slowly, tries to accommodate everyone, says Harry. "We have a rabbi who came from Israel, and we have a young man training in Israel to take over in about two years. We hope he will bring others."

As Bulgaria's economy improves, new building projects and renovations are adding to the beauty of its capital—known for its belle époque architecture, tree-lined cobblestone streets, and municipal parks. The careful restoration of the Sofia Synagogue marks a new chapter in this city's fascinating history. □



FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CAMPING, INC.

April 24, 2002

Robert Bildner
Co-President

Elisa Spungen Bildner
Co-President

Rabbi Ramie Arian
Executive Director

Naomi Less
Program Officer

Jenny Lebowitz
Development Associate

Rabbi Herbert Friedman
Wexner Heritage Foundation
551 Madison Avenue
New York NY 10022

Dear Herb,

I hope this letter finds you well. I'm sorry that it has taken me so long to respond to your request for input regarding the Summer Camp section of your proposal for the New Century Fund. I am eager to provide that input.

I'm providing a separate page (following) with text and budget for the camp section. This is based on the following revisions of what appears in the original proposal:

- (1) Camp capital needs are greater than I imagined when I provided the original estimate of \$100 million. In fact, I can now document capital projects *already on the drawing boards* in Jewish overnight camps totaling \$177 million! Therefore, I suggest increasing the estimated needs for capital to include 15 new camps @ \$10 million (\$150 total), PLUS an additional \$100 million to expand existing camps, and to upgrade them to first-class facilities. This would suggest a grand total for camp capital needs of \$250 million.
- (2) Our latest estimate is that the administrative cost for operating the camping infrastructure will reach \$1 million (the figure you have included in the budget) by 2005. In order to allow for future growth over a longer timespan, I suggest that figure be increased to \$1.5 million.

Phoned
4/25/02
with thanks

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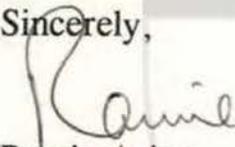
Steve Wendell
Young Judeaea Camps

- (3) Both the Tuition section and the Operating Deficit section of the camp budget in your original proposal represent *annual* costs, as opposed to most figures in other sections of the budget which are projected as one-time costs. In order to convert these items to one-time figures, I suggest multiplying them ten-fold, to create endowments which would generate sufficient income to cover the annual costs.

The proposed substitute budget page is appended.

Thanks again for offering me the opportunity to provide this input. All warmest regards,

Sincerely,


Ramie Arian



PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE BUDGET PAGE

E. Summer Camps

All research shows that a camp experience creates strong Jewish identity. More children must be enabled to participate. That means more camps must be established and tuition must be lowered.

In the U.S. today there are 50,000 Jewish children attending Jewish overnight summer camps. The average session is 4 weeks at a cost per child of \$600 per week or \$2400 per session.

Needs

Capital Needs

15 new camps @ \$10 million each \$150 million
Expand and improve existing camps \$100 million

\$250 million

Tuition must be lowered to \$200 per week in order to enable lower income families to enroll their children.

50,000 kids per session at present fees (\$2400) = \$120 million

50,000 kids @ \$200 per week (4 weeks) = \$40 million

Required Tuition subsidies = \$80 million annually

Endowment required to provide this amount permanently: \$800 million

Administrative Overhead

\$1.5 million annually

Endowment required to provide this amount permanently: \$ 15 million

Total Summer Camps: \$1,065 million

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Endowment required to provide this amount permanently: \$ 15 million

Total Summer Camps: \$1,065 million

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2002
Jewish
Camp
Guide

NATIONAL

JCCs of North America Camps

Locations: California, Georgia, Indiana, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Quebec, Ontario; day camps throughout North America

Contact: JCC Association, 15 E. 26th St., New York, NY 10010; 212-532-4949; email: info@jcca.org; Web site: www.jcca.org

Types of Participants: Coed, pre-school - 8th grade for day camps; grades 2-12 for overnight camps.

Operating Season: June-August.

Program Description: The JCC movement is at the forefront of camping, with 35 residential and 200-plus day camps ranging from traditional to special needs to Orthodox. More than 100,000 North American children take part in JCC camp programs annually. With modern facilities and equipment, JCC camps offer everything from fine arts to computers, and roller hockey to mountain biking. It's also the mission of JCC camps to transmit the ethical and group values of the Jewish religion, culture, and traditions. Camping can increase young people's connection to Judaism through creative learning activities and religious observance. JCC camps employ

thousands of dedicated directors, counselors, and support staff who ensure that the camp experience promotes individual growth, group cooperation, and Jewish values. To connect JCC campers to Israel, many camps enlist the services of *shlichim* (emissaries). Working with the Education Department of the Jewish Agency for Israel, more than 390 *shlichim* have been placed at 110 JCC camps. These goodwill emissaries, young adults with a wide range of skills and training who have served in the Israeli army, infuse the JCC camp experience with the essence of Israel. After attending a JCC camp your child will bring back new skills, new friends, a deeper understanding of Judaism, and a lifetime of memories.

See ad on p. 76

Ramah

Sponsorship: National Ramah Commission and the Jewish Theological Seminary

Locations: Overnight camps in New York, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, California, Canada; day camps in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and California; Israel programs

Contact: 3080 Broadway, New York, NY 10027; 212-678-8881; email: ramah@jtsa.edu; Web site: www.campramah.org

Types of Participants: Adult and family retreat programs for all ages, eighth to 12th grade for Israel teen and school programs; family and synagogue Israel programs for all ages.

Operating Season: Year-round

Program Description: Lifelong friendships and personal commitment to Jewish life that is exciting and meaningful are just two of the benefits of a summer at a Ramah camp. As the camping arm of the Conservative movement, Ramah has enabled campers and staff to live committed and vibrant Jewish lives through immersion in a summer Jewish community. At Ramah camps, education is combined with recreational activities, creating a fun Jewish environment. Campers can expect a program of sports, outdoor education, drama, dance, music, media arts, arts & crafts, and overnight trips combined with Hebrew, Judaic literacy, Shabbat observance, kashrut, and daily prayer. To maintain our strong connection to Israel and to encourage the use of Hebrew in everyday activities, Ramah camps are enriched by the participation of Israeli *shlichim*. Ramah also offers summer Tikvah programs for children with special needs, family camps, winter retreat and Shabbaton facilities, and Israel programs for all ages.

See ad on p. 78

Ramah: Camp...and so much more!

