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Box  
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Summer camps. 2001-2002.

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American Jewish Archives website.

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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,

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212-650-4130

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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**  
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901-205-2267

**OLIN SANG RUBY CAMP**  
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847-509-0990

**CAMP SWIG and CAMP NEWMAN**  
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For an application, please contact the UAHC Department of Adult Jewish Growth at 212.650.4087 or [ajgrowth@uahc.org](mailto:ajgrowth@uahc.org). To register on-line, visit [www.uahc.org/growth/learners](http://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  
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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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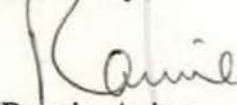
Steve Wendell  
Young Judeaea Camps

- (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 or \$600 per week or \$2400 per session.

#### Needs

##### **Capital Needs**

\$250 million

15 new camps @ \$10 million each    \$150 million

Expand and improve existing camps    \$100 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

## PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE BUDGET PAGE

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Total Summer Camps:    \$1,065 million





# MAP Out Your SUMMER!

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](mailto:info@jcca.org); Web site: [www.jcca.org](http://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](mailto:ramah@jtsa.edu); Web site: [www.campramah.org](http://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](mailto:ramah@jtsa.edu)  
Web: [www.campramah.org](http://www.campramah.org)

## Ramah Overnight Camps

### Camp Ramah in the Berkshires

Located in Wingdale, NY  
Tel: 212.749.0754  
E-mail: [info@ramahberkshires.org](mailto:info@ramahberkshires.org)  
Web: [www.ramahberkshires.org](http://www.ramahberkshires.org)

### Camp Ramah in California

Located in Ojai, CA  
Tel: 310.476.8571  
E-mail: [info@ramah.org](mailto:info@ramah.org)  
Web: [www.ramah.org](http://www.ramah.org)

### Camp Ramah in Canada

Located in Utterson, Ontario  
Tel: 416.789.2193  
E-mail: [info@campramah.com](mailto:info@campramah.com)  
Web: [www.campramah.com](http://www.campramah.com)

### Ramah Darom

Located near Clayton, GA  
Tel: 404.531.0801  
E-mail: [darom@innerx.net](mailto:darom@innerx.net)  
Web: [www.ramahdarom.org](http://www.ramahdarom.org)

### Camp Ramah in New England

Located in Palmer, MA  
Tel: 781.449.7090  
E-mail: [billym@campramahne.org](mailto:billym@campramahne.org)  
Web: [www.campramahne.org](http://www.campramahne.org)

### Camp Ramah in the Poconos

Located in Lake Como, PA  
Tel: 215.885.8556  
E-mail: [ramahpoc@aol.com](mailto:ramahpoc@aol.com)  
Web: [www.ramahpoconos.org](http://www.ramahpoconos.org)

### Camp Ramah in Wisconsin

Located in Conover, WI  
Tel: 312.606.9316  
E-mail: [ramahdev@aol.com](mailto:ramahdev@aol.com)  
Web: [www.ramahwisconsin.com](http://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](mailto:amcooper@jtsa.edu)  
Web: [www.ramahnyack.org](http://www.ramahnyack.org)

### Central New Jersey

Tel: 732.238.0027  
E-mail: [ramahdaycampcnj@aol.com](mailto:ramahdaycampcnj@aol.com)  
Web: [www.ramahdaycamp.com](http://www.ramahdaycamp.com)

### Chicago, IL

Tel: 312.606.0444  
E-mail: [ramahday@aol.com](mailto:ramahday@aol.com)  
Web: [www.ramahwisconsin.com](http://www.ramahwisconsin.com)

### Philadelphia, PA

Tel: 215.885.8556  
E-mail: [ramahpoc@aol.com](mailto:ramahpoc@aol.com)  
Web: [www.ramahpoconos.org](http://www.ramahpoconos.org)

### Berkeley, CA

Tel: 510.549.9447 x111  
E-mail: [ramahday@eb.jfed.org](mailto:ramahday@eb.jfed.org)  
Web: [www.jfed.org/ramahday](http://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](mailto:ramahisrael@jtsa.edu)  
Web: [www.ramah.org.il](http://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](mailto:ramah@jtsa.edu) or visit our website: [www.ramahjobs.org](http://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 Judeaea 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 Judeaea Camping Department, 50 W. 58th St., New York, NY 10019; Web site: www.youngjudeaea.org

**Types of Participants:** Coed, ages 7-17

**Operating Season:** June-August

**Program Description:** Young Judeaea 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 Judeaea 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 Judeaea 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 Judeaea'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

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- Superb year-round facilities
- Caring and dedicated staff
- Full sports programs
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- Celebration of Jewish values
- Bonds of friendship and belonging
- Jewish pride and self-esteem
- Exciting Jewish living and learning



UAHC



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**50 Years of Leadership in Jewish Camping**



Check Us Out!