Ramah camps give children and teens the chance to enjoy a summer of recreational activities in an environment committed to promoting a love for, and a growing knowledge of, Judaism through informal educational programs. Contact the camp closest to you for information about the many programs offered by Ramah:

- Overnight and day camps
- Family Camps
- Tikvah program for campers with special needs
- Keshet program for deaf children
- Breira B'Ramah for children with ADHD
- Camp alumni associations and events
- Shabbatonim and retreats
- Camp facilities available to groups
- Ramah Programs in Israel for all ages

Camp Ramah is under the educational and religious auspices of the Jewish Theological Seminary



National Ramah Commission
3080 Broadway,
New York, NY 10027
Tel: 212.678.8881
E-mail: ramah@jtsa.edu
Web: www.campraham.org



Ramah Overnight Camps

Camp Ramah in the Berkshires
Located in Wingdale, NY
Tel: 212.749.0754
E-mail: info@ramahberkshires.org
Web: www.ramahberkshires.org

Camp Ramah in California
Located in Ojai, CA
Tel: 310.476.8571
E-mail: info@ramah.org
Web: www.ramah.org

Camp Ramah in Canada
Located in Utterson, Ontario
Tel: 416.789.2193
E-mail: info@campramah.com
Web: www.campramah.com

Ramah Darom
Located near Clayton, GA
Tel: 404.531.0801
E-mail: darom@innerx.net
Web: www.ramahdarom.org

Camp Ramah in New England
Located in Palmer, MA
Tel: 781.449.7090
E-mail: billym@campramahne.org
Web: www.campramahne.org

Camp Ramah in the Poconos
Located in Lake Como, PA
Tel: 215.885.8556
E-mail: ramahpoc@aol.com
Web: www.ramahpoconos.org

Camp Ramah in Wisconsin
Located in Conover, WI
Tel: 312.606.9316
E-mail: ramahdev@aol.com
Web: www.ramahwisconsin.com



Ramah Day Camps

Nyack, NY: Serving the metropolitan New York/New Jersey area
Tel: 212.678.8884
E-mail: amcooper@jtsa.edu
Web: www.ramahnyack.org

Central New Jersey
Tel: 732.238.0027
E-mail: ramahdaycampcnj@aol.com
Web: www.ramahdaycamp.com

Chicago, IL
Tel: 312.606.0444
E-mail: ramahday@aol.com
Web: www.ramahwisconsin.com

Philadelphia, PA
Tel: 215.885.8556
E-mail: ramahpoc@aol.com
Web: www.ramahpoconos.org

Berkeley, CA
Tel: 510.549.9447 x111
E-mail: ramahday@eb.jfed.org
Web: www.jfed.org/ramahday

Ramah Programs in Israel

Spring semester high school programs, Ramah Seminar, Jerusalem Day Camp, and day school, synagogue and family tours.
Tel: 212.678.8883
E-mail: ramahisrael@jtsa.edu
Web: www.ramah.org.il



Camp doesn't have to end when you go to college... Gain real experience and still have fun with a summer job at Camp Ramah!

A summer job at Ramah means gaining real life skills and experience in leadership, management, organization and initiative — the skills employers are looking for! All this and the chance to change a child's life, while having the time of your life.

To have your questions answered about being a staff member at Camp Ramah, and to see a complete listing of positions available at all Ramah camps, e-mail ramah@jtsa.edu or visit our website: www.ramahjobs.org.

Ramah Day Camps

Ramah Day Camp in Nyack
3080 Broadway, New York, NY 10027
212-678-8884;
email: amcooper@jtsa.edu;
Web site: www.ramahnyack.org

Ramah Day Camp of Central New Jersey
PO Box 475, East Brunswick, NJ 08816
732-238-0027;
email: ramahdaycampcnj@aol.com;
Web site: www.ramahdaycamp.com

Ramah Day Camp of Chicago
65 E. Wacker Place, Chicago, IL 60601
312-606-0444;
email: ramahday@aol.com;
Web site: www.ramahwisconsin.com

Ramah Day Camp at Blue Bell
The Pavilion, 261 Old York Road, #734
Jenkintown, PA 19046; 215-885-8556;
email: SusanA@ramahpoconos.org;
Web site: www.ramahpoconos.org;

**Ramah Day Camp
of the Greater East Bay**
1841 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94703;
510-549-9447 x111;
email: ramahday@eb.jfed.org;
Web site: www.jfed.org/ramahday

Young Judaea Camps

Sponsorship: Hadassah

Locations: National leadership camp: Tel Yehudah, Barryville, NY/Regional camps: Verbank, NY, Hendersonville, NC, Wimberly, TX, Waupaca, WI, Olympia WA

Contact: Young Judaea Camping Department, 50 W. 58th St., New York, NY 10019; Web site: www.youngjudaea.org

Types of Participants: Coed, ages 7-17

Operating Season: June-August

Program Description: Young Judaea operates six camping programs across the U.S., annually serving more than 2,500 campers. Combining a strong commitment to Zionism and Jewish pluralism, Young Judaea Camps promote individual growth, group cooperation, and Jewish values in fun, healthy, child-centered environments. Our national teenage camp, Camp Tel Yehudah, lays the foundation for strong, vibrant Jewish leadership of the Jewish community. All Young Judaea camps offer the full range of resident camp activities: from water skiing to canoeing; horseback riding to arts and crafts; high ropes challenge courses to basketball; and everything in between. In addition, Young Judaea's value-added summer experi-

ence includes Israeli dancing & singing taught by Israelis, creative, pluralistic daily & Shabbat services, conversational Hebrew, kosher & shomer Shabbat observance, and the availability of year-round, Jewish youth & Zionist youth movement. Mature, motivated, and knowledgeable staff from the U.S. and Israel each summer provide every camper with a lifetime of positive memories.

Fees: Vary

See ad on p. 80

UAHC Camps

Sponsorship: Union of American Hebrew Congregations Reform Movement

Locations: Massachusetts (2 camps), California (2 camps), Indiana, Mississippi, Texas, Georgia, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, New York, and Ontario

Contact: 633 Third Ave., New York, NY 10017; 212-650-4070

Types of Participants: Coed, ages 7-17

Operating Season: June-August

Program Description: Jewish values, fun, friendships and belonging to the Jewish people, and the family of Reform Judaism. Healthy, happy environment offering



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601-885-6042

OLIN SANG RUBY CAMP
Oconomowoc, WI
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www.youngjudaea.org



Young Judaea is the Zionist Youth Movement sponsored by Hadassah.



recreation, arts, Jewish living and learning, field trips, Israel experiences. High camper and staff return rate.

Fees: \$550-\$700 per week average

See ad on p. 79

USY on Wheels

Sponsorship: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

Location: United States and Canada

Contact: Karen Stein, 155 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10010; 212-533-7800 ext. 2314; fax: 212-353-9439; email: wheels@uscj.org; Web site: <http://uscj.org/usy/escape>

Types of Participants: Coed, grades 9-12

Operating Season: June-August

Program Description: CLASSIC WHEELS: sight see and learn how to live a Jewish life in North America by exploring different Jewish communities from coast to coast. Highlights include New Orleans, Los Angeles, the Grand Canyon and Yosemite or Yellowstone National Park. Departs from New Jersey. WHEELS MISSION MITVAH: Sightsee and learn how to live a Jewish life in North America by exploring different Jewish communities and participating in social action projects. Highlights include visits to Memphis, Nashville, Los Angeles, the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone and Crater Lake National Park. Departs from Chicago, IL. Program Dates: Sunday, June 23—Thursday, August 8, 2002

Fees: \$4,650 (subject to change)

See ad on p. 81

The TIYUL

Sponsorship: 92nd Street YM/YWHA & The Arthur and Rochelle Belfer Foundation

Locations: Various small communities throughout the USA

Contact: Sharon Goldman, The TIYUL, 1395 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10128; 212-415-5614; fax: 212-415-5637; email: sgoldman@92ndsty.org; Web site: www.92ndsty.org (click on camps)

Types of Participants: Coed, grades 10-12 (Fall 2002)

Operating Season: June 30-August 12

Program Description: Filled with fun adventures, unique experiences and everlasting friendships, the TIYUL is a unique six-week travel and community service program designed for an intimate group of Jewish teens committed to social action and making the world a better place. Teens explore vibrant Jewish communities throughout the United States while participating in a variety of exciting volunteer projects such as creating a camp for underserved children, connecting with seniors and working side by side with

local farmers on an organic farm. They will also enjoy hiking, rafting, and much more. The TIYUL celebrates Jewish life in a creative, supportive, environmentally friendly, and highly staffed atmosphere. One of the oldest and most renowned Jewish cultural centers in the nation, the 92nd Street Y has a history of promoting a love of learning and culture through its broad-ranging programs. The TIYUL continues the tradition of quality and excellence demonstrated in all other Y programs for children and teens.

Fees: \$3,400 (financial assistance is available)

See ad on p. 82

Genesis at Brandeis University

Sponsorship: Brandeis University

Location: Waltham, MA

Contact: MS 085, PO Box 549110, Waltham, MA 02454; 781-736-8416; fax: 781-736-8122; email: genesis@brandeis.edu; Web site: www.brandeis.edu/genesis

Types of Participants: Entering grades 11-12

Operating Season: July 7-August 4

Program Description: Genesis at Brandeis University is an exciting summer program for high school students interested in the

arts, humanities, Jewish studies, and social action. Through academic classes and dynamic educational experiences, Genesis explores the importance of Judaism in contemporary society. All students, regardless of their Jewish affiliation are encouraged to apply. Students live in dorms and eat in campus dining hall (kosher available).

Fees: \$3,950 (full & partial scholarships available)

See ad on p. 98

EAST

Camp Micah

Location: Bridgton, Maine

Contact: Camp Micah; 11 Hammond Pond Parkway, #2, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467; 617-244-6540; fax: 617-277-7108; email: info@campmicah.com; Web Site: www.campmicah.com

Types of Participants: Coed, ages 7-16

Operating Season: June 25-August 16

Description of Program: Camp Micah is a coed overnight summer camp with brand new facilities located in Bridgton, ME on magnificently secluded Peabody Pond. The



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- USY on wheels: a 6 1/2 week trek across North America
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 - USY Israel Pilgrimage
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 - Israel Pilgrimage/Poland Seminar
 - Eastern European/Israel Pilgrimage
- Heroism and Hope-Italy/Israel Pilgrimage
- Etgar! The Ultimate Israel Challenge
 - European Experience

Sponsored by United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
Write: USY, 155 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010
Call: (212) 533-7800 ext. 2311 Web site: <http://uscj.org/usy/escape/>



The Tiyul - The Journey

June 30 - August 11, 2002

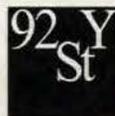
Tiyul Highlights:

Imagine a summer filled with fun adventures, unique experiences & everlasting friendships. Imagine The Tiyul, the 92nd Street Y's exciting 6-week travel and community service program for Jewish teens entering 10th-12th grades.

Made possible by a grant from The Arthur and Rochelle Belfer Foundation

Interviews are required. For more information, call Sharon Goldman at **212.415.5614** or e-mail sgoldman@92ndsty.org

92nd Street Y
Lillian & Sol Goldman Family Center for Youth & Family
Lexington Avenue at 92nd Street | www.92ndsty.org
An agency of UJA-Federation



- Participate in a variety of volunteer projects which include creating a camp for underserved children, working on an organic farm and connecting with seniors
- Explore and live in vibrant Jewish communities throughout the United States while traveling by bus
- Enjoy hiking, rafting and other great adventures
- Produce a photo documentary of your experiences
- Join a small group of teens from across the country in a creative, supportive and highly staffed atmosphere

camp serves campers ages 7-16 and offers a full range of camp activities including: team sports (baseball, basketball, soccer, etc.); individual sports (tennis, archery, gymnastics, and golf on our mini-golf course); arts (arts & crafts, music, theatre, dance, etc.); waterfront (water skiing, kayaking, canoeing, sailing); multimedia (computers, radio, etc.); ropes, wilderness & hiking, and much more. Each staff member teaches a particular activity and bunks with campers. We are committed to providing a safe, stimulating and challenging environment infused with Jewish traditions and values that promotes the building of self-esteem, social relationships and skill development.

Fees: 7 1/2 weeks-\$6700, Half Session \$4,200

See ad on p. 83

Emma Kaufmann Camp

Sponsorship: Pittsburgh JCC

Contact: Sam Bloom, 5738 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15217; 412-521-8011 ext. 366; fax: 412-208-9107; email: ekc@jccpgh.org; Web site: www.emmakaufmanncamp.com

Types of Participants: Coed, ages 8-16

Operating Season: June 23-August 16

Program Description: Child-centered environment promoting individual growth, group cooperation, and Jewish values. Specialty programs include mountain and BMX biking, roller blade hockey, golf, water-skiing, canoeing, horseback riding, ropes challenge course, climbing tower, drama, arts & crafts, pottery. Kosher.

Fees: Call for information

See ad on p. 87



Camp Pembroke

Sponsorship: Eli and Bessie Cohen Foundation

Location: Lake Oldham, Pembroke, MA

Contact: 30 Main St., Ashland, MA 01721; 800-375-8444

Types of Participants: Girls, ages 8-16

Operating Season: June 26-August 14

Program Description: Only all-girls Jewish resident camp in New England. Warm, nurturing staff. Land and water sports, including canoeing, windsurfing, sailing, heated pool, music, drama, lyrical and modern dance, gymnastics, arts & crafts, tennis. Specialty programs: horseback riding, ice-skating and golf. Informal Jewish/Israeli cultural activities including music and dance. Shabbat services. CIT/ Israel program. Kosher. Call for tours during the summer season. ACA-accredited.