# Young Judaea Camps



Click  
Here

[www.youngjudaea.org](http://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 MITZVAH: 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:info@campmicah.com); Web Site: [www.campmicah.com](http://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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Call: (212) 533-7800 ext. 2311 Web site: <http://uscj.org/usy/escape/>





# The Tiyul - The Journey

June 30 - August 11, 2002

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](mailto:sgoldman@92ndsty.org)

92nd Street Y  
Lillian & Sol Goldman Family Center for Youth & Family  
Lexington Avenue at 92nd Street | [www.92ndsty.org](http://www.92ndsty.org)  
*An agency of UJA-Federation*



## Tiyul Highlights:

- 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@jccph.org](mailto:ekc@jccph.org); Web site: [www.emmakaufmanncamp.com](http://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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Winter: 11 Hammond Pond Parkway #2, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467  
Summer: 11 Moose Cove Lodge Rd, Bridgton, ME 04009



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bbyobbpc@aol.com  
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Perlman Camp**

Starlight, Pennsylvania  
Located in the beautiful pollen-free Pocono Mountains

Perlman offers your child a fun and exciting summer all in a safe, nurturing environment. Give your kids a summer they'll always remember. Give them a summer at Perlman.



**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



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- 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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### **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.jepi.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 life-time 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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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.

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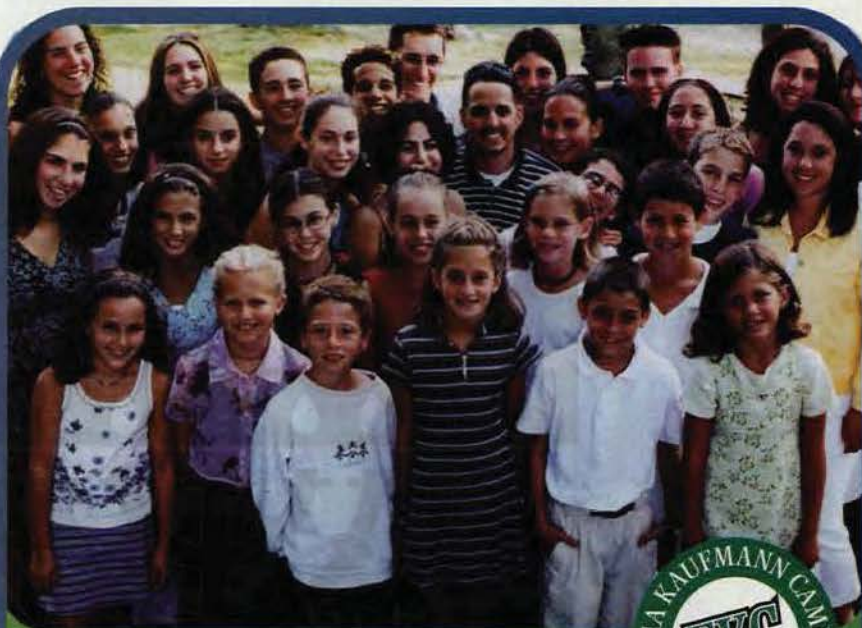
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- For ages 8-16
- Located on 200 acres along 12-mile Cheat Lake north of Morgantown, West Virginia

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| • Sailing               | • Drama         | • Climbing Tower        |
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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

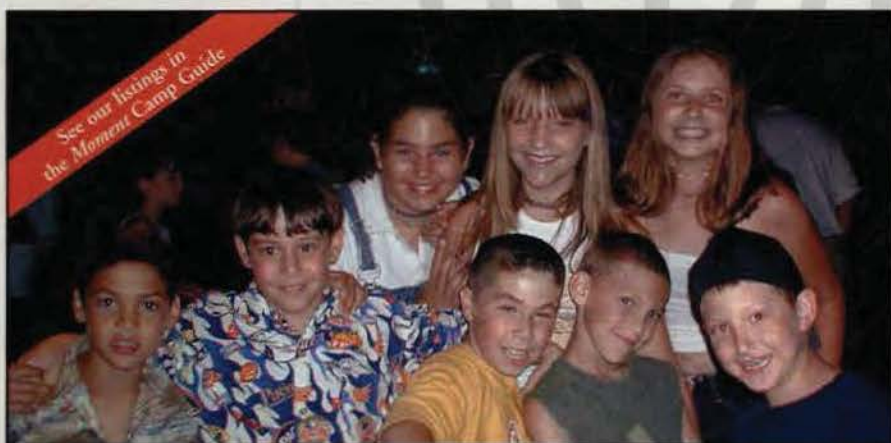
**Operating Season:** June-August

**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**

**CAMP PEMBROKE • CAMP TEVYA • CAMP TEL NOAR**

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**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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### 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

**Program Description:** Highlights include on-site 9-hole golf course, petting farm, climbing center & zip line, complete waterfront and land sports, canoe trips, tennis, ropes course, music theater, arts & crafts, fitness, and much more. Mature, caring staff, resident physician, accredited program. Forty-seventh season owned and operated by the Nashman family. Friday evening services. Call for our brochure and video.

**Fees:** 4 weeks \$3,250; full season \$5,100 (prices listed in Canadian dollars—save up to 40% when you pay in US dollars!)

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APRIL  
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Xtreme Quest

Northwest

Canada

Yosemite

Southwest

High Sierras

Rules of the Road



Gay & Lesbian Family Camp

Multi-Racial Family Camp

Bereavement Camp

Nature & Spirit

Adult Weekend

Fall Family Camp

Spring Family Camp

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(4)

Summer camps  
call Ramie - how many summer camps 10 new camps

6/29

792-6222

2) construction cost - 10 mill each

I left the questions with Se'iy  
and asked him to reply to me Mon.

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 Gabi 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." □





# Community News Reporter

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July 2001

84th Year

## 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 professional 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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