Fees: 3 1/2 weeks \$2,150; 7 weeks \$3,850

See ad on p. 88

Camp Tel Noar

Sponsorship: Eli and Bessie Cohen Foundation

Location: Sunset Lake, Hampstead, NH

Contact: 30 Main St., Ashland, MA 01721; 800-375-8444

Types of Participants: Coed, ages 8-16

Operating Season: June 26-August 14

Program Description: Full land and water sports, archery, arts & crafts, all purpose indoor gym, tennis, camp radio station, drama, gymnastics, roller blade hockey, beach volleyball, model rocketry, modern dance, and a full gamut of electives. Informal Jewish/Israeli cultural activities, including music and dance. Cabins with lounges and fireplaces. Warm intimate setting. Shabbat services. CIT/Israel program. Kosher. ACA accredited. Call for tours during the summer season.

Fees: 3 1/2-weeks, \$2,150, 7-weeks, \$3,850

See ad on p. 88

Camp Tevya

Sponsorship: Eli and Bessie Cohen Foundation



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Our usual great food (Kosher style), superb creative arts and theatre program, outstanding land & water sports programs, Friday night Shabbat and service, enthusiastic and caring staff and a warm spirited atmosphere



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Winter: 11 Hammond Pond Parkway #2, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467
Summer: 11 Moose Cove Lodge Rd, Bridgton, ME 04009

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Location: Lake Potanipo, Brookline, NH
Contact: 30 Main St., Ashland, MA 01721; 800-375-8444

Types of Participants: Coed, ages 8-16

Operating Season: June 26-August 14

Program Description: Over 50 years of camping experience. Nurturing camp setting with talented staff. Activities include archery, arts & crafts, land and water sports, canoeing, wind surfing, sailing, drama, model rocketry, ceramics, imaginative woodworking program, and tennis. Informal Jewish/Israeli cultural experiences include music and dance. Shabbat services. CIT/Israel program. Kosher. Call for tours during the summer season. ACA accredited.

Fees: 3 1/2 weeks \$2,150, 7 weeks \$3,850

See ad on p. 88

Camp Monroe

Location: Monroe, NY (1 hour north of New York City)

Contact: PO Box 475, Monroe, NY 10950; 845-782-8695; fax: 845-782-2247

Types of Participants: Coed, ages 6-16

Operating Season: June-August

Program Description: Lake, pool, indoor gyms, horseback riding, computer center, go-cart track, nature farm center, lighted tennis courts, ball fields, hockey rinks, arts & crafts, theater, radio station, Jewish foundation program. Large adult staff and *haimish* atmosphere. Strictly kosher.

Fees: Call for information

See ad on p. 89

Pinemere Camp

Location: Stroudsburg, PA (in the Pocono Mountains)

Contact: Aaron Selkow, 222 Race St., Ste. B, Philadelphia, PA 19106; 215-925-8000; fax: 215-925-3941; email: Camp@Pinemere.com; Web site: www.Pinemere.com

Types of Participants: Coed, ages 6-14

Operating Season: June 23-August 11 (7-week, 4-week and 3-week sessions)

Program Description: Pinemere is a traditional resident camp serving the Jewish communities of the Mid-Atlantic region since 1942. Caring staff supervise a progressive program that includes athletics, waterfront activities, creative and performing arts, outdoor education, and more. An expanded High Challenge Course, mountain biking, and adventure trips in 2002. Shabbat programs accommodate families from diverse Jewish backgrounds. Kosher.

Fees: Vary by session (Early Bird and First-Time discounts available)

See ad on p. 85



Way More Summer!

CAMP YOUNG JUDEA



• Co-ed resident camp located on beautiful Baboosic Lake in southern New Hampshire, just one hour from Boston

• 3.5 & 7 week sessions

• Caring, competent staff

• Kosher food



• Arts & crafts, basketball, canoeing, dance, drama, evening programs and trips, music, outdoor adventure, radio station, sailing, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, volleyball, water skiing and a whole lot more

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Contact: Kenneth J. Kornreich, Director, 781-237-9410

22 Priscilla Circle, Wellesley, MA 02481 • cyjnh@aol.com



B'nai B'rith Perlman Camp

Sponsorship: B'nai B'rith

Location: Starlight, PA

Contact: Perlman Camp, 1640 Rhode Island Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20036-3278; 800-270-7375; email: bbyobbpc@aol.com; Web site: www.perlmancamp.org

Type of Participants: Coed, ages 7-17

Operating Season: June 30-August 15

Program Description: Creative Jewish environment with multifaceted program that includes athletics, arts, theater, nature, indoor gym, pool, lake, ropes course, climbing wall, Israeli dancing, roller hockey, horseback riding, golf, heated pool, and lake. ACA-accredited, kosher.

Sessions: 2, 3, 4, and 7 weeks

Fees: Call for information

See ad on p. 84

Camp Modin

Sponsorship: Private

Location: Belgrade, ME

Contact: Camp Modin, 401 East 80th St., Ste. 28 E/F, New York, NY 10021; 800-93-MODIN

Types of Participants: Coed, ages 7-16

Operating Season: June-August

Program Description: Oldest Jewish camp in New England, celebrating our 81st season. A noncompetitive, nurturing environment, providing a Jewish cultural experience for an international camper body. Extensive facilities offering intense instruction in all land and water sports. Tremendous emphasis on creative and performing arts, as well as trips and wilderness programs. Specialized teen programs. ACA-accredited and kosher.

Fees: Call for information

See ad on p. 86

Camp Nageela

Sponsorship: Jewish Education Program of Long Island

Location: Fallsburg, NY (90 miles north of New York City)

Contact: 110 Rockaway Tpke., Lawrence, NY 11559; 516-374-1528, fax: 516-374-3790; email: jepli@idt.net; Web site: www.jepli.org

Types of Participants: Non-coed, ages 9 and up

Operating Season: Girls session June 26, 2002-July 23, 2002; boys session July 24, 2002-August 20, 2002

Program Description: Caring and dedicated staff, positive role models. Brand new luxury campus, sports and specialty oriented programs. Fun and Judaism go hand in hand.

Children of all Jewish backgrounds. Activities offered year-round.

Fees: \$1,450 per session

See ad on p. 87

Golden Slipper Camp

Sponsorship: Nonprofit independently run

Location: Pocono Mountains

Contact: Jennifer Scarlata, winter: 215 N. Presidential Blvd., Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004;

summer: RD#3, Stroudsburg, PA 18360; 610-660-0520; fax: 610-660-0515; email: jscarlata@goldenslipper.org; Web site: www.goldenslippercamp.org

Types of Participants: Coed, ages 7-15

Operating Season: 1st Session June 26-July 19; 2nd Session July 22-August 15

Program Description: Since 1948, Golden Slipper Camp has offered children the exciting and enriching experience of summer

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overnight camp in the Poconos. Every 4-week session is filled with a complete range of activities to encourage each camper's participation to his or her fullest potential. This challenging program rewards the camper with the gift of valuable new skills and self-confidence for lifetime growth.

Fees: Scholarships available, call for information

Camp Kingswood

Sponsorship: JCC of Greater Boston

Location: Southern Lake Region of Brighton, ME

Contact: Ava Goldman, 333 Nahanton Street, Newton, MA, 02459; 617-244-5124; fax: 617-244-1289; email: info@kingswood.org; Web site: www.kingswood.org

Types of Participants: Coed, ages 8-16

Operating Season: June 24-August 18; 2-week session option available to youngsters entering grades 3-5 only, 4- or 8-week options.

Program Description: JCC Camp Kingswood is a Jewish, coed, residential camp located in the Southern Lakes Region of Brighton, ME. We offer a blend of innovative and traditional camping activities, as well as cultural experiences to youngsters entering grades 3-11. High quality instruction in athletics, waterfront activities, camp craft, and the arts is the central focus of the camp program. We provide a warm, nurturing staff, Shabbat services, and kosher dining at our ACA-accredited camp.

Fees: Call for information

Camp Yavneh

Sponsorship: Hebrew College

Location: Northwood, NH (90 minutes outside Boston)

Contact: Debbie Sussman, winter address: 160 Herrick Road, Newton, MA 02459; 617-559-8860; fax: 617-559-8861; summer address: PO Box 200 W. Nottingham, NH 03291; email: debbie@campyavneh.org; Web site: www.campyavneh.org

Types of Participants: Coed, ages 8-16

Operating Season: 1st Session: June 25-July 21 and July 21-August 15; 2nd Session: July 25-August 15; 3rd Session: June 25-July 7 and July 21-August 4

Program Description: A transdenominational, kosher shomer Shabbat, coed camp located on a beautiful lake in southern New Hampshire. A full camp program includes educational and recreational activities with Judaic and Hebrew classes. Ask about our special one-week (post-camp) hiking pro-

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Accredited by the American Camping Association

gram in the White Mountains.

Fees: Call for information

New Jersey Y Camps

Sponsorship: New Jersey Foundation of YM-YWHA

Location: Milford, PA

Contact: Winter address: 21 Plymouth Street, Fairfield, NJ 07004; summer address: 570 Sawkill Road, Milford, PA 18337; 973-575-3333; email: info@njycamps.org; Web site: www.njycamps.org

Types of Participants: Coed. Camp Nah-Jee-Wah: grades 1-6; Cedar Lake Camp: grades 7-9; Teen Age Camp: grades 10-11; Camp Mountain Top: variety of grades

Operating Season: June-August

Program Description: Outstanding facilities, high standards, professional services, and creative programming have been the trademark of the New Jersey Y Camps for seven decades. Coed resident camps' program include extensive arts programs, sports, high and low ropes courses, Olympic-size swimming pools, variety of specialty areas, and hundreds of acres of natural wooded area. Jewish culture. Kosher.

Fees: Call for information

Skidmore College

Contact: Dr. James Chansky, Office of the Dean of Special Programs, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866; 518-580-5590; fax: 518-580-5548; email: jchansky@skidmore.edu; Web site: www.skidmore.edu

Location: Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY

Description: Since 1980 Skidmore College has offered a distinctive summer academic program in Judaic studies to adults nationwide. Originally part of the American Jewish Committee's Academy for Jewish Studies Without Walls, Summer Seminars in Judaic Studies has become an independent and flourishing program. Nationally recognized scholars and eager students join in serious study in the culturally and intellectually rich atmosphere at Skidmore College. Each of the three-week-long seminars offers the opportunity for focused study on a single subject. Participants are provided with a short reading list before the seminar, and each seminar is headed by a scholar of note specializing in the seminar's topic. The focused activities of the seminars are supplemented by the numerous readings, lectures, and performances offered by concurrently running programs on campus and by the summer resorts of Saratoga Springs.

FOR GIRLS & BOYS AGE 9 & UP

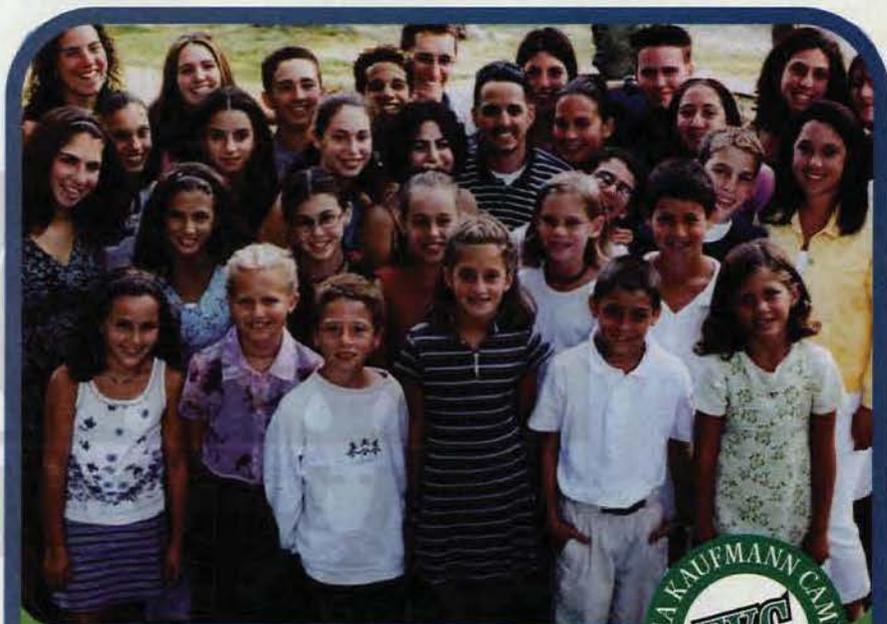
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- A child-centered program promoting individual growth, group cooperation and Jewish values.
- 3-, 4- and 7-week sessions plus one-week First Experience and specialty camps
- For ages 8-16
- Located on 200 acres along 12-mile Cheat Lake north of Morgantown, West Virginia

Join our family of campers and staff from 19 states and 12 countries

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- Drama
- Golf
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- Tubing
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- Climbing Tower
- The "Rave"
- Israel Trip for Teens



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Fees: \$580, plus \$30 application fee per course (nonrefundable)

See ad on p. 99

Camp Kinderland

Sponsorship: Friends of Camp Kinderland

Location: Tolland, MA

Contact: Alice Shechter, 16 Court St. #2200, Brooklyn, NY 11241; 718-624-2688; fax: 718-855-9468; email: kindercamp@aol.com; Web site: www.kinderland.org

Types of Participants: Coed, ages 9-16

Operating Season: July-August

Program Description: Peace, justice, Yiddishkeit, and the time of their lives! Full arts, sports, and recreation, private lake, friendly community, progressive values. Programs emphasize peace, social justice, and multicultural outlook.

Fees: About \$600 per week

Camp Young Judaea

Sponsorship: Friends of Young Judaea

Location: Amherst, NH

Contact: Winter address: 22 Priscilla Circle, Wellesley, MA 02481, 781-237-9410; email:

cyjnh@aol.com; summer address: 9 Camp Rd., Amherst, NH 03031; 603-673-3710

Types of Participants: coed, ages 8-15 (grades 2-9)

Operating Season: June 27-August 15

Program Description: Beautiful lakeside location on 168 acres. All water and land sports including (great waterskiing and tennis programs!), Judaica, Israeli music and dance, arts and crafts, drama, radio station, challenge course, electives, and more. ACA-accredited. Kosher; campers from a variety of Jewish backgrounds.

Fees: 3 1/2 weeks: \$1,950; 7 weeks, \$3300

Camp Ramah in the Berkshires

3080 Broadway, New York, NY 10027; 212-749-0754;

email: info@ramahberkshires.org; Web site: www.ramahberkshires.org;

See National Ramah listing, p. 78

Camp Ramah in New England

35 Highland Circle, Needham Hts., MA 02494; 781-449-7090;

email: billym@campramahne.org; Web site: www.campramahne.org

See National Ramah listing, p. 78

Camp Ramah in the Poconos

The Pavilion, 261 Old York Road, #734, Jenkintown, PA 19046; 215-885-8556; email: ToddZ@ramahpoconos.org; Web site: www.ramahpoconos.org
See National Ramah listing, p. 78

South

Camp Barney Medintz

Sponsorship: Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta

Location: Cleveland, GA (80 miles north of Atlanta)

Contact: Jim Mittenthal, MSW, 5342 Tilly Mill Rd., Dunwoody, GA 30338; 770-395-2545; fax: 770-481-0101; email: summer@campbarney.org; Web site: www.campbarney.org

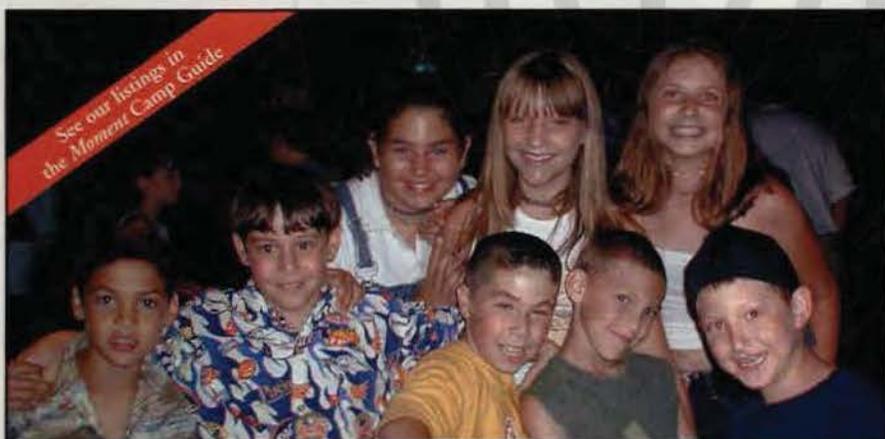
Operating Season: June-August

Types of Participants: Coed, completing 2nd-10th grade

Program Description: The most meaningful and exciting Jewish overnight camping experience in North America! Located on 500 acres in the Blue Ridge Mountains (80 miles northeast of Atlanta) surrounding two lakes. Every imaginable activity: waterskiing, knee boarding, sailing, swimming, kayaking, canoeing, the "Blob," double slides, lake "zip" line, horseback riding, mountain biking, ropes courses, fencing, karate, scuba diving, theater, music, dance, crafts, videography, backpacking, whitewater rafting, Israeli cultural programs, kosher, strong culturally Jewish experience including Shabbat services, festivals, live performance, and more—all under the supervision of a talented, mature, enthusiastic, and loving staff. An exceedingly safe, unique, exhilarating, and caring environment. **Special Programs:** Two-week "Wonder Weeks" (entering grades 3-4); high adventure Teen Travel Program (entering grade 10); S.I.T. Leadership Development Program (entering grade 11); Chalutzim Special Needs Program (entering grades 3-12); Family Camps; Memorial Day/Labor Day Weekends.

Fees: \$2,800-\$3,000

Special Needs Program: The Chalutzim Program (Hebrew for "Pioneers") is a remarkable and exciting opportunity for children with Developmental Disabilities. Recognized nationwide, the Chalutzim Program offers professional, talented, enthusiastic, and caring supervision, plus every imaginable activity on two private lakes, Olympic-size swimming pool, and 500 acres of adventures in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains (80 miles northeast of Atlanta). Older campers will backpack along the adjacent Appalachian Trail and participate in a special leadership development program.



PREMIER NEW ENGLAND CAMPS

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www.cohencamps.org • 800-375-8444 • fax: 508-881-1006

Special Programs: Chlutzim Special Needs Program (entering grades 3-12)

Fees: \$2,800-\$3,000

See ad on p. 86

Camp Judaea

Sponsorship: Hadassah

Location: Hendersonville, NC

Contact: 1996 Cliff Valley Way, Ste. 104, Atlanta, GA 30329; 800-788-1567 or 404-634-7883; email: info@campjudaea.org; Web site: www.campjudaea.org

Types of Participants: Coed, grades 2-10

Operating Season: June-August: 2-week session for 2nd-graders; 3 1/2-week or 8-week session for others

Program Description: Camp Judaea strives to provide each camper with a fun summer that enhances Jewish identity and love for Israel. Through music, sports, dance, drama, and crafts, we strive to foster a bond of understanding with the land of Israel. Other activities include horseback riding, ropes course, swimming, canoeing, scouting, tennis, archery, roller hockey, overnights, and field trips. Activities develop campers' understanding of what it means to be part of a community as well as learn about themselves as individuals. We offer trips to New York City for 7th-graders and to Washington, DC, for 8th-graders. The majority of our staff members are returning campers, now college students who want to give back to a place they called home for many years. A unique part of our staff is a group of Israeli specialists and counselors. As any CJ alumnus will tell you, the Camp Judaea family is not simply a slogan or a catch phrase; it is the essence of what we do and who we are. That family atmosphere makes Camp Judaea the special place that it is. Camp Judaea is kosher and shomer Shabbat.

Fees: 2nd grade, \$1,275 (2-week session); regular session, \$2,350; trip session, \$2,775

West

Camp Tawonga

Sponsorship: Jewish Community Federation

Location: Sierra Mountains (next to Yosemite National Park)

Contact: 131 Steuart St., Ste. 46, San Francisco, CA 94105; 415-543-2267; fax: 415-543-5417; email: info@tawonga.org; Web site: www.tawonga.org

Types of Participants: Ages 7-17, families

Operating Season: May-October

Program Description: Great Jewish summer camp next to Yosemite, Teen Travel Quests, Weekend Family Camps, and

more! Summer camp activities include Sierra backpacking, high adventure ropes course, sports, swimming, boating, Jewish nature games, arts & crafts, drama, and music. Teen Quests travel to the Northwest, Southwest, Canada, Yosemite, and the Sierra Mountains. Arts Quest and Rules of the Road and Xtreme Quest. Quest activities include river rafting, mountain biking, rock climbing, kayaking, and attending a play at the Shakespeare

Festival in Ashland, OR. Weekend programs include two Family Camps, a Single-Parent Family Camp, Keshet Camp (for families with gay, lesbian, and bi parents), an Adult Weekend, Grief & Growing: (a bereavement weekend serving singles and families), a Nature & Spirit Weekend, and Mosaic (multiracial family camp). Call for more information.

Fees: \$740-\$780 per week

See ad on p. 90

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40 miles from New York City

- olympic pool—waterskiing, kayaking, canoeing
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Camp Monroe • POB 475 • Monroe, NY 10950

J-CC Ranch Camp

Sponsorship: Robert E. Loup Jewish Community Center

Location: Elbert, CO (one hour southeast of Denver)

Contact: Juli Kramer, Director, J-CC Ranch Camp, 350 South Dahlia, Denver, CO 80246; 303-316-6384; fax: 303-320-0042; email: ranchcamp@jccdenver.org; Web site: ranchcamp.org

Types of Participants: Coed, entering grades 2-11

Operating Season: June 12-August 11

Program Description: America's premier western Judaic camp, offering an intimate community—only 175 campers—in a magnificent Colorado setting. Jewish values, traditions, and rituals are woven into the fabric of camp life. Horseback riding, Red Cross swimming lessons, adventure programs, and mountain biking highlight a long list of fun and challenging activities. Kosher.

Fees: \$1,025-\$2,790, call for information

Camp Alonim

Sponsorship: Brandeis-Bardin Institute

Location: Simi Valley, CA

Contact: Ed Gelb, 1101 Peppertree Lane,

Brandeis, CA 93064; 805-582-4450; fax: 805-526-1398; email: alonim@thebbi.org; Web site: www.alonim.com

Types of Participants: Coed, grades 2-12

Operating Season: 1st Session June 25-July 7; 2nd Session July 9-July 28, 3rd Session July 30-August 18; 4th Session August 20-August 25

Program Description: Camp Alonim's mission is to instill a strong positive Jewish identity in a pluralistic setting, to engender a love for the Jewish arts and to build strong self-esteem. A veteran staff cares for our children on a gorgeous 3,000 acre facility in picturesque Simi Valley, CA. We offer experiential programs dealing with Israel, the holidays, social responsibility, and ecology. Our arts program is unparalleled centering on Israeli dance, drama, arts and crafts, multimedia, and photography. Recreational programs include horseback riding, barn and nature, camping, sports, and swimming. The Alonim experience fosters lifelong friendships among our campers. Come join us in our 50th anniversary summer! Residential programs are available in one-, two- and three-week sessions.

CANADA

Camp Wahanowin

Location: On Lake Couchiching (90 minutes north of Toronto, ON)

Contact: 227 Eglinton Ave. West, Toronto, ON M4R-1A9, Canada; 800-701-3132 or 416-482-2600; email: info@wahanowin.com; Web site: www.wahanowin.com

Operating Season: June 28-August 18

Types of Participants: Coed, ages 6-15

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4

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6/29

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2) construction cost - 10 mill each

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3) operating cost - how much per kid

600 per week
4 weeks - 2400
overhead 1 mill.

FOCUS ON ISSUES

Using theater and nature, fellows bring Judaism into summer camp

By Julie Wiener

CLAYTON, Ga. (JTA) — It's a cool late spring evening in the rural Georgia mountains and a dozen somewhat scruffy young actors are standing in a circle on an outdoor stage, silently showing each other movements and gestures they've developed to express certain words and concepts.

A barefoot woman stretches out her arms and thrusts herself forward to show "loving."

Another woman delicately twists her body and, an awestruck smile on her face, looks up to show "glory."

A man acts out the word "redeeming." Their faces are intent with concentration.

The words they are "performing" all come from the blessing for the Amidah prayer. Silently and gracefully, as jazz music plays softly in the background, they proceed to a moonlit amphitheater made of Jerusalem stone, each gesturing and creating something that is part dance, part theater, part prayer.

Half a mile away, 12 aspiring environmental educators are on a nature hike, looking up at the sliver of moon that marks Rosh Chodesh, the new Jewish month, and discussing how the Jewish calendar is both solar and lunar.

Both groups are part of the training session for a competitive fellowship program that helps Jewish summer camps recruit specialists who integrate Judaism into all aspects of the camping experience.

The fellows are being dispatched to 27 camps this summer.

Funded by Steven Spielberg's Righteous Persons Foundation and the Nathan Cummings Foundation, the year-old program pays each fellow a \$4,500 stipend — far more than the typical camp counselor earns in a summer.

The fellowship program is one piece of the Foundation for Jewish Camping's effort to increase attendance at Jewish summer camps.

Because camps provide a hands-on Jewish experience and are generally more fun than, say, Hebrew or day schools, they are considered an important tool for shaping Jewish identity.

Currently 50,000 North American Jewish youth attend overnight camps, and most camps have long waiting lists.

However, more than 90 percent of Jewish kids don't go to Jewish summer camps, whether because the camps are too expensive or simply not on their families' radar screens.

Created in 1998 by husband-and-wife camping enthusiasts Robert Bildner and Elisa Spungen Bildner of New Jersey, the foundation aims to help camps recruit staff, build new camps and upgrade existing ones, to ensure that camp is financially accessible to all Jews and to develop specialty Jewish camps, such as those that combine Jewish activities with high-level arts and sports training.

The fellows are not involved with the specialty camps, but they do bring expertise in theater and the environment and are trained to use their expertise to teach about Judaism.

For example, the theater fellows might help campers create their own works — based on discussions of Jewish values and texts — rather than putting on existing secular or Jewish-themed plays.

At the recent training session, environmental education

fellows learned how to make fire without matches and that the Hebrew words for man and woman both share the same root as the word for fire.

Gershon Sandler, an environmental education fellow this year and last, said he led camp activities based on the concepts of awareness, ecology and use of resources in a responsible way.

Sandler, who will teach this summer at Gan Israel, a Lubavitch camp in New York, said that when talking about appreciation and respect for nature he also teaches about Jewish blessings, the Jewish life cycle and the Jewish concept of *bal tashchit* — the idea that "God created the world and gave it to us as a gift, so we have a responsibility to take care of it."

With new advocacy groups and a proliferation of Jewish wilderness retreats, Jewish environmentalism in general is a growing field.

Many involved in the fellowship program hope it will groom a new generation of activists who are interested in the ties between Judaism and nature.

"To be here today and see there's this generation taking over, for me my heart soars," faculty member Gabe Goldman said as he helped a fellow carve a bow drill, a device for creating fire.

Like many of the environmental fellows, Goldman, director of the New Jersey YMHA-YWHA Camps' Jewish Nature Center, is what some might describe as "crunchy," wearing his long, blond hair in a ponytail and often going barefoot.

Goldman seems unable to stop teaching about nature and Judaism.

As he talks to a reporter, he points to a leafy plant nearby and explains how it can be used to heal bee stings and cold sores.

When a fellow asks why he can't just skip the bow drill on overnight trips and instead make fire using a battery and steel wool, Goldman says, "Because I don't have a lesson to teach that way. This gives you the ability to teach Mishna. It's a means to an end — the real end is teaching a lesson."

At the recent training at Camp Ramah Darom, a Conservative camp in Georgia, the fellows seemed enthusiastic about the program.

"There has not been one second of this program that I haven't been learning something new," said Amy Kopkin, 27, who will be an environmental fellow at Camp Chi, a Jewish community center camp in Wisconsin.

Kopkin, who is getting a masters degree in environmental education at Colorado State University and describes Jewish environmental education as "my path," said she had initially been planning to lead a teen tour to Costa Rica or work with a student conservation group this summer.

But then her old boss from Camp Chi called and Kopkin was impressed by the fact that "the title 'fellowship' does look good on a resume."

Benjamin Pither, 20, a theater fellow who will teach at the Reform movement's Camp Swig in California, said he had been planning to perform this summer.

"But this was an opportunity to combine my love of theater and love of Judaism into one," he said.

Pither had taught drama at summer camps before, but sometimes felt like he was just trying to stick Jewish themes onto standard theater exercises, rather than creating something uniquely Jewish.

"This is more of a creative process," he said. "It's hard to live a Jewish life in today's society, but when I'm at camp it's like living in Judaism." □

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Community AGENDA

- The United Jewish Communities will hold its young leadership Cabinet retreat in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., Aug. 1-5.
- The Jewish National Fund holds its B'Yachad Solidarity Mission to Israel, Aug. 1-6.
- Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life will hold its new professionals orientation in College Park, Md., Aug. 5-8.
- The Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education holds this year's Conference on Alternatives in Jewish Education at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo., Aug. 5-9.
- Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, will hold its 87th national convention in Jerusalem, Aug. 5-9.
- The JCC Association holds its 2001 Maccabi Games in Atlanta, Sarasota, Fla., Miami, Philadelphia and the New Jersey shore, Aug. 5-24.
- The Board of Directors of HIAS meets in New York on Aug. 6.
- The National Havurah Committee holds its 2001 Summer Institute in Ridge, N.H., Aug. 13-19.
- Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life holds its Shusterman Hillel International Student Leaders Assembly in Honesdale, Pa., Aug. 21-26. Hillel's Steinhardt Jewish Campus Service Corps Training will also be held at this conference.
- The United Jewish Communities holds the organization's Southeast Region summer conference in Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 26-27.
- The United Jewish Communities holds its financial planners meeting in Calgary, Alberta, Aug. 26-28.

FOCUS ON ISSUES

Israeli spend their summer vacation by working at Jewish camps in U.S.

By Daniel Fleishman

NEW YORK — Anat Radberg doesn't mind giving up her cell phone and e-mail for the summer in exchange for a free trip to the United States, the pristine country air and the opportunity to teach.

Radberg is one of 25 shlichim, or emissaries, hired to work at Camp Ramah in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains this summer — and one of 1,000 working at 180 Jewish camps throughout the United States.

Participants in the nearly 40-year-old program include the summer camps of the Reform movement, Young Judaea, Hahonim-Dror and the Jewish Community Center movement.

The program has grown annually since its inception and fielded about 6,000 applications this year, according to the Jewish Agency for Israel.

This summer, the Israelis face a daunting challenge to the informal education that is the hallmark of summer camp: explaining the 10-month-old Israeli-Palestinian violence.

They attempt to meet that challenge by discussing the issues in small groups — while avoiding particularly touchy issues.

"Three years ago, it was different," Radberg says. "You had left wing and right wing. Now everybody is upset with the situation so everybody's together. Discussion is not about land; it's about how hard this is and what we should do."

Summer camp, of course, is about a lot more than politics — and the emissaries do their part to make sure the kids enjoy a typical camp experience.

The Israelis serve as teachers of Hebrew, sports, art and many other fields.

They have also been brought in to share their firsthand experience with Zionism and Israel with their 450 campers aged 9-16, camp director Cheryl Magen says.

As Radberg, a 24-year-old from Jerusalem, puts it, "We all came here to do something, to bring Israel to the camp."

Twice each day the campers have informal educational sessions — one a Hebrew class, the other in Jewish studies.

Now in her fourth consecutive summer at Ramah, Radberg teaches Jewish studies — for example, kashrut.

"We teach them how they can do things at home without being fully kosher," says Radberg.

Sitting in a circle amid lush trees, expansive fields, tiny cabins and a lake down the hill, her 9-year-old campers look to her as something of an understudy mom while they are away from home.

Radberg says she loves that intimate connection, not to mention everything else about the job.

One striking difference between Ramah and some other Jewish camps is language.

At Ramah, the official language is Hebrew, meaning all classes, announcements, songs and games are in that language.

But three-fourths of the campers are not day-school students, so the level of fluency ranges widely.

The camp handles this problem by giving special attention to any camper who doesn't fully understand something.

Instead of translating the Hebrew directly to English, the shlichim do all they can



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